

Watch for: Undergraduate Seminars and Workshops Starting in September

**Psychology Club & PSI CHI Meetings:
Watch for E-Mail Announcements & Department Newsletters**

**WATCH FOR DATES
AND MORE INFORMATION ON
THESE UPCOMING PROGRAMS**



**7th ANNUAL
“GRADUATE PROGRAMS”
FALL 2012**

**7th ANNUAL
“CAREERS” PROGRAM
SPRING 2013**

Department of Psychology
100 Psychology Building
316 Physics Rd.
Michigan State University
East Lansing, MI 48824-1116

Psychology Handbook

<http://psychology.msu.edu>

College of Social Science
Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences
Michigan State University

2012-2013

WEB RESOURCES

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS AND SCHEDULING

Please note that you bear ultimate responsibility for knowing and fulfilling graduation requirements. It is therefore essential that you use all of the University publications available to you. These include the:

- ◆ **Academic Programs:** www.reg.msu.edu/AcademicPrograms, for rules and procedures
- ◆ **Description of Courses:** www.reg.msu.edu/Courses/search.asp, for course information and prerequisites
- ◆ **Schedule of Courses:** <http://schedule.msu.edu> to plan schedule and look up section numbers
- ◆ **Enrollment:** <http://schedule.msu.edu> select Schedule Builder to schedule classes

CAREER INFORMATION:

- ◆ **O*NET On-Line:** online.onetcenter.org/ for descriptions of careers— nature of the work, salary information, and much more
- ◆ **Dictionary of Occupational Titles (DOT):** www.occupationalinfo.org/ for descriptions of numerous occupations
- ◆ **United Way volunteer opportunities** anywhere in the USA: <http://www.volunteersolutions.org>. You can locate volunteer opportunities in your hometown or nearby that you could possibly do over the summer.
- ◆ **Careerbuilder:** www.careerbuilder.com for job opportunities across the country
- ◆ **Career Services Network:** <http://careernetwork.msu.edu/>
- ◆ for MSU career information and services
- ◆ **College of Social Science Careers:** www.socialscience.msu.edu Career information, click current student

PSYCHOLOGY INFORMATION

- ◆ **MSU Psychology Website:** www.psychology.msu.edu
- ◆ **American Psychological Association:** www.apa.org
- ◆ **Psychopathology Information:** www.psychopathology.org
- ◆ **Industrial/Organizational Psychology:** www.siop.org,
www.aomonline.org/, www.shrm.org
- ◆ **Community Psychology:** www.cmmtypsych.net/, www.scra27.org
- ◆ **Cognitive Psychology:** www.cognitivesciencesociety.org,
www.psychologicalscience.org, www.psychonomic.org
- ◆ **Behavioral Neuroscience:** www.isdp.org
- ◆ **Social Psychology:** www.socialpsychology.org, www.sesp.org

STUDENT RESOURCES

CAREER SERVICES NETWORK

113 Student Services Bldg.
<http://careernetwork.msu.edu/>
517-355-9510

CENTER FOR SERVICE -LEARNING AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

345 Student Services Bldg.
<http://www.servicelarning.msu.edu/>
517-353-4400

COUNSELING CENTER

207 Student Services Bldg.
<http://www.counseling.msu.edu/>
517-355-8270

OFFICE OF FINANCIAL AID

252 Student Services Bldg.
<http://www.finaid.msu.edu/>
517-353-5940

LEARNING RESOURCES CENTER

202 Bessey Hall
<http://lrc.msu.edu>
517-355-2363

OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR

150 Administration Bldg.
<http://www.reg.msu.edu/>
517-355-3300

OFFICE OF SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

209 Bessey Hall
<http://oss.msu.edu>
517-353-5210

OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSPERSON

129 N. Kedzie Hall
<http://www.msu.edu/unit/ombud/>
517-353-8830

PREPROFESSIONAL RESOURCES

[http://ns.msu.edu/index.php/students/
preprofessional/](http://ns.msu.edu/index.php/students/preprofessional/)
108 Natural Science Bldg.
517-355-8419

RESOURCE CENTER FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

120 Bessey Hall
<http://www.rcpd.msu.edu>
517-884-7273 (4-7273)

STUDENT AFFAIRS

Major changes for *freshmen and sophomores*
go to: Undergraduate University Division:
<http://www.msu.edu/dept/uud/>

- ◆ Main Office/Central Campus
170 Bessey Hall, 517-355-3515
- ◆ East Neighborhood
C130 Hubbard Hall, 517-884-3501
- ◆ Brody Neighborhood
160 Brody Hall, 517-353-3863
- ◆ South Neighborhood
Holden Hall, 517-884-6680

Major changes for *Juniors and Seniors* go to:
College of Social Science
Office of Student Affairs
201 Berkey Hall
Academic.Affairs@ssc.msu.edu
<http://socialscience.msu.edu/>
517-355-6676

DEPARTMENT OF STUDENT LIFE

101 Student Services Bldg.
<http://www.studentlife.msu.edu/>
517-355-8286

TESTING OFFICE

207 Student Services Bldg.
<http://www.testingoffice.msu.edu/>
517-355-8385

THE WRITING CENTER

300 Bessey Hall
<http://writing.msu.edu>
517-432-3610

WELCOME TO PSYCHOLOGY!

