School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences

Psychology (BS)

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.

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 78 semester credit hours, leaving 42 elective semester credit hours.

Bachelor of Science in Psychology

Degree Requirements (120 semester credit hours)

I. Core Curriculum Requirements: 42 semester credit hours

Communication: 6 semester credit hours

COMM 1311 Survey of Oral and Technology-based Communication

RHET 1302 Rhetoric

Mathematics: 3 semester credit hours
One of the following:

MATH 1306  College Algebra for the Non-Scientist
MATH 1314  College Algebra
or  MATH 2417  Calculus I

Life and Physical Sciences: 6 semester credit hours
Select 6 semester credit hours from Life and Physical Sciences core courses (see PSY Advisor for options)

Language, Philosophy and Culture: 3 semester credit hours

One of the following:

HUMA 1301  Exploration of the Humanities
LIT 2331  Masterpieces of World Literature
PHIL 1301  Introduction to Philosophy
PHIL 2316  History of Philosophy I
PHIL 2317  History of Philosophy II

Creative Arts: 3 semester credit hours

One of the following:

AHST 1303  Survey of Western Art History: Ancient to Medieval
AHST 1304  Survey of Western Art History: Renaissance to Modern
AHST 2331  Understanding Art
ARTS 1301  Exploration of the Arts
DANC 1310  Understanding Dance
DRAM 1310  Understanding Theater
FILM 2332  Understanding Film
MUSI 1306  Understanding Music

American History: 6 semester credit hours

Two of the following:

HIST 1301  U.S. History Survey to Civil War
HIST 1302  U.S. History Survey from Civil War
HIST 2301  History of Texas
HIST 2330 Themes and Ideas in American History
HIST 2332 Civil War and Reconstruction

Government / Political Science: 6 semester credit hours

GOVT 2305 American National Government
GOVT 2306 State and Local Government

Social and Behavioral Sciences: 3 semester credit hours

PSY 2301 Introduction to Psychology

Component Area Option: 6 semester credit hours

PSY 2317 Statistics for Psychology
or STAT 1342 Statistical Decision Making

AND one of the following:

PSY 2314 Lifespan Development
PSY 2364 Animal Communication
CGS 2301 Cognitive Science

II. Major Requirements: 36 upper-division semester credit hours

Major Preparatory Courses: 6 semester credit hours

PSY 2301 Introduction to Psychology
PSY 2317 Statistics for Psychology
or STAT 1342 Statistical Decision Making

Major Core Courses: 24 upper-division semester credit hours

NSC 3361 Behavioral Neuroscience
PSY 3360 Historical Perspectives on Psychology: Mind and Machines since 1600
PSY 3361 Cognitive Psychology
or PSY 4359 Cognitive Neuroscience
PSY 3392 Research Design and Analysis
PSY 3393 Experimental Projects in Psychology
PSY 3331 Social Psychology
PSY 3310 Child Development
PSY 4343 Abnormal Psychology

Major Related Courses: 12 upper-division semester credit hours

Guided Electives; 3 semester credit hours of one of the following:

PSY 4394 Internship in Psychology
PSY 4395 Co-op Fieldwork
PSY 4V96 Teaching Internship
PSY 4397 Thesis Research
PSY 4V98 Directed Research
PSY 4V99 Independent Study

Plus any 9 semester credit 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: 42 semester credit hours

Free Electives: 42 semester credit 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 semester credit hours of upper-division courses to qualify for graduation.

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 semester credit 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 coursework. Students should apply to admissions one semester before they reach 90 semester credit 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. Incoming freshmen must complete and pass UNIV 1010 Freshman Seminar and the corresponding school-related
freshman seminar course. Students, including transfer students, who complete their core curriculum at UT Dallas must take UNIV 2020.

2. Curriculum Requirements can be fulfilled by other approved courses from accredited institutions of higher education. The courses listed are recommended as the most efficient way to satisfy both Core Curriculum and Major Requirements at UT Dallas.

3. A required Preparatory course that also fulfills a Core Curriculum requirement. Semester credit hours are counted in Core Curriculum.

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