

PSYCHOLOGY BS AND MINOR

Psychology

College of Social & Behavioral Sciences
Department of Psychology
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Psychology is the scientific study of the effects of individual, social, physiological, developmental, and environmental factors on thoughts, feelings, and behavior. Psychology courses seek to teach students about the methods of psychological inquiry and the findings of psychological research.

Students study psychology because they wish to prepare for a professional career as a psychologist or social scientist, because they are planning a career in which the understanding of human behavior is important, or simply because they wish to develop a greater understanding of themselves and others. The practice of psychology at the professional level requires a graduate degree beyond the bachelor's degree.

Academic Map/Degree Plan at www.mnsu.edu/programs/#All

POLICIES/INFORMATION

Admission to Major is granted by the department. Department admissions requirements are:

- a minimum of 32 earned semester credit hours.
- a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.7
- completion of PSYC 201 (Statistics) with a grade of "C-" or better.

Contact the department for application procedures.

Residency Requirement. All majors must complete 28 of the required 40 credits within the Department of Psychology at Minnesota State University, Mankato. The department will not accept transfer courses at the 200-level for our major restricted electives, except in a case by case basis.

GPA Policy. Any Psychology course in which a grade of less than "C-" (or P) is earned will not be counted toward a major or minor in psychology.

Teaching Psychology. Students who intend to gain initial licensure to teach psychology in Minnesota schools need to meet the requirements of the social studies BS (teaching) program as described in the Social Studies section of this catalog.

PSYCHOLOGY BS

Degree completion = 120 credits

Prerequisites to the Major

PSYC 101 Introduction to Psychological Science (4)

Choose one course: (choose 4 credits)

MATH 112 College Algebra (4)
STAT 154 Elementary Statistics (4)

Major Common Core

PSYC 201 Statistics for Psychology (4)
PSYC 211W Research Methods and Design (4)
PSYC 409 History and Systems (4)

Major Restricted Electives

Choose one course from each of the four areas

Biological (choose 4 credits)

PSYC 321 Brain and Behavior (4)
PSYC 413 Sensation & Perception (4)
PSYC 420 Psychopharmacology (4)
PSYC 421 Behavior Neuroscience (4)
PSYC 425W Behavior Genetics (4)

Cognition (choose 4 credits)

PSYC 325 Introduction to Cognitive Psychology (4)
PSYC 414 Learning (4)
PSYC 415 Human Memory (4)

Developmental (choose 4 credits)

PSYC 343 Introduction to Developmental Psychology (4)
PSYC 433 Child Psychology (4)
PSYC 436 Adolescent Psychology (4)
PSYC 466 Psychology of Aging (4)

Social/Cultural (choose 3-4 credits)

PSYC 340 Social Psychology (4)
PSYC 358 Cultural Psychology (4)
PSYC 455 Abnormal Psychology (4)
PSYC 460W Psychology of Women (3)

Major Unrestricted Electives

Choose 12 - 13 Credit(s).

Choose from any psychology courses not previously used.

PSYC 102 - 499

Required Minor: Yes. Any.

PSYCHOLOGY MINOR

Core

PSYC 101 Introduction to Psychological Science (4)

Elective

Choose 17 credits of elective courses in Psychology, including at least 8 upper-level credits (300- or 400-level).

EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY CERTIFICATE

The purpose of this certificate is to provide undergraduate students with hands-on research experience in psychology. Psychology majors who are considering applying to graduate school are highly recommended to complete this certificate. Policies: Students must earn a grade of C- or better in all certificate courses for that course to count towards the certificate. No more than 4 credits in the certificate may be taken for P/N credit.

Admission Requirements: Students must meet requirements of admission to the Psychology major in order to complete this certificate. This includes completion of Psy 201 (Statistics) with a grade of C- or above, a cumulative GPA of 2.70 and above, and at least 30 earned credits at the college level.

Required General Education

PSYC 101 Introduction to Psychological Science (4)

Major Common Core

PSYC 201 Statistics for Psychology (4)
PSYC 211W Research Methods and Design (4)
PSYC 496 Laboratory Research in Psychology (2)

Major Restricted Electives

Choose 2 courses, 7-8 credits, from the list below.

