Psychology BA

Overview

The **Bachelor of Arts in Psychology**, offered by the Department of Psychology and Neuroscience, provides a modern curriculum covering a breadth of content, ranging from biological bases of cognition and behavior to sociocultural influences on human interactions and psychological disorders. The curriculum is designed to develop students' critical thinking skills through emphasis of the scientific basis of psychology and through courses in statistics and research methodology. The program also emphasizes the integration and synthesis of information across courses and activities through the step-wise progression of the curriculum from the introductory, foundational and advanced classes up to the final capstone course that is taken in the senior year. Students are strongly encouraged to develop applied skills through rigorous and highly focused experiential learning in research laboratories and community-based internships. The curriculum is designed to be sufficiently flexible to satisfy the diversity of needs among undergraduates. An individually tailored curriculum may be selected for the purpose of preparing students for employment or further study in psychology, neuroscience, medicine, law, business or other fields.

Psychology identifies several learning goals for each level of instruction in the program. At the introductory level (PSY 1001, PSY 1002, PSY 1003, PSY 1004), goals include familiarity with the scientific grounding of the discipline (PSY 1001), basic statistics (PSY 1003) and scientific methods (PSY 1004), as well as information on how to prepare for a career in psychology or a related discipline (PSY 1002). At the Foundation level (2000-level courses), students develop deeper knowledge of the fascinating content areas in the discipline, which are broadly organized in two groups:

1. Developmental/Clinical/Social (DCS); and
2. Brain and Cognitive Sciences (BCS).

Students are required to choose at least two courses from each of these two general areas, and this ensures familiarity with the breadth of the discipline. These courses cover a wide range of topics from the functions of the neuron to the development of moral thought. At the Advanced level (3000-3620), students continue to develop critical thinking skills to dispassionately examine conflicting claims, analyze data, organize research papers, and become more proficient with the scientific process in a writing-intensive course (PSY 3096). Students also are required to select four courses with the option of continuing to develop breadth or choosing to delve into greater depth in one area, such as clinical psychology. Finally, at the 4000 level, students choose a Capstone course to complete their coursework. This writing-intensive course is designed to help students integrate their knowledge base, to refine their critical and writing skills, and generally to synthesize their knowledge of the discipline.

Campus Locations: Main, Japan

Program Code: LA-PSY-BA

Internships and Research Opportunities

Psychology students have the opportunity to gain real-world experiences and course credit through Internship and Practicum classes. Learn more information about Internships and Practica.

For students interested in research opportunities, many of the Temple Psychology faculty have active research laboratories on a wide range of research topics. Students can apply to work as research assistants in a laboratory and can also earn Collaborative Research credit for doing so. Learn more about Collaborative Research.

Accelerated +1 BA/MS Program

The accelerated +1 Bachelor of Arts in Psychology / Master of Science in Psychological Research offers outstanding Temple University psychology majors the opportunity to earn both the BA in Psychology and the MS in Psychological Research in just 5 years. Admission to the program is highly selective. This program is designed to provide a research-intensive experience, advanced coursework and professional development to students who intend to pursue doctoral studies in any of the academic psychology disciplines.

Students apply to the program in the spring semester of their junior year after completing a minimum of 72 undergraduate credits. Eligible students have a minimum 3.5 GPA overall and in Psychology. Additionally, students must have a faculty sponsor who has agreed to mentor the student's master's project research during the four-semester program.

Applications are due March 1st each year.

Learn more about the MS in Psychological Research.

Careers

An undergraduate degree in psychology affords many opportunities for careers and further study at the graduate level because the knowledge and skills learned through the major (e.g. critical thinking, human behavior) are important to many disciplines. Psychology majors are often employed in management positions, education, healthcare, research, real estate, sales, marketing, social services and labor relations. Many psychology majors also go on to graduate study in psychology or other fields, including law, medicine and business school.