Welcome to the Department of Psychology at Michigan State University! Psychology is the largest major on campus and has many exciting opportunities that are available to you. From our number of courses, to our experiential-learning activities, you should leave MSU with a very comprehensive degree!

This Handbook is intended for students who have declared Psychology as their major during the 2012 – 2013 academic year. As a new student majoring in Psychology, you will need to understand and learn the requirements for your degree as well as the resources available to you on our campus. We hope that this Handbook will help you navigate these requirements and available resources.

In addition to this Handbook, you should utilize the Psychology and University websites. The Psychology Department website, <http://www.psychology.msu.edu/>, contains valuable information that will help you select PSY courses, careers, areas of interest to investigate, graduate schools, workshops, and fulfill degree requirements. The University website, <http://www.msu.edu/>, will offer you calendars, MSU News, course descriptions, people search, schedule of courses, computer enrollment, and much more.

The official guide for degree requirements can be found in the Academic Programs Catalog or at <http://www.reg.msu.edu/AcademicPrograms/>.

We are here to help you in any way! We hope to see you at least once a semester. Don't miss out on advice and guidance for course selection and your career!

The Psychology Advisors and Staff

Undergraduate Psychology Advising Center
100 Psychology Building
316 Physics Rd.
East Lansing, Michigan 48824-1116

ADVISING

Advising in the Psychology Department is done in many different formats. We offer appointments, walk-in advising and various forms of group advising. Our appointments are scheduled on-line at the Psychology Undergraduate website. Walk-ins are available Monday – Friday from 1:00 – 3:00 during the academic year. Advising takes place in the Undergraduate Psychology Advising Center in Room 100 Psychology Building. Group advising takes place through seminars, workshops, and other multiple events that you will have the option to participate in throughout the year.

Advisors:

- ◆ **Françoise Bigelow**, Advisor: bigelowf@msu.edu
- ◆ **Sarah Handspike**, Coordinator of Advising and Undergraduate Services: meadsara@msu.edu
- ◆ **Andrea Lunsted**, Advisor: lunsteda@msu.edu

Please see a Psychology advisor to discuss or review:

- ◆ BA or BS in Psychology, Additional Major, Second Degree, Minor, or Specialization
- ◆ Adding, dropping, or changing a major or degree
- ◆ Planning course schedules
- ◆ Opportunities: independent studies, internships, practicums, volunteering, employment, awards, scholarships and more...
- ◆ Progress in meeting requirements and potential graduation date
- ◆ Graduate or professional school planning
- ◆ Other academic and/or career needs

Secretaries:

- ◆ **Keitha Kasel**: kasel@msu.edu
- ◆ **Jan Reid**: reidja@msu.edu
- ◆ **Merry Dodos**: conradm@msu.edu

Please contact a secretary in the Advising Office for assistance with the following:

- ◆ Overrides into Psychology (PSY) courses
- ◆ Late adds into Psychology (PSY) courses
- ◆ Independent study (PSY 490/491) contracts
- ◆ Practicum or internship forms
- ◆ Faculty or department information
- ◆ Borrowing materials from the Psychology Advising Library

GRADUATE SCHOOL

If you have been a high-achieving, conscientious student and are motivated to dedicate yourself to a much higher level of scholarly reading, writing, and research in a specific field, you may be a good candidate for graduate school. You must be able to demonstrate your commitment to academic success by what you have achieved in your undergraduate program. Graduate school is not something you just fall into because you haven't chosen what to do next with your life or because you are worried about employment opportunities or salary. A graduate degree does not guarantee you a job or a high salary.

Graduate study in psychology consists of advanced training in a specific area. It should be viewed as professional training for a career, not just an extension of undergraduate courses. Consider very carefully why you want to go to graduate school and what your expectations are. You will also need to know which area of psychology you want to pursue.

Competition for admission is intense. Only the most qualified students are admitted. About 40 percent of psychology majors go on to some form of graduate study (MSU Destination Survey, 2010 <http://careernetwork.msu.edu/pdf/2010GraduateDestinationSurveyFinal.pdf>). For a good program, meeting the minimum standards for admission is not usually sufficient; you must do more. For example, the minimum GPA for entering most Ph.D. programs is a 3.2, but students who are actually admitted have a much higher GPA (generally a 3.5 or higher). Some programs place more emphasis on the GPA earned during the junior and senior years. Your undergraduate GPA and coursework, Graduate Record Exam scores <http://www.ets.org/gre>, letters of reference, research and clinical experiences, and personal statement must show that you will be a successful graduate student.

