

Guidelines for the AB and ScB Psychology Concentrations

Last Revised 09.17.21

Below are concentration guidelines that have been adopted by the committee of concentration advisors. These guidelines provide additional details beyond those included in the concentration descriptions that appear in the University Bulletin.

Students should always consult with their advisor about course choices and their concentration plan.

Guidelines that apply to both the AB and ScB Psychology concentrations

1. CLPS 0010

CLPS 0010 is the gateway requirement for both AB and ScB concentrators.

- a. AP/IB credit does not carry concentration credit (i.e., such credit cannot be used as one of the 12 required AB and 17 required ScB courses).
- b. Students with a score of 5 on the AP Psychology exam or a score of 6 in IB Psychology may replace CLPS 0010 with another CLPS foundation course, with the permission of a concentration advisor.
- c. Seniors or rising seniors declaring the Psychology concentration should not take CLPS 0010. Consult with an advisor about an appropriate substitute.
- d. NEUR 0010, or any other non-CLPS course, cannot be used as a replacement for CLPS 0010.

2. Statistics

CLPS 0900 is the preferred course for fulfilling this requirement.

- a. The following courses may be substituted for CLPS 0900, upon approval of a concentration advisor: APMA 1660, PHP 1501, SOC 1100. Students requesting course equivalency must provide a syllabus from that course to the advisor.
- b. Students double-concentrating and students who may have taken a statistics course in another department before declaring Psychology as a concentration must discuss possible course equivalencies with their advisor.
- c. The following courses are not equivalent to CLPS 0900: APMA 1650, POL 0500.
- d. CLPS 0900 should be taken *before* senior year, and preferably in sophomore year.

3. Research methods

CLPS 1900 and CLPS 1901 are the preferred courses for fulfilling this requirement.

- a. Other CLPS laboratory courses may be used to fulfill this requirement, but only with the approval of a concentration advisor.
- b. CLPS 1970 and CLPS 1980 do not fulfill this requirement.

- c. Courses outside CLPS do not fulfill this requirement.
- d. CLPS 1900 or CLPS 1901 should be taken *before* senior year.

4. *Foundation courses*

Concentrators are required to take one (1) course in each of the four foundation areas. Approved courses are listed on the concentration requirements page.

- a. Only those CLPS courses listed on the concentration requirements page can be used to fulfill the foundation requirements.
 - 1. Courses in other departments (i.e., NE0010) cannot be used to fulfill foundation requirements, either alone or in combination with another CLPS or non-CLPS course.
- b. Concentrators may take more than one foundation course in any area, with the “extra” course counted as an elective or as a replacement for CLPS 0010.

5. *Electives*

Concentrators are required to take 4 electives. Electives should be chosen in consultation with the concentration advisor. We encourage students to choose electives that fit into a coherent course of study.

- a. At least 2 of these electives must be CLPS courses. These courses should be beyond the introductory level.
- b. Up to 2 electives may be taken in other departments. Courses in ANTH, APMA, BIOL, CSCI, EDUC, NEUR, PHIL, PHP, and SOC may be suitable; the exact course must be discussed with and approved by an advisor. The advisor may request a course syllabus to determine course suitability for the Psychology concentration.
- c. Either CLPS 1970 or CLPS 1980 may be used as an elective, with advisor permission.
- d. Independent study courses in other departments cannot be used as electives.
- e. AP or IB credits cannot be used as electives.

6. *Independent Study*

- a. CLPS 1970 (reading) and 1980 (research) may be used as elective courses or as a capstone course. CLPS 1980 can be used to fulfill the second laboratory requirement for the ScB degree.
- b. These are formal courses and so include 180 hours of instructional time/work on the research project. Students should expect to put in 10-20 hours of work per week.
- c. Students should discuss the grading scale (either ABC/NC or S/NC) and grading criteria with their faculty sponsor before registering for the course.
- d. Students are expected to submit written work as part of independent study courses. This

written work can take the form of a lab notebook, a review paper of relevant literature, or an analysis and write up of the study. The exact form of the assignment should be agreed upon in advance of registering for the course.

7. Capstone

Any CLPS seminar, defined as a small discussion-based and writing-intensive course of around 20 students or less, can fulfill this requirement.

- a. Either CLPS 1970 or CLPS 1980 may be used to fulfill this requirement.
- b. The capstone can be taken in either the junior or senior year.
- c. Non-CLPS courses cannot be used to meet this requirement.

8. First Year Seminars

- a. First Year Seminars offered by CLPS carry concentration credit. These seminars do not substitute for foundation courses, but may be used as a substitute for CLPS 0010 if the student has AP or IB credit.
- b. First Year Seminars in other departments do not carry concentration credit.

9. Miscellaneous

- a. CLPS 1970 and CLPS 1980 can be used for concentration credit no more than 2 times in total (i.e., one credit for 1970 plus one credit for 1980; or two course credits for 1980; etc).
- b. The same course (e.g., one semester of CLPS 1980) cannot be used to fulfill more than one requirement.
- c. In cases of double concentrators, no more than 2 courses can overlap with the second concentration.

Guidelines that apply only to the ScB Psychology concentration

1. Laboratory requirement

ScB students must take both Research Methods and another laboratory course.

- a. CLPS 1980 can count as the second laboratory course.
- b. Any CLPS laboratory course will meet this requirement. Lab courses vary yearly; consult with your advisor as to which course is offered when.
- c. Laboratory courses outside CLPS do not fulfill this requirement.

2. Additional science courses

Four science courses are required.

- a. At least 2 of these courses should be in another STEM department. Courses in quantitative methods and programming are encouraged. Courses outside of CLPS must be approved by a concentration advisor.
- b. The 4 courses should have some intellectual coherence and be related to some aspect of psychology as a behavioral science.
- c. Only courses that count towards concentration in CLPS or the home department can be used to fulfill this requirement.
- d. AP/IB credits and First Year Seminars outside of CLPS cannot be used to fulfill this requirement.

Guidelines for obtaining Transfer Credit/Course Equivalency

- a. Students must request transfer credit/course equivalency through ASK. The request must include a copy of the course syllabus (not just a catalog description), and the suggested CLPS course equivalency.
- b. The transfer credit advisor (currently Prof. Simmons) will consult with the instructor of the CLPS course to determine course equivalency.
- c. Students should allow a minimum of 2 weeks for course approval.
- d. Transfer credit/course equivalency will be awarded only if the outside course is equivalent in content and number of instructional hours to the Brown course, and only in accordance with Registrar's rules.

Student responsibilities

- a. Students should meet with their concentration advisor at least once per academic year.
- b. Students should ensure that their concentration declaration is kept up-to-date, and is consistent with their internal transcript.
- c. Students must indicate on their concentration declaration which course is being used to fulfill which requirement.
- d. If students wish to take courses for concentration credit that are not in their approved course plan, they should discuss the substitution with their advisor to ensure the alternate courses are appropriate.