Psychology students at Temple are informed of career options and advised to begin to make career decision through a formal course called Careers in Psychology (PSY 1002). This course is designed to encourage students to begin to prepare for their career early during their undergraduate training so that they may maximally benefit from their undergraduate education.

Curriculum Overlap Policy

There are several related majors and minors offered by the Psychology and Neuroscience department, including the major and minor in Psychology, the Cognitive Neuroscience minor, the Clinical and Health Psychology minor, the major in Neuroscience: Systems, Behavior and Plasticity, and the Neuroscience Research minor.

Students majoring in Psychology may take a minor in Cognitive Neuroscience, a second major in Neuroscience: Systems, Behavior and Plasticity, or a minor in Neuroscience Research. Psychology majors are not permitted to take the minor in Clinical and Health Psychology but are permitted to take its courses as electives in their major.

Students who opt to double major in Psychology and Neuroscience: Systems, Behavior and Plasticity may double-count the following required courses without taking additional electives in their major to replace the credits:

- PSY 1001 Introduction to Psychology
- PSY 1003 Statistics for Psychology
- PSY 3096 Conducting Psychological Research or NSCI 3096 Conducting Neuroscience Research
- BIOL 1012 General Biology II
- CHEM 1031 General Chemistry I and CHEM 1033 General Chemistry Laboratory I
- CHEM 1032 General Chemistry II and CHEM 1034 General Chemistry Laboratory II

Students who major in Psychology and minor in Cognitive Neuroscience may double count the following required courses:

- PSY 1001 Introduction to Psychology
- PSY 1003 Statistics for Psychology
- PSY 1004 Critical Thinking in Psychology

Students who major in Psychology and minor in Neuroscience Research may double count one elective course and

- PSY 3096 Conducting Psychological Research or NSCI 3096 Conducting Neuroscience Research

The Psychology Honors Program

Students who major in Psychology are encouraged to participate in the Psychology Honors Program. A main goal of the Psychology Honors Program is to provide each student with an individualized experience that will prepare them for psychological research in the future. This program is designed as a two-year study that begins with critical thinking, writing and the study of methodology. Grade requirement is a 3.5 GPA across all courses. Upon completion of this program, students will have produced a senior thesis and presented their work at a student poster session. Some students present research at regional or national meetings.

Learn more about the Psychology Honors Program.

Code	Title	Credit Hours
PSY 2991	Honors Research I	4
PSY 3991	Honors Research II	3
PSY 4991	Honors Research III	3
PSY 4996	Honors Capstone	4

Distinction in Major

Students earn Distinction in Major upon completion of the Psychology Honors Program.

Student Organizations and Honor Societies

Joining a student organization can provide opportunities for leadership experience, career development and service. Some of the student organizations that are of particular interest for psychology majors are:

- Psychology Majors Association (PMA)
- Psychology Majors of Color (PMC)
- Psi Chi: The International Honor Society in Psychology

Learn more about student organizations for psychology majors.

The Undergraduate Psychology Majors Association

The goal of the Psychology Majors Association (PMA) is to provide opportunities for students to apply their appreciation of psychology through activities outside of the classroom. PMA also promotes networking between students and faculty members within the psychology department. PMA members participate in a variety of opportunities including volunteer work, field trips, workshops on graduate school, current topics in psychology, and career development. More information is available at Psychology Majors Association.

Psychology Majors of Color

Psychology Majors of Color bridges the gap between psychology students of color (and other related fields) by providing a common place to convene to create a sense of community. We touch upon mental wellness issues within communities of color as well as making sure that our members are able to thrive within their career paths post-Temple by providing them with the necessary skill sets. By creating this common space, we provide a supportive environment for our members to uplift each other's professional goals. For more information, contact templepmc@gmail.com.

Psi Chi - The National Honor Society in Psychology

Psi Chi, the National Honor Society in Psychology, has an active chapter at Temple University. The minimum requirements for membership in Psi Chi are a 3.20 cumulative GPA and a 3.50 GPA in Psychology courses. Psi Chi members are given opportunities for growth and development within the field of psychology. Psi Chi encourages students to engage in research opportunities within psychology as well as continue their education in graduate studies. For more information, contact psichi@temple.edu.