Due to the breadth and diversity of courses in the psychology degree, students can apply to graduate school within the field of psychology or choose to apply to other related programs. Programs that are very popular that are not within our psychology department are: School Psychology, Social Work, Labor and Industrial Relations-Human Resources, Counseling, Sport Psychology, Student Affairs, and Public Policy. Many Psychology majors also choose to go on to professional programs like law and medical school.

Additional information on many of these graduate programs can be found in the Undergraduate Psychology Advising Center, Room 100 Psychology Building, and on our website. Check out our Career Connection Series to learn more about what is needed for these programs. There are also graduate school books that can be checked out of our lending library.

Meeting with advisors and faculty is imperative for finding out how to apply to graduate school and to decide whether or not it is a good option for your career plans. Understanding how to get there and what it entails takes time and a lot of planning. Don't wait until it is too late!



CAREER OPTIONS FOR PSYCHOLOGY GRADUATES

Approximately 60 percent of psychology graduates go directly into the workforce with a bachelor's degree (MSU Destination Survey, 2010 <http://careernetwork.msu.edu/pdf/2010GraduateDestinationSurveyFinal.pdf>). Graduates of our department can compete effectively with other students who have obtained a general/liberal arts education, as well as those who have opted for more specialized curricula. Your performance as a psychology major and your willingness to prepare for a variety of career options will influence your attractiveness to employers and eventual career placement. Preparing for the job market and then building your career takes planning and effort over a long period of time. You should take steps each semester, beginning with your freshman year, toward this end. Strive to incorporate the following into your undergraduate experience from a combination of course selections and other activities: *Oral & Written Communication Skills, Teamwork, Critical Thinking, Problem Solving, Leadership, Research Methodology, Computer Literacy, and Work Experience.*

CAREER AREAS FOR PSYCHOLOGY GRADUATES

Child/Youth/Elder Care	Human Resources	Residential Services
Community Services	Human Services	Retail Management
Consulting Services	Manufacturing/Production	Retail/Wholesale Sales
Court/Juvenile Services	Market Research	Social Services
Customer Services	Government/Legislative Services	Special Populations Services
Employee Relations	Personnel/Human Resources	Student/Alumni Services
Employment Services	Private/Nonprofit Management	Substance Abuse Services
Financial Services	Public Relations/Media Services	Volunteer Services

GET INVOLVED

STUDENT GROUPS

The *Psychology Club* is open to all students interested in the field of psychology. Interested students should come to the regularly scheduled meetings. Check out posted meeting dates at the Psychology Club website <http://www.msu.edu/~psyclub> or on the Psychology undergraduate website <http://www.psychology.msu.edu/>. Contact Andrea Lunsted at lunsteda@msu.edu.

Membership in *PSI CHI*, the National Honor Society in Psychology, is by invitation. Check the showcase outside Room 100 Psychology Building for information. Contact Brent Donnellan at 517-432-8392 or donnel59@msu.edu, <http://www.psichi.org/> or <http://www.msu.edu/~psichi/>.

VOLUNTEERING

The Center for Service-Learning and Civic Engagement provides volunteer opportunities in a variety of contexts. Explore volunteer positions and apply online. Contact them at 517-353-4400 or stop by Room 30 Student Services Building, <http://www.servicelearning.msu.edu/>.

STUDENT LIFE

Get involved on campus. Become a leader. Check out over 500 student organizations in Room 101 Student Services Building, <http://www.studentlife.msu.edu/>.

PSYCHOLOGY OFFICE RESOURCES

There are reference materials, books that may be borrowed, handouts, free publications, and postings managed by the Advising Office in 100 Psychology Building that are available to you and provide information about:

- ◆ Career Options
- ◆ Graduate Programs
- ◆ Independent Study Opportunities
- ◆ Majors/Additional Majors
- ◆ MSU Specializations
- ◆ PSI CHI National Honor Society
- ◆ Psychology Club
- ◆ Psychology Service and Intern Fair
- ◆ Psychology-Related Job Postings
- ◆ Scholarships
- ◆ Service-Learning Opportunities
- ◆ Study Abroad Information
- ◆ Volunteer Opportunities
- ◆and more

E-MAIL

Due to the nature and quantity of e-mails that we receive, we encourage you to meet with us face-to-face when you are looking for detailed information. We welcome e-mails that are simple in nature. For general questions, please e-mail the Psychology advisors at psyadvis@msu.edu.