PSYC 419 Psychometric Theory (4)
PSYC 423 Cognitive Neuroscience (4)
PSYC 430 Advanced Topics in Biological Psychology (4)
PSYC 443 Advanced Social Psychology (3)
PSYC 450 Advanced Cognitive Psychology (4)

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

PSYC 101 (4) Introduction to Psychological Science

This course is designed to provide a thorough introduction to the broad spectrum of theories and applications that make up the field of psychology.

Fall, Spring

GE-5

PSYC 103W (3) Psychology Today

Introduces students to major issues in society that impact their lives, behaviors, and the way they think. Course requires student to critically address controversial and non-controversial issues through clear argumentations, intensive writings, research and presentations.

On Demand: Fall, Spring

WI, GE-2

PSYC 201 (4) Statistics for Psychology

1.) Learn the importance of statistics for understanding human behavior. 2.) Apply basic statistical concepts to questions about human behavior. 3.) Conduct basic statistical tests and make inferences about human behavior. 4.) Prepare students in the psychology major to take PSYC 211-Research Methods and Design.

Prerequisite: MATH 112 or STAT 154

Fall, Spring

PSYC 202 (1) Careers in Psychology

Exploration of various degrees and types of careers available in psychology, and what psychologists do.

Fall, Spring

PSYC 205 (3) Psychology of Sexual Health

An overview of the psychological aspects of sexuality including the assessment and treatment of sexual disorders, gender development and identity, sexual orientation, behavioral effects on sexual health, and sexual offending and trauma.

Variable

PSYC 206 (4) Introduction to Cognitive Science

This course introduces a multidisciplinary approach to the scientific study of cognition. Contributions from the fields of biology, computer science, neuroscience, philosophy, and psychology are emphasized. Topics include the mind-body problem, perception, memory, linguistics, problem solving, artificial intelligence, and robotics. This course is a prerequisite for the cognitive science major. For the psychology major, it serves as unrestricted elective credit; it does not satisfy the cognitive restricted elective requirement.

On Demand: Fall, Spring

GE-5

PSYC 211W (4) Research Methods and Design

An introduction to the major components of research methodology in psychology. This is a writing intensive course and involves the processing, interpretation, and exposition of behavioral data.

Prerequisite: Must have a minimum total cumulative GPA of 2.70 or instructor permission to enroll; PSYC 201

Fall, Spring

WI

PSYC 230 (3) Child Care Psychology

This course is designed to develop an understanding of major variables that impact the psychological development of children. Emphasis will be placed on what parents and other care givers can do to maximize the healthy psychological development of their children.

Fall, Spring

Diverse Cultures - Gold

PSYC 240 (3) Personal Adjustment

Understanding oneself and increasing one's satisfaction in living.

Fall, Spring

PSYC 291 (1-4) Tutoring Psychology

Application of the principles of learning to the instruction of students.

Permission required. Prerequisite: PSYC 101

Fall, Spring

PSYC 303 (3) Introduction to Clinical Psychology

This course is designed for psychology majors who plan careers in professional psychology (clinical, school, etc.). The purpose of the course is to assist students in developing the skills necessary to compete for graduate school placement. It is advised that students complete this course during their sophomore or junior year.

Fall

PSYC 304 (2) Introduction to School Psychology

This course is designed to introduce students to school psychology. The course will broadly address prominent topics in the field as well as assist students in deciding on graduate school and career objectives.

Spring

PSYC 321 (4) Introduction to Brain and Behavior

This course will introduce students to the relationship between the structure and function of the nervous system to the underlying biological processes of behavior.

Prerequisite: PSYC 201

Fall, Spring

PSYC 325 (4) Introduction to Cognitive Psychology

Explores the scientific study of human cognition and provides students with broad coverage of the mental processes used to acquire, process, and retain knowledge. Students will examine basic concepts and research findings in topics of human cognition such as perception, attention, memory, reading, and problem solving. Concepts in Cognitive Psychology will be related to everyday behaviors and experiences.

Prerequisite: either Psy 101 OR Psy 206, not both

On Demand: Fall, Spring

PSYC 340 (4) Introduction to Social Psychology

An exploration of theories and research related to the ways that the social environment affects people's behavior.

Prerequisite: PSYC 101

Fall, Spring

PSYC 343 (4) Introduction to Developmental Psychology

This course examines changes in human behavior over the entire lifespan from conception to death. Topics cover developmental changes in physical, cognitive, and social domains. Traditional theories are integrated with current findings of developmental researchers.