Phi Beta Kappa

Phi Beta Kappa is the oldest honor society in the United States. It was developed to foster and recognize excellence in the humanities and sciences. More information about Phi Beta Kappa requirements and activities is available at Honor Societies.

Contact Information

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Learn more about the Bachelor of Arts in Psychology.

These requirements are for students who matriculated in academic year 2026-2027. Students who matriculated prior to fall 2026 should refer to the Archives *to view the requirements for their Bulletin year.*

Summary of Degree Requirements

University Requirements

- MATH 0701 (4 s.h.) and/or ENG 0701 (4 s.h.), if required by placement testing.
- All Temple students must take a minimum of two writing-intensive courses as part of the major. The specific courses required for this major are PSY 3096 Conducting Psychological Research and one of the following capstone courses: PSY 4696 or PSY 4996.
- Students must complete requirements of the General Education (GenEd) Program. See the General Education section of the *Undergraduate Bulletin* for more details.

College of Liberal Arts Requirements

- Completion of a minimum of 123 credits, including:
  - 90 credits in CLA/CST courses;
  - 45 credits of which must be at the upper level (numbered 2000-4999).
    - For **Social Science majors**, 6 upper level credits (numbered 2000-4999) must be taken in Humanities Subject Areas: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, German, Greek (Ancient), Greek and Roman Classics, Hebrew, Hindi, Italian, Japanese, Latin, Philosophy, Religion, Russian, and Spanish in the College of Liberal Arts, Art History in the Tyler School of Art and Architecture, or any department in the College of Science and Technology.
  - A minimum GPA of 2.0, cumulatively, in CLA/CST coursework, and in the major.
  - Only courses in which a student receives a grade of at least C- can satisfy GenEd, major, minor, or CLA Foreign Language and Global Studies requirements.
  - **Professional Development Requirement**
    - All students in the College of Liberal Arts are required to take a 1 credit seminar in professional development. PSY 1002 Careers in Psychology is the appropriate course option for this major. Other courses that fulfill this requirement may be found on the CLA College Requirements page. Only one course in this category may count towards graduation.
  - **Foreign Language/Global Studies Requirements**
    - All students must complete or test out of the first and second levels of a foreign language - these courses are numbered 1001 and 1002;
    - All students must complete at least one course from the GenEd Global/World Society category; and
    - All Bachelor of Arts students must complete one of the following options:
      - Third semester of a foreign language;
      - Demonstrated proficiency beyond the third semester in a foreign language (placement exam or certification from the language department);
      - Take one Global Studies course from the list on the CLA College Requirements page;
      - Study Abroad at an approved program; or
      - Take a second General Education Global/World Society course.
    - **Notes on Foreign Language Study**
      - The third level of language is numbered 1003 in French, Spanish, and Portuguese and numbered 2001 in all other foreign language subjects.
      - Students are strongly encouraged to take the third level of a foreign language as it is the minimum required for election to the prestigious honor society *Phi Beta Kappa*. (Taking the course does not guarantee admission but not taking it guarantees exclusion.)
      - See the College of Liberal Arts Policies section of this *Bulletin* for more information on the Foreign Language Placement, Regression in Coursework, and guidelines for students' other experiences with language.

General Electives are typically one-third of a student's program of study and can be focused on a second major, a minor, or towards some other personal enrichment or professional goals. See an academic advisor for assistance in developing an academic plan for these courses.