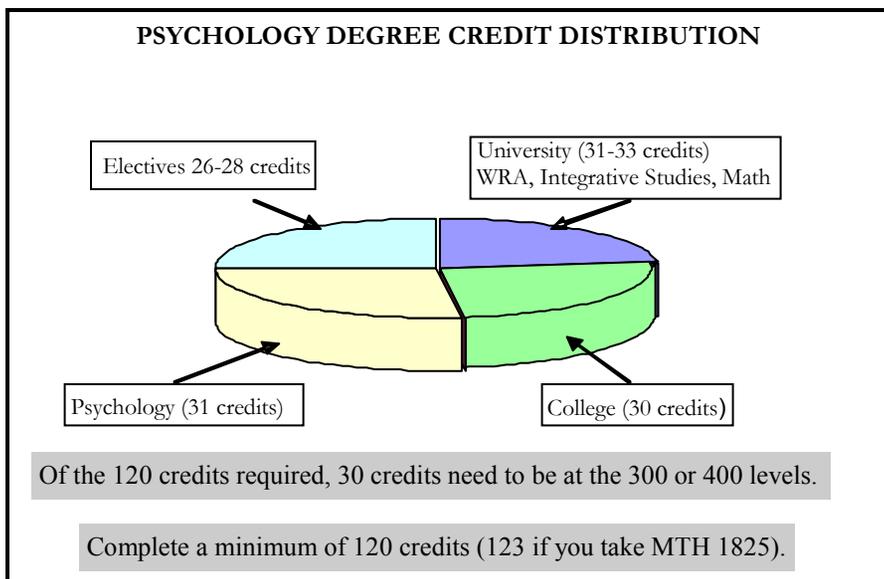
HONORS COLLEGE

Members of the Honors College should meet with their designated Psychology faculty advisor. Psychology Honors information can be found on the Psychology Department Undergraduate website <http://www.psychology.msu.edu/>. For questions regarding admission to the Honors College as a freshman, please direct your questions to the Honors College at <http://honorscollege.msu.edu/>.

- ◆ Dr. Joe Lonstein, A-K, lonstein@msu.edu
- ◆ Dr. Brent Donnellan, L-Z, donnel59@msu.edu

FRAMEWORK FOR PSYCHOLOGY DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

To ensure that you receive an appropriately broad and well-balanced education at MSU, psychology majors must satisfy the requirements of three separate units that represent three administrative levels: the University, the College of Social Science, and the Department of Psychology. You must meet the graduation requirements of each unit. In addition, you will need to choose elective coursework to achieve the minimum number of 120 credits (123 if you take MTH 1825) for a degree. You must complete 30 credits at the 300 or 400 level. An illustration of the degree framework is shown below.



The following is a brief summary of University requirements; however, the *Academic Programs* handbook <http://www.reg.msu.edu/AcademicPrograms/Default.asp> is the official source for University policy.

- Complete a minimum of 120 credits with a 2.0 or better MSU GPA; 123 credits with MTH 1825.
- Achieve a 2.0 or better Psychology cumulative GPA at MSU.
- Complete a minimum of 30 credits at MSU with a minimum of 27 credits on the East Lansing campus after junior status.
- Earn a minimum of 20 credits while in the major.
- Courses used to satisfy specific degree requirements may not be taken CR/NC.
- No more than 10 of a student's last 30 credits may be transferred from a 4-year accredited college/university. PRIOR APPROVAL IS REQUIRED.
- Credits from a community college will not be accepted once junior status is achieved (56 credits).

Note: Before taking a course at another institution, you should clearly understand the MSU Policy on transferability of courses. For more detailed information, please go to <http://www.transfer.msu.edu/> and consult with your academic advisor.

RESEARCH WITH FACULTY

Another opportunity for credit is independent study. Independent studies are important for students planning to apply for graduate school. This experience gives students great opportunities to work with faculty and graduate students in the research environment. Research credit can be earned through PSY 490/491 or it can be done as a volunteer.

PSY 490 Special Problems in Psychology (Fall, Spring, Summer)

- ◆ Description: Students work under the direction of a faculty member on an experimental, theoretical, or applied problem. This is a graded course.
- ◆ Restrictions: As specified by the faculty member of record. A maximum of 1-8 credits can be taken in a semester with a combined total of 12 credits for the degree. Needs instructor and department approval.

PSY 491 Participation in Psychological Project (Fall, Spring, Summer)

- ◆ Description: Students participate in a psychological project under direction of a faculty member. This is a pass/no grade (P/N) course.
- ◆ Restrictions: As specified by the faculty member of record. A maximum of 1-8 credits can be taken in a semester with a combined total of 12 credits for the degree. Needs instructor and department approval.

