

Bachelor of Science in Psychology

As an alternative to the Bachelor of Arts degree, the Bachelor of Science in Psychology is designed to offer students a more extensive scientific program that may better prepare them for graduate study or employment in research fields. Students interested in mathematics-based or physiology-based areas of psychology have the opportunity to develop more breadth and depth in the fields that complement their area of interest within psychology. To accomplish this goal, the curriculum for the Bachelor of Science in Psychology puts more emphasis on natural sciences and less on language arts.

A student may not earn both the Bachelor of Arts with a major in psychology and the Bachelor of Science in Psychology.

A total of 120 semester hours is required. Thirty-nine hours must be in upper-division courses. At least 60 hours, including 24 hours of upper-division coursework, must be completed in residence at the University. Provided these residence rules are met, credit may be earned by examination, by extension, by correspondence (up to 30 percent of the hours required for the degree), or, with the approval of the dean, by work transferred from another institution. Up to 16 semester hours of classroom and/or correspondence coursework may be taken on the pass/fail basis; this coursework may be counted only as electives.

Students in this degree program may pursue any of the honors programs available to Bachelor of Arts, Plan I, students. These programs are described in the section [Liberal Arts Honors Programs, Plan I](#).[†]

The specific requirements for the Bachelor of Science in Psychology consist of prescribed work, the major, the minor, and electives. Only in the following cases may a single course be counted toward more than one requirement:

A course that fulfills a core curriculum requirement may also be counted toward any specific requirement of the BSPsy unless otherwise stated below.

Courses counted toward the prescribed work may also be counted toward the major.

Up to three hours of coursework counted toward the prescribed work or toward the core curriculum may also be counted toward the minor.[†]

The student must fulfill the University's [General Requirements](#) for graduation and the requirements given in the sections [Special Requirements of the College of Liberal Arts](#) and [Applicability of Certain Courses](#). University graduation requirements include a grade point average of at least 2.00 in all courses taken at the University (including credit by examination, correspondence, and extension) for which a grade or symbol other than *Q*, *W*, *X*, or *CR* is recorded; for this degree, the student must also earn a grade point average of at least 2.00 in courses taken at the University and counted toward the major requirement.

More information about grades and the grade point average is given in the [General Information Catalog](#).

Prescribed Work

1. *Writing and Literature*: English 316L, 316M, 316N, or 316P[†]
2. *Foreign language/culture*: Students must complete one of the following options:
 - i. Second-semester-level proficiency, or the equivalent, in a foreign language.

- ii. First-semester-level proficiency, or the equivalent, in a foreign language and a three-semester-hour course in the culture of the same language area.
 - iii. Two three-hour foreign culture courses chosen from a list available in the college's Student Division and the Department of Psychology. Courses taken to attain the required level of proficiency in a foreign language are not electives and may not be taken on the pass/fail basis.
3. *Social science*: Three semester credit hours in a social science field, in addition to the course taken to satisfy the Social and Behavioral Science requirement of the Core Curriculum. Courses that are approved to count toward any core curriculum area other than social and behavioral sciences may not be counted toward this requirement.
- A list of approved courses is available each semester in the Student Division and on the [College of Liberal Arts website](#).
4. *Mathematics and natural science*: At least 25 semester hours of coursework as outlined below. Some of the courses that fulfill this requirement may also be counted toward the requirements of the core curriculum. No course may be counted toward both requirement 4c and 4d.
- i. Mathematics 408C or 408K or a more advanced calculus course
 - ii. Psychology 317L
- iii. 16 to 18 hours, consisting of two of the following sequences:
1. Biology 311C, 311D, and 325
 2. Chemistry 301, 302, and 204
 3. Physics 317K, 105M, 317L, and 105N; or 301, 101L, 316, and 116L; or 303K, 105M, 303L, and 105N; or 302K, 105M, 302L, and 105N
- iv. One of the following:
1. Three additional hours in mathematics. Mathematics 301, 302, 303D, 303F, 316K, and 316L may not be used to fulfill this requirement.
 2. Three hours in biology, chemistry, or physics. Only the courses listed in requirement 4c above and more advanced courses may be used to fulfill this requirement.
5. *Cultural expression, human experience, and thought*: Three semester hours of approved coursework. The course must be in a field of study taught in the College of Liberal Arts. A course counted toward any requirement of the core curriculum may not also be counted toward this requirement. A course counted toward the foreign language/culture requirement, above, may not also be counted toward this requirement.