Major Requirements (minimum 44 credits; 40 credits in Psychology plus 4 credits in a designated science area)

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Introductory Courses Required		
PSY 1001	Introduction to Psychology	3
or PSY 1901	Honors: Introduction to Psychology	
PSY 1002	Careers in Psychology	1
PSY 1003	Statistics for Psychology	3
PSY 1004	Critical Thinking in Psychology	3
Psychology Science Requirement		

Select one of the following:		4
BIOL 1001	Human Biology	
BIOL 1011	General Biology I	
BIOL 1012	General Biology II	
BIOL 1111	Introduction to Organismal Biology	
BIOL 1112	Introduction to Biomolecules, Cells and Genomes	
BOT 1111	General Botany	
CHEM 1021 & CHEM 1023	Introduction to Chemistry I and Introduction to Chemistry Laboratory I	
CHEM 1022 & CHEM 1024	Introduction to Chemistry II and Introduction to Chemistry Laboratory II	
CHEM 1027	Applications of Chemistry	
CHEM 1031 & CHEM 1033	General Chemistry I and General Chemistry Laboratory I	
CHEM 1032 & CHEM 1034	General Chemistry II and General Chemistry Laboratory II	
EES 2001	Physical Geology	
ENST 2002	Physical Geography	
KINS 1223	Human Anatomy and Physiology I	
KINS 1224	Human Anatomy and Physiology II	
PHYS 1021	Introduction to General Physics I	
Developmental/Clinical/Social (DCS) Foundation Courses [1]		
Select two of the following:		6
PSY 2201	Foundations of Psychopathology	
PSY 2301	Foundations of Developmental Psychology	
PSY 2401	Foundations of Social Psychology	
PSY 2402	Foundations of Industrial and Organizational Psychology	
PSY 2601	Foundations of Health Psychology	
Brain and Cognitive Sciences (BCS) Foundation Courses [1]		
Select two of the following:		6
PSY 2101	Foundations of Cognitive Psychology	
PSY 2103	Foundations of Learning and Behavior Analysis	
PSY 2104	Foundations of Sensation and Perception	
PSY 2501	Foundations of Behavioral Neuroscience	
PSY 2502	Foundations of Cognitive Neuroscience	
Required Methods Course		
PSY 3096	Conducting Psychological Research	3
Advanced Courses (3000-3620)		
Select three of the following: [2]		9
PSY 3002	Evolutionary and Comparative Psychology	
PSY 3003	Advanced Undergraduate Statistics	
PSY 3005	Affective Neuroscience	
PSY 3100	Topics: Brain, Behavior and Cognition	
PSY 3151	Direct Applications of Behavioral Principles	
PSY 3172	The Science of Sleep	
PSY 3200	Topics: Clinical	
PSY 3221	Clinical Psychology: Research and Practice	
PSY 3223	Child Psychopathology and Treatment	
PSY 3301	Phases of Development: Infancy	
PSY 3303	Psychological Testing: Measuring IQ, Thoughts, Feelings, and Attitudes	
PSY 3304	Personality, Social and Emotional Development	
PSY 3305	Cognitive and Language Development	
PSY 3306	Neuroscience of Development and Aging	

PSY 3411	Social Cognition	
PSY 3413	Psychology of Power, Oppression, and Privilege	
PSY 3418	Human Performance Improvement	
PSY 3561	Psychopharmacology	
PSY 3566	Neurobiology of Learning and Memory	
PSY 3600	Advanced Topics in Health Psychology	
PSY 3601	Social Health Psychology	
PSY 3602	Clinical Neuropsychology	
PSY 3603	Clinical Applications of Health Psychology	
PSY 3615	History and Systems of Psychology	
PSY 3620	Topics in Psychology	
CJ 3408	Forensic Psychology	
Psychology Elective		
One additional course at the Foundation Level or the Advanced Level (2000-3999).		3
Capstone Course [3]		
Select one of the following:		3-4
PSY 4696	Capstone in Psychology	
PSY 4996	Honors Capstone	
Total Credit Hours		**44-45**

1 Foundation courses are prerequisites for the advanced (3000-level) areas.

2 Select three from any of the advanced courses (3000-3620) for which you have completed the prerequisite foundation course. These courses cover specialty areas within particular fields of psychology.
Note: PSY 3096 does not count toward the requirement.

3 Seniors only - minimum of 90 credits completed and completion of PSY 3096.

Individual Study Courses

Permission of the instructor is required to register for these courses. For all Psychology majors and minors.

