

# School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences

## Psychology (B.S.)

William James characterized psychology as "the study of mental life." Psychology is both a domain of scientific inquiry and a field of applied practice. The science of psychology is concerned with the study of how people perceive, learn, feel, think, develop, and interact with others. The practice of psychology helps people improve mental health, learning, and performance.

Undergraduate degrees in psychology provide students a number of career options. Further study in graduate school leads to professional careers as clinical, counseling, industrial, academic and other kinds of psychologists. Psychology is also a useful major for students planning careers in law, management, medicine, or social work. A psychology major provides students with the knowledge about human behavior and methods of research and data analysis that is valuable in business, helping fields, and many other occupations.

The Psychology program at UT Dallas approaches the field from a scientific perspective, applying behavioral science research methods to the study of the human mind and behavior. Thus, students will have laboratory experiences in addition to lectures, reading, and demonstrations. Psychology students learn to evaluate evidence relating to theories of social behavior, personality development, perception, memory, brain processes, and other facets of human experience. Students also gain hands-on experience through internship placements, directed research experiences in professors' labs, and individualized study with faculty in specialized topics.

Selected courses are offered in a "conference" format (i.e., discussion seminar format), and students are encouraged to include some of these courses in their course of study. Conference courses are generally limited to an enrollment of 20, emphasize discussion of reading from primary sources, include written assignments with feedback from instructors, and are aimed at providing students with interactive experiences in critical thinking and writing.

The undergraduate degree awarded through the Psychology program is a bachelor of science. Students may choose electives to obtain a broader grounding in psychology or a general education in the liberal arts. Students should note that it is possible to select clusters of electives that lead to particular concentrations in careers and graduate study. Students can complete Core Curriculum and Psychology major requirements in a minimum of 72 semester credit hours, leaving 48 elective hours

## Bachelor of Science in Psychology

*Degree Requirements (120 hours)*

### I. Core Curriculum Requirements<sup>1</sup>: 42 hours

#### **Communication (6 hours)**

3 hours Communication ([RHET 1302](#))

3 hours Communication Elective ([PSY 3393](#))<sup>2</sup>

#### **Social and Behavioral Sciences (15 hours)**

6 hours Government ([GOVT 2301](#) and [GOVT 2302](#))

6 hours American History

3 hours Social and Behavioral Science Elective ([PSY 2301](#))<sup>2</sup>

#### **Humanities and Fine Arts (6 hours)**

3 hours Fine Arts ([ARTS 1301](#))

3 hours Humanities ([HUMA 1301](#))

#### **Mathematics and Quantitative Reasoning (6 hours)**

3 hours College Math ([MATH 1306](#), [MATH 1314](#) or [MATH 2417](#))

3 hours Quantitative Methods or Math ([PSY 2317](#))<sup>2</sup>

#### **Science (9 hours with at least one lab course)**

3 hours Science ([NSC 3361](#))<sup>2</sup>

6 hours Science Elective (see PSY Advisor for options)

## II. Major Requirements: 30 upper-division hours<sup>3</sup>

#### **Major Preparatory Courses (6 hours)<sup>3</sup>**

[PSY 2301](#) Introduction to Psychology<sup>3</sup>

[PSY 2317](#) Statistics for Psychology<sup>3</sup>

or [STAT 1342](#) Statistical Decision Making

#### **Major Core Courses (24 upper-division hours)<sup>3</sup>**

[NSC 3361](#) Behavioral Neuroscience<sup>3</sup>

[PSY 3360](#) Historical Perspectives on Psychology: Mind and Machines Since 1600

[PSY 3361](#) Cognitive Psychology

or [CGS 2301](#) Cognitive Science<sup>3</sup>

or [PSY 4359](#) Cognitive Neuroscience

[PSY 3392](#) Research Design & Analysis

[PSY 3393](#) Experimental Projects in Psychology<sup>3</sup>

[PSY 4331](#) Personality

or [PSY 3331](#) Social Psychology

[PSY 4334](#) Lifespan Development

or [PSY 3310](#) Child Development

[PSY 4343](#) Abnormal Psychology

### Major Related Courses (12 upper-division hours)

Advanced Guided Electives; 3 hours of one of the following:

[PSY 4394](#) Internship in Psychology

[PSY 4395](#) Co-op Fieldwork

[PSY 4V96](#) Teaching Internship

PSY 4V97 Thesis Research

[PSY 4V98](#) Directed Research

[PSY 4V99](#) Independent Study

Plus any 9 hours of courses with PSY or CGS or CLDP or NSC prefixes or the following courses: [SPAU 3301](#), [SPAU 3303](#), [SPAU 3304](#), [SPAU 3340](#), [SPAU 3343](#), [SPAU 3344](#), [SPAU 3345](#) or [SPAU 4308](#).

## III. Elective Requirements: 48 hours

### Advanced Electives (6 hours)

Breadth Electives: 6 hours of upper-division courses, or lower-division courses that have prerequisites, that are outside of Psychology (and not cross-listed with Psychology).

