

Psychology

Psychology is the scientific study of the mind and behavior. Fundamental to the study of psychology is analytic methods and critical thinking about the relation between theory and evidence. Studying psychology allows students to understand human and animal behavior, cognitive, perceptual, and developmental processes, motivation, identity, and the relations between well-being and society. Studying psychology also allows students insight into clinical applications of psychological science. Students in the concentration are required to take courses in quantitative methods and experimental design, become familiar with a set of foundational topics in the psychological sciences, and participate in seminars and laboratory courses on specialized topics and state-of-the-art experimental techniques. The concentration in psychology can prepare students for careers in research, teaching, clinical practice, business, law, marketing, and education, among many other professions. The general goal of the psychology concentration requirements is to provide students with a broad exposure to the different areas within psychological science, while also allowing students to explore some of those areas deeply. Students are recommended to complete their Classes in Analysis and have taken at least one foundation and/or one elective by the end of Semester 5.

Requirements for the AB in Psychology

Classes in Analysis (2). These courses provide the core knowledge of experimental design and statistical analysis necessary to interpret research findings and think critically about the relation between theories and evidence.

CPSY 0900 (Statistical Thinking)

CPSY 1900 or CPSY 1901 (Research Methods)

Some courses taught at Brown University present similar material to CPSY0900 and can be used to satisfy the Statistics requirement. See a concentration advisor for a list of approved courses. However, we strongly recommend taking CPSY0900.

Some specialized laboratory courses taught in the CPSY Department might be used in place of the 1900/1901 requirement. See a concentration advisor for such information. However, we strongly recommend taking CPSY1900/1901 and using such laboratory courses to fulfill the capstone requirement (see below).

We strongly recommend taking CPSY0900 in the sophomore year and CPSY1900 by the end of the junior year,

Foundations (5). Students who study psychology can have diverse knowledge bases. There is no single course that is necessary for understanding all of psychological science. We believe that the best approach is to give students the option of taking a set of courses that provides them with a breadth of methodologies, theories, and structures in order to get a holistic understanding of the discipline. To satisfy this foundational criterion, students must take 5 courses among the 10

options listed below. Where there is overlap in topic/methods/principles among courses, we impose limitations to ensure breadth in each student's curriculum:

Foundations - Take 5 of the following options:

- A. CPSY 0010 (Mind, Brain, and Behavior)
- B. CPSY 0100 (Learning and Conditioning)
- C. CPSY 0110 (Animal Behavior)
- D. One of CPSY 0200 (Human Cognition: Introduction to Cognitive Psychology) **OR** CPSY 0220 (Making Decisions) (Taking both only satisfies one Foundation requirement)
- E. One of CPSY 0400 (Introduction to Cognitive Neuroscience) **OR** CPSY 0450 (Brain Damage and the Mind) (Taking both only satisfies one Foundation requirement)
- F. CPSY 0500 (Perception and the Mind)
- G. One of CPSY 0610 (Children's Thinking: Introduction to Cognitive Development) **OR** CPSY 0620 (Introduction to Social and Moral Development) (Taking both only satisfies one Foundation requirement)
- H. One of CPSY 0700 (Social Psychology) **OR** CPSY 0710 (The Psychology of Happiness) (Taking both only satisfies one Foundation requirement)
- I. CPSY 0702 (Introduction to Clinical Psychology)
- J. CPSY 0800 (Language and the Mind)

We recommend that all first and second-year students take CPSY 0010 as a gateway into the concentration, particularly if they have not taken an AP or IB course in psychology.

Note also that AP or IB credit cannot be used in lieu of one of these foundation classes.

In places where we prevent students from taking two similar foundational classes (such as CPSY0610 and CPSY0620 – the two foundational developmental classes), students can take the second as an elective. Students, for example, interested in cognitive psychology can take CPSY0200 to satisfy a Foundation requirement and CPSY0220 as an elective.

Electives (4): The electives are designed to provide students with depth in a particular area of study within psychological sciences. Students are required to take four courses that are thematically related to a programmatic area of study within the psychological sciences. At least two of these elective courses must be at the 1000-level in the CPSY Department. No more than two of these elective courses can be from outside of the CPSY Department. With the exception of NEUR0010, all courses outside the CPSY Department must be numbered between 100-1999. At most one CPSY 1970/1980 course can be counted as an elective (Students doing an honors thesis can use the second required 1980 course as their capstone requirement). Students must speak with a concentration advisor to get approval for their list of elective courses.

Capstone (1): The purpose of the capstone in Psychology is to take the material students are exposed to in their foundational courses and integrate them with the methodological savvy

acquired from the analysis courses. Students should engage in this capstone experience in one of the following ways:

A) By participating in the honors program in the senior year, which involves conducting independent research supervised by a faculty member of the Department of Cognitive and Psychological Sciences or by an approved trainer from another department at Brown University. Please contact the honors advisor for a list of approved trainers or for faculty from other departments to apply for approved trainer status. This involves taking two semesters of CPSY1980, one as an elective and one as the Capstone

B) By successfully completing one-semester of CPSY 1970 (Directed Readings) or CPSY 1980 (Directed Research) during the senior year under the supervision of a member of the Cognitive and Psychological Sciences department or an approved trainer from another department at Brown University. This does not involve participating in the honors program.

C) By the successful completion of a laboratory course in the Cognitive and Psychological Sciences Department in the senior year. This course must be chosen in consultation with the student's concentration advisor. Laboratory courses integrate material taught in the department with research methodology to enable students to produce cutting-edge novel research. All laboratory courses are at the 1000-level and have a 9 in the tenth position (e.g., 1_9_) and are listed on the department website. Please note that Research Methods (CPSY 1900/1901) cannot be used to fulfill this requirement. Laboratory courses in other departments also cannot be used to fulfill this requirement.

D) By the successful completion of a seminar-style course in the Cognitive and Psychological Sciences Department relevant to the student's foundational and elective focus of study. This course must be taken in the senior year. Such a course should be selected in consultation with the student's concentration advisor. Seminar-style courses are advanced classes that build on material students are exposed to in their foundational and methods classes. Examples include, but are not limited to, "topics" classes taught in the Cognitive and Psychological Sciences department, which are at the 1000-level, end in the numbers '80' and a letter (e.g., 1_80X). Many other seminar-style classes at the 1000 level will also be appropriate.

Additional ScB Requirements in Psychology

To satisfy an ScB. in the Psychology concentration, one must satisfy all the AB requirements as well as take five (5) additional classes in STEM fields related to the concentration. The goal of this requirement is to provide students with a broader background in both the study of psychology and STEM fields in general. At least two (2) of those five classes must be in the CPSY Department. These two courses must be at the 1000-level. We strongly recommend that one of these courses be a laboratory course (Described above).

The other three classes can be from the following departments: APMA, BIOL, CSCI, CHEM, CPSY, MATH, NEUR, or PHYS. Courses from other STEM departments might be eligible with permission of

your concentration advisor, but such courses must be related to a student's other courses, such as their electives. All courses must also be acceptable for the concentration requirements of a concentration administered by that department. For example, if a PHYS course is used to satisfy one of these requirements, it must be acceptable for a concentration in the PHYS department.