A list of approved courses is available each semester in the Student Division and on the [College of Liberal Arts website](#).

Major Requirements

Twenty-eight semester hours of psychology, at least 19 of which must be upper-division, including Psychology 301, 317L and 420M with a grade of at least *C* in each. (Students with credit for Psychology 317L must complete Psychology 120R with a grade of at least *C* prior to advancing to Psychology 420M). No more than three hours of lower-division psychology may be taken in addition to Psychology 301 and 317L, and no less than 15 hours of upper-division beyond Psychology 420M. Also included in these 28 hours must be at least three hours in each of the following three areas.

- a. *Clinical/social/developmental/evolutionary psychology*: Psychology 333C, 333D, 333E, 333F, 333M, 333R, 333T, 333W, 334D, 334E, 339, 343K, 346K, 352P, 364, 365G

- b. Cognition/language/neuroscience/perception: Psychology 323, 323P, 323S, 326K, 332, 332C, 333N, 333P, 333P, 337, 338K, 345, 353K, 355, 355D, 355R, 371
- c. Multicultural/diversity/inclusion in the behavioral sciences: Psychology 332U, Psychology 364T, Psychology 365D, or a course chosen from an approved list available at <https://liberalarts.utexas.edu/psychology/>

† Effective April 2025, UT Austin no longer requires Skills and Experience flags.

Psychology 420M and at least six hours of upper-division coursework must be completed in residence at the University. Psychology PS majors must earn a grade of at least C in Psychology 317L (120R) and Psychology 420M to register for upper-division psychology courses. Students may not enroll in

Psychology 317L (120R) and Psychology 420M more than twice.

Psychology 357 and 359 may not be counted toward the 28 hours in psychology required for the major.

No student may register for more than 10 semester hours of psychology in any one semester without approval of an undergraduate advisor in the Department of Psychology.

Minors

Students must also fulfill the requirements of a minor.

There are three types of minor:

- a. A minor offered by a department or center
- b. A Liberal Arts multi-disciplinary minor in the Social and Behavioral Sciences
- c. A Liberal Arts multi-disciplinary minor in the Humanities

A student who wishes to pursue more than one transcript-recognized minor per major, or more than one transcript-recognized certificate fulfilling the requirements of the minor per major, must consult with his or her academic advisor to get permission from the College. When considering whether to grant an exception and allow pursuit of another transcript-recognized credential, the academic advisor will take into account the student's long-term education/professional goals and the student's ability to graduate within four years of entering the university.

Before planning to use a course to fulfill the minor requirement, the student should consult the department that offers the course.

At least nine of the hours required for the minor must include coursework not used to satisfy the requirements of the student's major. Courses used to fulfill the requirements for a minor must be taken on a letter-grade basis, and half of the required semester hours must be taken in residence.

Electives

In addition to the core curriculum, prescribed work, major, and minor, the student must complete enough elective coursework to provide the 120 semester hours required for the degree. These 120 hours may include no more than 12 hours of conference courses and internship courses combined as described in [Conference Courses and Internship Courses](#); 12 hours of Bible courses; nine hours of designated coursework in air force science, military science, or naval science, except for students enrolled in the Military Leadership minor; 16 hours completed on the pass/fail basis; 39 hours in any one field of study in the College of Liberal Arts or the College of Natural Sciences (including psychology); and 36 hours in any other single college or school of the University. Mathematics courses at the level of college algebra may not count toward elective hours.