Guidelines for the AB and ScB Psychology Concentrations

Last Revised 10.02.19

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 CAB.

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 test or IB Psychology credit may be permitted to replace CLPS 0010 with another CLPS course, with justification and advisor permission.
   c. NEUR 0010, or any other non-CLPS course, cannot be used as a replacement for CLPS 0010.

2. Statistics
   CLPS 0090 is the preferred course for fulfilling this requirement.
   a. The following courses may be substituted for CLPS 0090: AMPA 1660, PHP 1501
   b. Students double-concentrating (e.g., in CLPS and PHP) and students who may have taken a statistics course in another department before declaring Psychology as a concentration must discuss course equivalencies with their advisor.
   c. The following courses are not equivalent to CLPS 0900: AMPA 1650, ECON 1629, SOC 1110, POL 0500.
   d. CLPS 0900 should be taken before senior year, and preferably in sophomore year.

3. Research methods
   CLPS 1900 is the preferred course for fulfilling this requirement.
   a. Other CLPS laboratory courses may substitute for 1900, with approval of the concentration advisor.
   b. CLPS 1980 does not fulfill this requirement.
   c. Courses outside CLPS do not fulfill this requirement.
   d. CLPS 1900 should be taken before senior year.
4. Foundation courses

Concentrators are required to take 1 course in each of the 4 foundation areas. Approved courses are listed on the concentration worksheets.

a. Only CLPS courses, as listed on the concentration worksheets, can be used to fulfill the foundation requirements.

b. Concentrators may take more than 1 foundation course in an area, with the “extra” course to be counted as an elective.

5. Electives

Concentrators are required to take 4 electives, preferably at the 1000-level. The 4 courses should have some coherence and form an intellectual theme.

a. At least 2 of these electives must be CLPS courses.

b. Up to 2 of these electives may be taken in other departments, with approval of the concentration advisor, as long as these courses fit into a theme. Courses in BIOL, CSCI, EDUC, NEUR, PHIL, PHP, and SOC may be suitable; the exact course must be discussed with an advisor.

c. CLPS 1970 and 1980 may be used as electives, provided they make sense with respect to the student’s course of study.

d. Independent study courses in other departments cannot be counted.

e. AP credits cannot be used as electives for the concentration.

6. 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 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.

7. First Year Seminars

Currently First Year Seminars do not carry concentration credit.

a. Instructors may request that their FYS count as an elective for the concentration.
b. FYS in departments other than CLPS cannot be used for concentration credit.

8. Miscellaneous

a. CLPS 1970 and 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 1980) cannot be used to fulfill more than one requirement.

Guidelines that apply only to the ScB Psychology concentration

1. Laboratory requirement

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

a. CLPS 1980 can count as a lab 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. These courses should relate to the same intellectual theme as the elective courses.

a. The 4 courses may be chosen from CLPS courses or courses in other STEM departments. Courses in AMPA, BIOL, CHEM, CSCI, NEUR, PHYS may be suitable, but should be discussed with an advisor.

b. Only courses that count towards concentration in CLPS or these other departments can be used to fulfill this requirement.

c. AP credits cannot be used to fulfill this requirement.

Guidelines for obtaining Transfer credit

a. Students requesting transfer credit must provide a copy of complete course syllabus (and not just a catalog description) to the transfer credit advisor (currently Prof. Simmons).
b. The transfer credit advisor will consult with the instructor of the CLPS course to
determine course equivalency. Transfer credit 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 advisors to ensure the alternate courses are appropriate.