

Psychology

Psychology encompasses a range of phenomena and levels of analysis in pursuit of three goals: to deepen our understanding of cognitive and neural mechanisms of sensation, perception, learning, and emotion; to probe the biological and evolutionary foundations of behavior; and to clarify the social perception and assessment of individuals and groups. Students take foundation courses in the field's major sub-disciplines, including perception, cognition, developmental, behavioral neuroscience, and social psychology. Students also take a course in quantitative methods, and select from an array of seminars on specialized topics and laboratory courses that focus on research design and state-of-the-art techniques. The concentration in Psychology prepares students for careers in research, teaching, clinical psychology, business, law, and education, among others.

The A.B. concentration requires 12 courses. The Sc.B. concentration additionally requires 1 laboratory course and 4 approved science courses, totaling to 17 required courses.

Common Core

The introductory course, "CLPS 0010: Mind, Brain, and Behavior," surveys the broad territory of the scientific study of the mind as uniquely represented by our department. This territory includes neural processes, perception, learning, memory, emotion, language, social development, social judgment, personality, and mental illness. The course could be taken by students interested in the CLPS concentrations, as an introduction at the beginning of one's college career, or as an integration after having completed a number of specialized courses in a particular concentration. AP or IB Psychology credit cannot be used as a substitute for CLPS 0010.

Careers in Psychology and related fields requires familiarity with statistics. Therefore, the Psychology concentration requires a course in Quantitative Methods (CLPS 0900). CLPS 0900 is a prerequisite for most of the laboratory courses, so concentrators should plan to take this course by their fourth semester. Students may substitute AMPA 1660, PHP 1501, or SOC 1100 with the approval of a concentration advisor. The department does not grant concentration credit for AP Statistics, regardless of score.

Another element in the Psychology concentration is a course on research methods. Research Methods and Design (CLPS 1900 or CLPS 1901) is the preferred course for fulfilling this requirement. This course builds on the introductory statistics course and exposes students to a variety of topics in the psychological sciences: to empirical methods (e.g., surveys, chronometry, eye tracking, brain imaging), to common designs (e.g., factorial experimental, correlational, longitudinal), to research ethics, and to best practices of literature review. CLPS 1900/CLPS 1901 (or an approved alternative laboratory course; consult with the Psychology advisors for details) should be taken before the senior year.

Foundation

To provide students with a solid foundation of knowledge in their area of concentration, the Psychology concentration requires four foundation courses. Students select one course from each of the following areas: Social/Personality, Perception/Cognition, Development, and Learning/Animal Behavior/Behavioral Neuroscience.

Electives

Concentrators will select four additional courses that examine in greater depth topics of special interest to them. The CLPS courses designed to count as electives will often have foundation courses as prerequisites and may include laboratory courses, content courses, or seminars. Students may choose up to two courses outside of CLPS as electives. Electives should fit into a coherent intellectual theme, and should be chosen in consultation with your Psychology advisor.

Capstone

Concentrators will additionally take either a seminar course or an independent research course (CLPS 1970, 1980) to serve as their capstone experience. See the Psychology advisors for a list of approved seminars.

Additional requirements for Sc.B.

In line with university expectations, the Sc.B. requirements include a greater number of courses and especially science courses. The definition of “science” is flexible. Some of these courses will be outside of CLPS, but several CLPS courses might fit into a coherent package as well. In addition, the Sc.B. degree also requires a laboratory course (in addition to CLPS 1900 or its alternative) to provide these students with in-depth exposure to research methods in a particular area of the science of the mind. Lists of approved laboratory courses can be obtained from the Psychology advisors.

Requirements for the A.B. degree

Common core		
CLPS 0010	Mind, Brain and Behavior	1
CLPS 0900	Statistical Methods	1
CLPS 1900/1901	Research Methods and Design (or approved alternative)	1
One approved course in Social Psychology		1
CLPS 0700	Social Psychology	
CLPS 0701	Personality	
CLPS 0710	Psychology and Philosophy of Happiness	
One approved course in Perception/Cognition		1
CLPS 0200	Human Cognition	
CLPS 0450	Brain Damage and the Mind	
CLPS 0500	Perception and Mind	
One approved course in Development		1
CLPS 0600	Developmental Psychology	
CLPS 0610	Children's Thinking: The Nature of Cognitive Development	
CLPS 0620	Social and Moral Development	
One approved course in Learning/Animal Behavior/Behavioral Neuroscience		1
CLPS 0100	Learning and Conditioning	
CLPS 0110	Animal Behavior	
CLPS 0150	Behavioral Neuroscience: Introduction to Biological Psychiatry	
Four approved Electives related to Psychology		4
Independent Study (CLPS 1970, 1980) or approved seminar		1
Total Credits		12

Requirements for the Sc.B. degree

Common core		
CLPS 0010	Mind, Brain and Behavior	1
CLPS 0900	Statistical Methods	1
CLPS 1900/1901	Research Methods and Design (or approved alternative)	1
One approved course in Social Psychology		1
CLPS 0700	Social Psychology	
CLPS 0701	Personality	
CLPS 0710	Psychology and Philosophy of Happiness	
One approved course in Perception/Cognition		1
CLPS 0200	Human Cognition	
CLPS 0450	Brain Damage and the Mind	
CLPS 0500	Perception and Mind	
One approved course in Development		1
CLPS 0600	Developmental Psychology	
CLPS 0610	Children's Thinking: The Nature of Cognitive Development	
CLPS 0620	Social and Moral Development	
One approved course in Learning/Animal Behavior/Behavioral Neuroscience		1
CLPS 0100	Learning and Conditioning	
CLPS 0110	Animal Behavior	
CLPS 0150	Behavioral Neuroscience: Introduction to Biological Psychiatry	
One additional Laboratory course		1
Four approved Electives related to Psychology		4
Independent Study (CLPS 1970, 1980) or approved seminar		1
Four Science courses		4
Total Credits		17