Code	Title	Credit Hours
PSY 4182 & PSY 4282	Independent Study in Cognitive Neuroscience I and Independent Study in Cognitive Neuroscience II	6
Select one of the following:		1-4
PSY 3791	Collaborative Research I	
PSY 3891	Collaborative Research II	
PSY 4791	Collaborative Research III	
PSY 4891	Collaborative Research IV	
PSY 3785	Psychology Internship	3
PSY 3787	Practicum	3

Suggested Academic Plan

Bachelor of Arts in Psychology

Suggested Plan for New Students Starting in the 2026-2027 Academic Year

Year 1		
Fall		**Credit Hours**
ENG 0802 or ENG 0812 or ENG 0902	Analytical Reading and Writing [GW] or Analytical Reading and Writing: ESL [GW] or Honors Analytical Reading and Writing [GW]	4
GenEd Quantitative Literacy Course [GQ]		4
Foreign Language 1001 - first level		4
GenEd Breadth Course		3
	Credit Hours	**15**

Spring		
IH 0851 or IH 0951	Intellectual Heritage I: The Good Life [GY] or Honors Intellectual Heritage I: The Good Life [GY]	3
Foreign Language 1002 - second level		4
GenEd Breadth Course		3
GenEd Breadth Course		3
PSY 1001 or PSY 1901	Introduction to Psychology or Honors: Introduction to Psychology	3
	Credit Hours	**16**
Year 2		
Fall		
IH 0852 or IH 0952	Intellectual Heritage II: The Common Good [GZ] or Honors Intellectual Heritage II: The Common Good [GZ]	3
GenEd Breadth Course		3
CLA/CST 0800-4999 Elective		3
PSY 1002	Careers in Psychology [1]	1
PSY 1003	Statistics for Psychology	3
Select one of the following:		3
Foreign Language - third level		
GenEd Global/World Society course		
Internationally Focused Course From Approved List		
	Credit Hours	**16**
Spring		
GenEd Breadth Course		3
GenEd Breadth Course		3
GenEd Breadth Course		3
CLA/CST 2000+ Course		3
PSY 1004	Critical Thinking in Psychology	3
	Credit Hours	**15**
Year 3		
Fall		
CLA/CST 2000+ Humanities/CST Course		3
One Psychology Science course from approved list		4
One Psychology 2000-level BCS Area Foundation Course		3
One Psychology 2000-level DCS Area Foundation Course		3
One Psychology 2000-level DCS or BCS Area Foundation Course		3
	Credit Hours	**16**
Spring		
CLA/CST 2000+ Humanities/CST Course		3
PSY 3096	Conducting Psychological Research [WI]	3
One Psychology 2000-level DCS or BCS Area Foundation Course		3
CLA/CST 0800-4999 Elective		3
CLA/CST 0800-4999 Elective		3
	Credit Hours	**15**
Year 4		
Fall		
Psychology 3000-3620 - One Advanced Course		3
Psychology 3000-3620 - One Advanced Course		3
Psychology 2000-3999 - One Foundation or Advanced Course		3
CLA/CST 0800-4999 Elective		3
CLA/CST 2000+ Course		3
	Credit Hours	**15**

Spring		
Psychology 3000-3620 - One Advanced Course		3
CLA/CST 2000+ Course		3
One 0800-4999 Elective in Any School or College		3
One 0800-4999 Elective in Any School or College		3
Select one of the following:		3
PSY 4696	Capstone in Psychology [WI]	
PSY 4996	Honors Capstone [WI]	
	Credit Hours	**15**
	Total Credit Hours	**123**

[1] PSY 1002 Careers in Psychology completes the CLA Professional Development requirement.

Accelerated Programs

Students may opt to pursue an accelerated +1 program, enabling them to complete both a bachelor's degree and master's degree in less time than the traditional route.

The following accelerated program may be of interest to students in the Psychology BA:

College of Liberal Arts

- Psychological Research MS