

PSYCHOLOGY, BA

Psychology majors have a wide range of interests. Anyone preparing for a career that involves contact with other people can benefit from taking classes in psychology. Among the common pre-professional concentrations for psychology majors are pre-medical, pre-physical therapy, pre-law, pre-occupational therapy, and pre-physical therapy. Many psychology majors have interests in communication studies such as advertising and public relations. Others have interests in business and can apply their knowledge of psychology to marketing, management, or organizational behavior. Psychology majors can approach the study of behavior from a variety of perspectives ranging from humanistic psychology, which focuses on human growth and potential, to biological bases of behavior, which focuses on relations among body, brain, and behavior. Written and oral communication skills are essential to success in psychology and related fields.

Admission into the Major

Students are expected to formally declare a major no later than the fourth semester of full-time enrollment (or at 61 semester hours for transfer students). Students can declare a major by completing the Change of Major/Minor Application online under the Student tab of myBama.

Special Opportunities

The Psychology Department Honors Program is designed to afford qualified majors the opportunity to participate in activities preparatory for graduate training in psychology. The two-year program is research-oriented and involves interactions with selected faculty and peers in an enriched and accelerated academic environment. Completion of the program is contingent on the submission of an independently conducted research project equivalent in quality to a master's thesis. Psychology majors who are in the second semester of the sophomore year with nine hours of coursework in psychology (including PY 101 Intro To Psychology, PY 211 Elem Statistical Methods and a 300-level course) to be completed by the end of the semester may apply for admission to the Psychology Department Honors Program. A completed application and interview by the Departmental Honors Committee are required before acceptance. To be accepted, it is recommended that a student have at least a 3.5 GPA in psychology coursework and a 3.3 cumulative GPA; however, meeting these standards does not guarantee admission.

Students earning the bachelor of arts (BA) degree with a major in psychology must complete all University, College and departmental degree requirements. These include the general education requirements, the following major requirements, all requirements for an approved minor and other sufficient credits to total a minimum of 120 applicable semester hours.

Code and Title	Hours
Major Courses	
PY 101 Intro To Psychology	3
PY 211 Elem Statistical Methods	3
PY 321 Professional Issues	1
PY 355 General Experimental Psycholog	3
PY 356 Research Laboratory	2
PY 370 History & Systems	3
Credit Hours Subtotal:	15
Electives	
Select three hours of PY elective 300 or 400 level	3

Credit Hours Subtotal:	3
Seminar	
Select one seminar sequence: ¹	6
PY 379 Junior Honors Seminar & PY 491 and Senior Seminar In Psychology	
PY 391 Junior Seminar & PY 491 and Senior Seminar In Psychology	
PY 491 Senior Seminar In Psychology & 491 and Senior Seminar In Psychology	
Credit Hours Subtotal:	6
Area Requirements	
Select nine hours from list below	9
Credit Hours Subtotal:	9
Ancillary Courses	
Grades in ancillary courses are not computed into the major GPA. The major in psychology requires the successful completion of the following courses outside the major:	
Select eight hours of the following:	8
BSC 108 Intro Biology Non Maj I	
BSC 109 Intro Biology Non Maj II	
BSC 114 Principles Of Biology I & BSC 115 and Laboratory Biology I	
BSC 116 Principles Biology II & BSC 117 and Biology II Laboratory	
BSC 118 Honors General Biology I	
BSC 120 Honors Gen Biology II	
CH 101 General Chemistry	
CH 102 General Chemistry	
CH 104 Introductory Chemistry	
CH 105 Introductory Org Chem	
CH 117 Honors General Chemistry	
CH 118 Honors General Chemistry	
PH 101 General Physics I	
PH 102 General Physics II	
PH 105 General Physics W/Calc I	
PH 106 General Physics W/Calc II	
PH 125 Honors Gen Ph W/Calculus	
PH 126 Honors Gen Ph W/Calculus II	
Credit Hours Subtotal:	8
Total Hours	41

Footnotes

¹ Two seminars are required, and at least one must be PY 491 Senior Seminar In Psychology

Area Requirements

Students must complete courses from three of the following content areas for a total of nine hours. At least one course must be at the 400 level.

Developmental

Code and Title	Hours
PY 352 Developmental Psych	3
PY 365 Psychology Of Aging	3
PY 461 Child Psychology	3

Learning/Cognition

Code and Title	Hours
PY 361 Psychology Of Learning	3
PY 470 Intro Cognitive Psychlgy	3

Social/Personality

Code and Title	Hours
PY 358 Abnormal Psychology	3
PY 368 Intro To Personality	3
PY 372 Social Psychology	3

Biologically Based

Code and Title	Hours
PY 313 Sensation and Perception	3
PY 413 Physiological Psych	3

Grade Point Average

A 2.0 grade point average in the major is required for completion of the degree. Please see the Grades and Grade Points section of this catalog for an explanation on grade point average calculations.

Upper-level Residency

A minimum of 12 hours of 300- and 400-level courses in the major must be earned on this campus.

Required Minor

This major requires the completion of a minor.

Additional Major Requirements

Students are responsible for ensuring that they have met all requirements. However, each student must meet with an adviser in the major department for academic planning and to be approved for registration each semester. College advisers are also available for additional assistance with minor, College and University requirements.

Prerequisites

PY 101 Intro To Psychology or PY 105 Honors Intro Psychology is a prerequisite for all higher-numbered psychology courses. Unless otherwise stated, all 400-level PY courses have as a prerequisite 12 hours in the psychology department, including PY 355 General Experimental Psychology and PY 356 Research Laboratory. PY 355 General Experimental Psychology and PY 356 Research Laboratory require a grade of C- in PY 211 Elem Statistical Methods as a prerequisite.

Psychology majors choose from a wide range of occupations in business, academics, mental health/social services, human resources, human relations, and behavioral/medical research. A good resource for evaluating possible job opportunities for persons with a bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degree can be found at: <http://www.apa.org/careers/index.aspx>

Types of Jobs Accepted

Many psychology majors apply to a variety of graduate programs. There are doctoral and master's programs in both clinical and non-clinical aspects of psychology in graduate psychology departments. Doctorates and master's degrees may also be earned in school psychology and counseling in many colleges of education, human development, and social work.

Learn more about opportunities in this field at the Career Center