HOW TO LOCATE PSYCHOLOGY RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

There are opportunities in the Department of Psychology for students to get involved in research in a faculty member's lab, either as a volunteer or for credit (via PSY 490 or PSY 491). There are a number of ways to identify these opportunities.

◆ **View listings on the Psychology website:**
Go to the Psychology website <http://www.psychology.msu.edu>. Click on the "Undergrads" entry point, then on "Get Involved". Go to "Independent Studies" for link. Click on an individual study to learn more about it.

◆ **"Independent Studies" notebook of listings in the Advising Library:**
There is a notebook in the Psychology Undergraduate Office that contains listings of independent studies. Many of these listings may also be listed on the Psychology website, but some may be different.

◆ **Contacting faculty to learn of additional independent study opportunities:**
You can identify which faculty members are doing research in an area of interest to you. Go to the Psychology undergraduate website <http://www.psychology.msu.edu> and click the "Research" button. Select research areas of interest to identify faculty doing research in a given topic area. Click on each one to learn more about their particular research. For each one that provides a "vita" (extensive resume) link, open the link to learn more about that faculty member's background, research, and recently published articles.

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING FOR CREDIT

An internship or practicum provides an opportunity to explore career possibilities and to develop communication and organizational skills. Many employers expect college graduates to have practical, work-related experience. Learning about the world of work and making contacts in your chosen field are essential tools for landing your first job. Instructor permission is required for these courses.

ADOLESCENT DIVERSION PROJECT, PSY 371/372 (8 cr.)

The Adolescent Diversion Project is a two-semester commitment in which the student is trained and then mentors an adolescent involved in the juvenile justice system. This opportunity is offered every semester and the semesters have to be consecutive. Contact **Sean Hankins, Director**, at 517-355-9519 hankinss@msu.edu, <http://www.msu.edu/course/psy/371/> or **LaTonya Demps, Assistant Director**, lloydlat@msu.edu

PSYCHOLOGY HUMAN SERVICES INTERNSHIP, PSY 381/382 (9-15 cr.)

This course is a two-semester commitment. PSY 381 is in the spring and is a training and theory course. In PSY 382, students apply theory to practice. This internship is offered online in the summer. Internships are required to be in the human services field. This is a great opportunity to learn theories of human behavior, examine social problems, and “engage in strengths-based client centered service delivery”. Application materials are available on the undergraduate website under “Get Involved” <http://psychology.msu.edu/Undergrads/GetInvolved.aspx>. Contact **Dr. Cris Sullivan**, sulliv22@msu.edu.

BUSINESS PSYCHOLOGY INTERNSHIP, PSY 382 (6-12 cr.)

In this course, students complete an internship related to Industrial/Organizational Psychology. As a prerequisite for the internship, students are required to complete PSY 255 so they have background knowledge of the factors relevant to improving organizational performance. Additionally, students are required to attend orientation sessions in the spring semester prior to the internship which is completed in the summer. All academic assignments for the course are completed online. Application materials are available in the Psychology Undergraduate Advising Office and online at the Psychology Department website <http://psychology.msu.edu/Undergrads/GetInvolved.aspx>. Contact **Andrea Lunsted**, lunsted@msu.edu.

COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCE INTERNSHIP, SSC 493 (3-12 cr.)

Internships are offered through the College of Social Science in various areas of interest, depending on your career goals. Call 517-355-6676, in 201 Berkey Hall, <http://www.socialscience.msu.edu/current/internship.html>.

STUDY ABROAD

Study abroad is another way to look at the world differently. This can benefit your career, your degree, and in many cases, you personally. When students study abroad they choose to step outside of what they “know” and expose themselves to new thoughts, ideas and cultures. Psychology students are encouraged to go on programs where they can take courses to meet a variety of degree requirements. For more information on programs, search the study abroad database at <http://studyabroad.msu.edu/>.

College Restrictions on Experiential Learning

The total of independent study, practicum, internship, and field experience credits may not exceed 20 credits combined. If you have questions, contact a Psychology Advisor.

- ◆ A maximum of 12 credits of independent study may be applied toward the degree.
- ◆ A maximum of 12 credits in internship, field experience, and practicum courses combined may be applied toward the degree. PSY 371/372 and 381 do not count against this limit.

UNIVERSITY REQUIREMENTS

WRITING REQUIREMENT—The Tier I writing requirement is fulfilled by successful completion of one WRA course numbered between 110 and 195H, with a minimum grade of 2.0. The Tier II portion of your writing requirement is fulfilled by the completion of a designated 300-400 level course in your major. These course titles are followed by a “W”.

MATHEMATICS REQUIREMENT—Successfully complete one of the following courses: MTH 110, 112, 114, 116, 124, 132, or 152H; or STT 200 or 201. Bachelor of Science students must complete a calculus class numbered MTH 124 or higher. All students must meet college algebra proficiency through course or placement exam. See your Psychology advisor for details and refer to the MSU *Academic Programs* handbook.

