

Frequently Asked Questions about the Concentrations in Psychology

Q: “How do I file as a Concentrator?”

A: The first step is to review all materials on the Concentration in the Department’s Website (see Undergraduate/Concentration section). When you are ready, complete the Concentration Worksheet, which can be downloaded from the website. Return the completed Worksheet to the appropriate Concentration Advisor. Once you have completed the form, you will also need to schedule a meeting with an Advisor, who will review your concentration plans with you.

Q: “Course XYZ is not listed as fulfilling a requirement for the concentration, yet it seems appropriate. How do I go about getting it approved as satisfying that requirement?”

A: Course offerings, both in Psychology and in other departments, change from year to year, and these changes may not always be reflected in lists of pre-approved courses. To get a course not currently listed on the Concentration website approved for concentration, you must petition the Psychology Concentration Committee (PCC) with your specific request. The PCC consists of all A.B. and Sc.B. Concentration Advisors in the Department. Your request should include a copy of the course syllabus and a justification for your choice. The PCC will consider your request in light of your overall concentration plan, give you an answer, and, if appropriate, update course listings as needed on the concentration website.

Q: “I have not filed for the Concentration yet, but I want to petition for courses that are not pre-approved to be counted toward a possible concentration, so I can plan ahead. How can I do this?”

A: The PCC cannot consider such a petition before you file for the concentration. This is because the petition has to be evaluated in the context of your overall concentration planning.

Q: “I received permission from the PCC to count Course XYZ as part of my Psychology concentration. Can this course count as one of the 4 psychology courses required for the area requirement?”

A: Only courses with a primary listing or a cross-listing in Psychology can count as fulfilling one of the 4 psychology courses required for the area distribution. Courses outside the Psychology department, even if approved by the PCC, can only count towards one of the 2 non-Psychology courses acceptable for the area distribution.

Q: “Can I petition to waive the area requirement, or to count more than 2 non-Psychology courses for my area distribution?”

A: The PCC cannot consider these requests.

Q: “Can PSYC1970 or PSYC1990 be used to fill the lab requirement?”

A: PSYC1970 and PSYC1990 are advanced research courses, usually taken by students after they have fulfilled most other requirements for the concentration. The lab course is normally taken before taking advanced seminars, and also before PSYC1970 or PSYC1990. Neither of these courses fulfills the lab requirement.

Q: “I will be conducting experiments for my Honors thesis. Must I still complete an advanced laboratory course for concentration?”

A: Both the AB and ScB concentrations require an advanced laboratory course. Admission into the Honors program is contingent on completion of an advanced laboratory course. These requirements cannot be waived.

Q: “I did not take the AP Psychology test in high school. I wish to be a Psychology concentrator but I do not wish to take PSYC0010. May I take the placement exam instead?”

A. We strongly recommend taking PSYC0010. However, you may take (and pass) the placement exam to fulfill the PY1 requirement, but no later than semester VI. Students who do not enroll in PSYC0010 are required to take an elective (in any area of psychology) in its place. PSYC1970 and PSYC1990 do not count as this elective.