Prerequisite: PSYC 101

On Demand: Fall, Spring, Summer

PSYC 358 (4) Introduction to Cultural Psychology

Cultural psychology is an interdisciplinary field that unites psychologists, anthropologists, linguists and philosophers to study how cultural meanings, practices and institutions influence and reflect individual human psychologies. Cultural influences on cognition, perception, emotion, motivation, moral reasoning, and well-being will be discussed with a view towards understanding divergent mentalities by drawing primarily from studies comparing Eastern and Western cultures, as well as some ethnic group companions within the United States. Students should come out of this course with an appreciation for the capacity for humans to create psychological diversity.

On Demand: Fall, Spring

PSYC 363 (4) Introduction to Industrial/Organizational Psychology

An examination of the psychological aspects of human behavior in the work place. Topics include history of Industrial/Organizational psychology, job analysis, performance measurement, predictors of performance, making personnel decisions, training, satisfaction, social perception, motivation, communication, group process, leadership, and organizational culture.

On Demand: Fall, Spring, Summer

PSYC 389 (3) Psychology and the Law

This course will introduce you to specific psychological theories and research that have been applied to the United States legal system. Course topics include eyewitness testimony and memory, false confessions, lie detection, gender and ethnicity, and jury processes, among others.

Variable

PSYC 398 (0) CPT: Co-Operative Experience

Curricular Practical Training: Co-Operative Experience is a zero-credit full-time practical training experience for one summer and on adjacent fall or spring term. Special rules apply to preserve full-time student status. Please contact an advisor in your program for complete information.

Prerequisite: PSYC 101. At least 60 credits earned; in good standing; instructor permission; co-op contract; other prerequisites may also apply.

Fall, Spring, Summer

PSYC 405 (4) Motivation

Major concepts of human motivation and emotion, presentation of learned cognitive and biological influences on sustained behavior.

Prerequisite: PSYC 211W

Fall

PSYC 409 (4) History and Systems

Examination of the historical origins of the principal contemporary psychological theories.

Fall, Spring

PSYC 413 (4) Sensation & Perception

How the senses respond to environmental stimuli and how the information they provide is organized into meaningful patterns that make up our experience of the physical world. The effects of maturation and learning in altering those patterns are also considered.

Prerequisite: PSYC 201

On Demand: Fall, Spring, Summer

PSYC 414 (4) Learning

This course provides a broad overview and analysis of the major theories of human and animal learning.

Prerequisite: PSYC 101

Fall

PSYC 415 (4) Human Memory

This course covers experimental and behavioral studies of human memory including long- and short-term memory, memory for text, pictures, spatial information, and autobiographical events. Emphasis on real-world situations, including education, in which memory and learning play a role.

Prerequisite: PSYC 211W

On Demand: Fall, Spring, Summer

PSYC 417 (4) Advanced Topics in Cognitive Psychology

This course provides students with an overview of the fundamental principles and current research on selected topics in cognitive psychology through critical evaluation, discussion, and application. May be re-taken for credit. Specific course topics will be determined by the instructor.

Prerequisite: PSYC 325, PSYC 414, PSYC 415 (ONE course from that list, not all 3)

On Demand: Fall, Spring

PSYC 419 (4) Psychometric Theory

An overview of development, use, and validation of psychological tests. Topics include reliability and validity, test construction, item analysis, ethics, test administration and scoring, and computerized testing.

Prerequisite: PSYC 211W

On Demand: Fall, Spring, Summer

PSYC 420 (4) Psychopharmacology

Biological foundations of the actions of psychoactive drugs. Neuroanatomy structure and function, neurophysiology, pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics will be covered in detail. Relevant classes of drugs will be highlighted with an eye toward their history, mechanisms of action, effects, and treatments.

Prerequisite: PSYC 211W

Spring

PSYC 421 (4) Behavioral Neuroscience

Biological basis of psychological processes and behavior. Neuroanatomy, neural function, and laboratory methods of investigation will be explored in relation to topics such as sleep, memory, language, intelligence and psychological disorders.