INTEGRATIVE STUDIES REQUIREMENT—The Integrative Studies requirement includes the completion of coursework in the Arts & Humanities, the Social Sciences, and the Biological and Physical Sciences.

Integrated Studies in Arts and Humanities—8 credits

IAH 201-210

IAH 211+

Integrated Studies in Social Science—8 credits

ISS 2XX

ISS 3XX

Integrated Studies in Biological and Physical Sciences—8 credits

ISB 2XX

ISP 2XX

2 Credits of ISB/ISP Lab

Psychology majors pursuing the B.S. Degree may choose to complete the University Alternative Science Track (see page 11 for details).

INTEGRATIVE STUDIES CREDIT REQUIREMENT—Students must complete 24 credits in the Integrative Studies courses (IAH, ISS, ISB, ISP, and lab).

DIVERSITY REQUIREMENT—Students must include at least one “N” course (National) and one “I” course (International) in their Integrative Studies courses (ISS & IAH courses). A “D” course (Diversity) may meet either an “N” or an “I” requirement but not both. The letter will be found after the course title.

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Complete a minimum of 31 credits in Psychology with a minimum 2.0 PSY GPA.

Required: PSY 101 Introductory Psychology
PSY 295 Data Analysis in Psychological Research
PSY 395 Design and Measurement in Psychological Research

Choose one from: PSY 200 Cognitive Psychology
PSY 209 Brain and Behavior

Choose one from: PSY 235 Social Psychology
PSY 236 Personality Psychology
PSY 244 Developmental Psychology: Infancy Through Childhood

Choose one from: PSY 255 Industrial and Organizational Psychology
PSY 270 Community Psychology
PSY 280 Abnormal Psychology

Choose one from: PSY 401 Expertise and Skill (W)
PSY 402 Sensation and Perception (W)
PSY 405 History of Modern Psychology (W)
PSY 409 Psychobiology of Behavioral Development (W)
PSY 410 Neurobiology of Learning and Memory (W)
PSY 411 Hormones and Behavior (W)
PSY 413 Lab in Behavioral Neuroscience (W)
PSY 424 Child and Family Psychopathology (W)
PSY 440 Attitudes and Social Cognition (W)
PSY 441 Interpersonal Behavior and Groups (W)
PSY 455 Organizational Research Techniques (W)
PSY 475 Personality Theories (W)
PSY 493* Issues in Psychology (W)

(W) indicates a Tier II Writing course.

Required: Elective courses in Psychology to reach 31 credits. The elective courses in Psychology can come from Independent Study-PSY 490 & 491, Practicum-PSY 371/372, Internship-PSY 381/382 (prior approval required for these courses), or elective classes:
PSY 290 Exploring and Planning for Careers in Psychology
PSY 301 Cognitive Neuroscience
PSY 310 Psychology and Biology Of Human Sexuality
PSY 312 Introduction to Clinical Psychology
PSY 320 Health Psychology
PSY 339 Psychology of Women
PSY 342 Stereotypes, Prejudice, and Discrimination
PSY 344 Developmental Psychology: Adolescence through Youth
PSY 492 Special Topics in Psychology
You may also select additional courses from the above categories.

*PSY 493 expanded descriptions and prerequisites are available on the Psychology undergraduate website and from the course listing on <http://schedule.msu.edu/>. Each section of PSY 493 covers a different topic. Students should read descriptions of 400 level writing courses. Most of these courses do have prerequisites.

PSYCHOLOGY BA vs. PSYCHOLOGY BS

Students can choose to pursue a Bachelor of Arts (BA) or Bachelor of Science (BS) Degree in Psychology. When choosing a degree, students should always start with what they are most interested in. If you have always been good at science and math, and you like it, you will most likely complete the Bachelor of Science in Psychology. If you have always been a successful writer, like the humanities, and enjoy learning about people and cultures, you will probably want to pursue the Bachelor of Arts. It seems easy, but many students fall somewhere in the middle.

Many students ask which is better for jobs and graduate school. There is not one good answer for everyone. The answer depends on how well you would do in each of the areas. Some students think that the B.S. is the only way to graduate school, but if you can only get low grades in those courses, you may significantly hurt your chances for admission. If your future graduate program does not require or recommend those courses, you could have just lowered your GPA for no reason.

Most graduate programs want a diversity of courses. They also want students to show that they can do well in challenging courses. This can be done through either the B.A. or the B.S. Degree in Psychology. It is most important to do well in the most challenging courses that you can handle. It is also important to look ahead to see what courses are recommended by the graduate programs you are pursuing. If the programs you are looking into are more scientific in nature, you will probably want the courses in the B.S Degree.

