

Bachelor of Arts in Psychology

Learn more about the Bachelor of Arts in Psychology.

The undergraduate Psychology program at Temple University provides a modern curriculum covering a breadth of content, ranging from the 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 an emphasis on the scientific basis of Psychology and through courses in statistics and research methodology.

Who should consider majoring in Psychology?

Majoring in Psychology is obviously an excellent choice for students interested in pursuing a career in clinical, counseling, research, or applied psychology. In addition, the Bachelor of Arts in Psychology is a popular and versatile degree that can help prepare students for careers in many other areas. Some examples of fields that are well suited for psychology majors are:

- Education
- Healthcare
- Human Resources
- Marketing
- Research
- Social Services

Internship & Research Opportunities

Psychology students have the opportunity to gain real-world experiences and course credit through Internship and Practicum classes. A list of internship sites and more information can be found at the Internship and Practicum Site.

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. More information on collaborative research can be found at the Collaborative Research Site.

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.

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

For more information, refer to the Psychology Honors Program section of the Psychology Undergraduate site.

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

Student Organizations & 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

More information on student organizations for psychology majors can be found at Psychology's Student Life.

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, and 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.

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, German, 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 or PSY 1901	Introduction to Psychology Honors: Introduction to Psychology	3
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	
CHEM 1021 & CHEM 1023	Introduction to Chemistry I and Introduction to Chemistry Laboratory I	
CHEM 1027	Applications of Chemistry	
CHEM 1031 & CHEM 1033	General Chemistry I and General Chemistry Laboratory I	
PHYS 1021	Introduction to General Physics I	
EES 2001	Physical Geology	
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 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 3417	Personnel Psychology
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 (2000-3620). 3

Capstone Course³

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.

See the Psychology "About" page for more information on combining the various programs offered by Psychology and Neuroscience. Some programs cannot be combined; others permit a degree of overlap. All restrictions are listed in detail on that page.

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

Distinction in Major

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

Suggested Academic Plan

Bachelor of Arts in Psychology

Requirements for New Students starting in the 2022-2023 Academic Year

Year 1		Credit Hours
Fall		
ENG 0802, 0812, or 0902	Analytical Reading and Writing [GW]	4
	GenEd Quantitative Literacy Course [GQ]	4
	Foreign Language 1001 - first level	4
	GenEd Breadth Course	3
Term Credit Hours		15
Spring		
IH 0851 or 0951	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 1901	Introduction to Psychology	3
Term Credit Hours		16
Year 2		
Fall		
IH 0852 or 0952	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	
Term 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
Term 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
Term 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
Term Credit Hours		15

Year 4**Fall**

Psychology 3000-3620 - One Advanced Course	3
Psychology 3000-3620 - One Advanced Course	3
Psychology 2000-3620 - One Foundation or Advanced Course	3
CLA/CST 0800-4999 Elective	3
CLA/CST 2000+ Course	3

Term 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]	

Term Credit Hours**15****Total Credit Hours:****123**

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