### Free Electives (42 hours)

Electives are selected by students to explore areas of concentration in Psychology as well as explore interests outside the field. Both lower- and upper-division courses may count as electives but students must be sure to complete at least 51 hours of upper-division courses to qualify for graduation.

## Minor in Psychology

Students who are not majoring in Psychology may minor in Psychology by taking 18 semester credit hours of Psychology courses (i.e., those with a PSY prefix, excluding those listed under Independent Study in the Catalog). At least 12 hours must be upper-division courses, of which at least 9 hours must be Psychology major core courses taken at UT Dallas (see list below). No credit hours may be used to satisfy both major and minor requirements; however, free elective hours or major preparatory classes may be used to satisfy the minor.

Psychology Major Core Courses: [PSY 3310](#), [PSY 3331](#), [PSY 3360](#), [PSY 3361](#), [PSY 3392](#), [PSY 3393](#), [PSY 4331](#), [PSY 4334](#), [PSY 4343](#), [PSY 4359](#), [CGS 2301](#), and [NSC 3361](#) (students cannot take both [PSY 3310](#) and [PSY 4334](#)).

Because Psychology is concerned with a wide range of social behaviors, it provides a strong foundation for all careers that deal with people. Students considering careers in business, education, law, medicine, clinical psychology, counseling or social work can benefit from minoring (or majoring) in psychology. The following courses are suggested preparation for each of these career paths.

### **Business Careers**

Graduate schools of business look for students with a strong liberal arts background that focuses on both writing and quantitative skills. Suggested courses are Cognitive Psychology, Personality Psychology, Social Psychology, Psychology in the Workplace, Industrial and Organizational Psychology, Human Relations, and Research Design and Analysis.

### **Education Careers**

Psychology courses are especially relevant for students pursuing careers in child development, educational psychology, education counseling, and school psychology. Suggested courses are Child or Lifespan Development, Cognitive Psychology, Educational Psychology, Cognitive Development, Exceptional Children, Social and Personality Development, Adolescent Psychology, Psychological Assessment, Statistics for Psychology, and Research Design and Analysis.

### **Law and Crime and Justice Careers**

A background in psychology can be enormously useful for the study and practice of law and law enforcement. Suggested courses are Forensic Psychology, Lifespan Development, Cognitive Psychology, Judgment and Decision-Making, Personality Psychology, Social Psychology, Abnormal Psychology, Psychological Assessment, Statistics for Psychology, and Research Design and Analysis.

### **Medical Careers**

Psychology is highly recommended as a major or minor for premedical students interested in psychiatry or neurology, or any student who wishes to practice medicine. The intended area of medical specialization should influence choice of courses; for example, a future pediatrician would benefit from courses in developmental psychology. In general, suggested courses are Lifespan or Child Development, Behavioral Neuroscience, Health Psychology, Abnormal Psychology, Cognitive Psychology, Adolescent Psychology, Approaches to Clinical Psychology, Statistics for Psychology, and Research Design and Analysis.

### **Careers in Clinical Psychology, Counseling, or Social Work**

All courses in psychology are good preparation for these careers. It is especially important that students take Lifespan Development, Behavioral Neuroscience, Cognitive Psychology,

Personality Psychology, Abnormal Psychology, Statistics for Psychology, and Research Design and Analysis. Other courses of interest include Approaches to Clinical Psychology, Social Communication, Human Relations, Health Psychology, Psychological Assessment, Child Psychopathology, and Violence in the Family.

## Fast Track Baccalaureate/Master's Degrees

UT Dallas undergraduate students with strong academic records who intend to pursue a master's degree in Human Development and Early Childhood Disorders or in Applied Cognition and Neuroscience at UT Dallas may consider an accelerated undergraduate-graduate plan of study. When accepted into the program, students may take up to 15 hours of graduate courses that may be used to complete the baccalaureate degree and also to satisfy requirements for the master's degree. Students must maintain a 3.000 grade point average and earn grades of B or better in graduate courses taken. Students must have completed at least 90 semester credit hours toward a baccalaureate degree before beginning Fast Track course work. Students should apply to admissions one semester before they reach 90 hours. To qualify for application, undergraduate students must have completed at least 18-semester credit hours in major core courses at UT Dallas. Apply to the Fast Track program through the Program Offices of the master's programs. Students should consult with a graduate advisor regarding admissions criteria and plans of study.

1. Curriculum Requirements can be fulfilled by other approved courses from accredited institutions of higher education. The courses listed in parentheses are recommended as the most efficient way to satisfy both Core Curriculum and Major Requirements at UT Dallas.
2. A required Major course that also fulfills a Core Curriculum requirement. Hours are counted in Core Curriculum.
3. A required Major course that also fulfills a Core Curriculum requirement. Twelve (12) hours are counted in Core Curriculum.

Updated: 2015-03-26 17:35:43 - v