The best way to determine which degree is best for you is by meeting with a Psychology advisor.

CHANGING BA OR BS STATUS

Juniors and Seniors:

Psychology students who would like to change their degree status from Bachelor of Arts (BA) to Bachelor of Science (BS) or from BS to BA and have earned 56 credits or more need to email Academic.Affairs@ssc.msu.edu or call 517-355-6676 to request this change. Provide your name, PID number, telephone number, and major; specify the change you wish to make.

Freshmen and Sophomores:

Students desiring to make a degree change who have earned less than 56 credits need to visit their local Undergraduate University Division (UUD) Office in their residence complex or the main UUD Office at 170 Bessey Hall. For UUD locations, go to <https://www.msu.edu/dept/uud/>. Click on the "Location" link.

NOTE: Check STUINFO within two weeks to verify that the degree change has gone through as requested.

GENERAL ELECTIVES

General Electives are any courses that do not meet any specific course requirement. This is your chance to explore and expand your knowledge in other areas of interest. Psychology students usually have 26-28 credits of General Electives. These courses will count toward the 120/123 minimum credits required for graduation. Elective courses taken at the 300+ level, will also satisfy the upper level requirement. Excess credits from University, College, or PSY requirements are considered General Electives, also. When completing electives, you can take a diversity of courses from all different disciplines. If you would rather have them more focused, you may choose to complete a specialization, minor, additional major, or second degree.

Some of the more popular departments Psychology majors select from are:

CEP	Counseling, Educational Psychology and Special Education
COM	Communication
EAD	Educational Administration
KIN	Kinesiology
IDES	Interior Design
TE	Teacher Education
ACC	Accounting
JRN	Journalism
PRR	Parks, Recreation and Tourism Resources
TC	Telecommunication
ADV	Advertising

SPECIALIZATIONS

Specializations can be found on the MSU website at <http://www.reg.msu.edu/academicprograms/Programs.asp?PTtype=SPCU>. Specializations are usually between 15-20 credits. These courses can be from all different departments. Some popular specializations for PSY majors are *Health Promotion, Coaching, Women's Studies, Peace and Justice, and Dance*. Completed specializations are listed on your transcript. There is a binder in the Undergraduate Psychology Advising Center that has requirements and handouts for many of the specializations.

MINORS

MSU has several minors as an option for students to enhance their academic record. If you are interested, a list of current available minors can be found on the Registrar's Office website <http://www.reg.msu.edu/academicprograms/Programs.asp?PTtype=TE>. Completed minors are listed on your final transcript.

ADDITIONAL MAJOR

Another option available to psychology majors is completing an additional major in another discipline. An additional major is noted on your final transcript. Most disciplines offer an additional major, though the requirements for each can be very different. Most additional majors range between 30-60 credits. You should contact the academic advisor in the discipline you are interested in for more information and to sign up.

SECOND DEGREE

Second degrees are available for students wanting two diplomas. The University requires students pursuing a second degree to do a minimum of 30 credits beyond their first degree. Department and college requirements are usually required to be completed. A second degree can be added by meeting with an advisor in the area of interest.

COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCE REQUIREMENTS PSYCHOLOGY BACHELOR OF ARTS (BA)

Group I: Courses in the College of Social Science

Select 15 credits from the following departments:

ANP	Anthropology	CJ	Criminal Justice
EC	Economics	HDFS	Human Dev & Family Studies
GEO	Geography	HST	History
PLS	Political Science	SOC	Sociology
SSC	493 College Internship (up to 4 cr.)	SW	Social Work
UP	Urban & Regional Planning		

Group II: Courses in the College of Arts and Letters

Select 9 credits from the following departments:

AMS	American Studies	ATD	Apparel & Textile Des.
CLA	Classical Studies	DAN	Dance
ENG	English		Foreign Languages
GSAH	Global Studies Arts Humanities	HA	History of Art
IAH	Integrative Studies Arts & Hum.*	LIN	Linguistics
MUS	Music	PHL	Philosophy
REL	Religious Studies	ROM	Romance Languages
STA	Studio Art	THR	Theater
WRA	Writing, Rhet & Amer Cultures (courses 200 and above)	WS	Women Studies

Group III: Courses in the College of Natural Science

Select 6 credits from the following departments:

AST	Astronomy	BMB	Biochem & Molecular Biology
BS	Biological Science	CEM	Chemistry
CMB	Cell and Molecular Biology	ENT	Entomology
GLG	Geological Sciences	ISB	Integrative Studies Biological*
ISP	Integrative Studies Physical Science*	LBS	Lyman Briggs (see exceptions)
MMG	Microbiology & Molecular Genetics	MTH	Mathematics (see exceptions)*
NEU	Neuroscience	PHY	Physics
PLB	Plant Biology	PLP	Plant Pathology
PSL	Physiology	STT	Statistics
ZOL	Zoology		

Approved Additional Natural Science Selections:

ANP	202 Biocultural Evolution
CSE	101 Computing Concepts/Competencies
GEO	203 Introduction to Meteorology
GEO	206 Physical Geography
GEO	206L Physical Geography Lab
HNF	150 Introduction to Human Nutrition
HST	250 History & Technology/Digital Age

Exceptions: The following courses may not apply to the college requirement in Natural Science: LBS 133, 246, 290, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 355, 425, 470, 483, 490, 492, 493, MTH 1825, 100E, 290, and NSC courses.

*If this course is used to satisfy a University requirement, then the credits may not be counted toward the college requirement.

**COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCE REQUIREMENTS
PSYCHOLOGY BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (BS)**

Group I: Courses in the College of Social Science

Select 9 credits from the following departments:

ANP	Anthropology	CJ	Criminal Justice
EC	Economics	HDFS	Human Dev & Family Studies
GEO	Geography	HST	History
PLS	Political Science	SOC	Sociology
SSC	493 College Internship (up to 4 cr.)	SW	Social Work
UP	Urban & Regional Planning		

Group II: Courses in the College of Arts and Letters

Select 6 credits from the following departments:

AMS	American Studies	ATD	Apparel & Textile Des.
CLA	Classical Studies	DAN	Dance
ENG	English		Foreign Languages
GSAH	Global Studies Arts Humanities	HA	History of Art
IAH	Integrative Studies Arts & Hum*	LIN	Linguistics
MUS	Music	PHL	Philosophy
REL	Religious Studies	ROM	Romance Languages
STA	Studio Art	THR	Theater
WRA	Writing, Rhet & Amer Cultures (courses 200 and above)	WS	Women's Studies

Group III: Courses in the College of Natural Science

Select 15 credits from the following departments:

AST	Astronomy	BMB	Biochem & Molecular Biol.
BS	Biological Science	CEM	Chemistry
CMB	Cell and Molecular Biology	ENT	Entomology
GLG	Geological Sciences	LBS	Lyman Briggs (see exceptions)
MMG	Microbio & Molecular Genetics	MTH	Mathematics (see exceptions)*
NEU	Neuroscience	PHY	Physics
PLB	Plant Biology	PLP	Plant Pathology
PSL	Physiology	STT	Statistics
ZOL	Zoology		

Approved Additional Natural Science Selections:

ANP	202	Biocultural Evolution
CSE	101	Computing Concepts/Comp
GEO	203	Introduction to Meteorology
GEO	206	Physical Geography
GEO	206L	Physical Geography Lab
HNF	150	Introduction to Human Nutrition

Exceptions: The following courses may not apply to the college requirement in Natural Science: LBS 133, 246, 290, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 355, 425, 470, 483, 490, 492, 493, MTH 1825, 100E, 103, 103E, 290, and NSC courses.

*If this course is used to satisfy a University requirement, then the credits may not be counted toward the college requirement.

BS ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Alternative University Science Requirement:

If you choose to complete the Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychology, you may satisfy the University Integrative Studies in Biological and Physical Sciences Requirement with the Natural Science Alternative Track. Courses taken to complete the Alternative Science Track may not apply to the College of Natural Science 15 credit requirement. To complete the Alternative Science Track you must complete 8 credits by taking courses that consist of:

- a) One course in Biological Science (BS)
- b) One course in Chemistry (CEM) or one course in Physics (PHY 181B or higher)
- c) Two credits of laboratory experience in Biological or Physical Science

Mathematics Requirement:

A calculus course at the level of MTH 124 or higher is required. If this course is used to satisfy the University Mathematics requirement, then the credits may not be counted toward the College of Natural Science 15 credit requirement.

Additional Science Requirement:

Choose ONE course from this list to be included in your College of Natural Science 15 credit requirement. *Please check for prerequisites.*

Neuroscience:	ZOL 402 - Neurobiology ZOL 430 - Neuroendocrine Aspects of Behavior
Genetics:	ZOL 141 - Introductory Human Genetics ZOL 341 - Fundamental Genetics ZOL 344 - Human Genetics ZOL 445 - Evolution
Physiology:	PSL 250 - Introductory Physiology PSL 310 - Physiology for Pre-Health Professionals PSL 431 - Human Physiology I
Animal Behavior:	ZOL 313 - Animal Behavior ZOL 355 - Ecology ZOL 415 - Ecological Aspects of Animal Behavior

The Bachelor of Science Degree is for students who are interested in the field of science and are successful in these courses. Talk to your advisor about which degree will be best for you and your future plans.