Prerequisite: PSYC 201, PSYC 211W

Fall, Spring

PSYC 423 (4) Cognitive Neuroscience

The goal of neuroscience is to understand the human mind. This goal is approached by revealing the brain processes involved in how we perceive, think, remember, and move. Brain development, communication, and plasticity at the neural level are all described.

Prerequisite: PSYC 211W, PSYC321

On Demand: Fall, Spring

PSYC 425W (4) Behavior Genetics

This writing intensive course provides an overview of the application of genetics methods to the study of behavior. We will examine the basic concepts in genetics with an emphasis on behavioral phenotypes, evolution and evolutionary psychology and the genetics of the individual differences.

Prerequisite: PSYC 211W

Variable

WI

PSYC 430 (4) Advanced Topics in Biological Psychology

This course provides students with an overview of the fundamental principles and current research on selected topics in biological psychology through critical evaluation and discussion.

Prerequisite: PSYC 211W, PSYC 321

On Demand: Fall, Spring

PSYC 431 (4) Advanced Behavioral Neuroscience

The course is an extension of PSYC 421 and includes an advanced examination of topics including: brain organization, neuronal signaling, and specific topics in the field of biological psychology.

Prerequisite: PSYC 420, PSYC 421, PSYC 425W (ONE course from that list, not all 3)

On Demand: Fall, Spring

PSYC 432 (1-4) Advanced Topics in Developmental Psychology

This course provides students with an overview of the fundamental principles and current research on selected topics in developmental psychology through critical evaluation, discussion, and application. May be re-taken for credit. Specific course topics will be determined by the instructor.

Prerequisites: PSYC 433, PSYC 436, PSYC 343, PSYC 466: One course from this list, not all 4

On Demand: Fall, Spring

PSYC 433 (4) Child Psychology

Physical, social, emotional, intellectual, and personality development from conception to preadolescence. Focus on interplay between maturation and experience.

Prerequisite: PSYC 101

Fall, Spring

PSYC 435 (4) Developmental Psychopathology

This course is designed to provide a survey of psychopathology in children. It introduces selected topics and issues relating to the emotional, social, cognitive, and behavioral health of children. The course will address problems in infants to adolescents in the home, school, and community. Topics will include models of "normal" and abnormal development, environmental and dispositional factors relating to behavior, psychopathology, etiology, assessment, and diagnosis of major childhood emotional and behavioral disorders. Discussion of treatment of behavior disorders will be included.

Prerequisite: PSYC 101

On Demand: Fall, Spring, Summer

PSYC 436 (4) Adolescent Psychology

This class covers the development of the individual from the age of 11 to 19 years of age. Discussion will include aspects of both normal and abnormal development.

Fall, Spring

PSYC 442 (3) Group Psychology

Exploring factors affecting leadership and effective group processes through lectures and discussion of theories and findings and through experiential activities.

Prerequisite: PSYC 101

Variable

PSYC 443 (4) Advanced Social Psychology

An in-depth examination of social psychological research in laboratory and field settings.

Prerequisite: PSYC 211W, PSYC 340 or PSYC 358

ALT

PSYC 445 (1-4) Advanced Topics in Social Psychology

This course provides students with an overview of the fundamental principles and current research on selected topics in social psychology through critical evaluation, discussion, and application. May be re-taken for credit. Specific course topics will be determined by the instructor.

Prerequisite: PSYC 340, PSYC 358, PSYC 455, PSYC 460W (ONE course from list, not all 4)

On Demand: Fall, Spring

PSYC 450 (4) Advanced Cognitive Psychology

Advanced Cognitive Psychology introduces students to key research papers in the field of human cognition. Through reading, writing, and the study of experimental design, students will advance their understanding of cognitive psychology and develop their ability to critically review and evaluate research.

Prerequisite: PSYC 211W, PSYC 325

Fall (On Demand), Spring (On Demand)

PSYC 455 (4) Abnormal Psychology

This course is designed to increase the student's awareness and understanding of abnormal psychology. Students will become familiar with clinical descriptions, course of onset, and treatment regimens specific to various disorders.

Prerequisite: 8 PSYC credits

Fall, Spring

PSYC 460W (3) Psychology of Women

A critical examination of current psychological approaches to the study of women's behavior and experience. The course will emphasize empirical ways of knowing and address psychological questions of central concern to women. Development of gender differences also will be explored.

Prerequisite: PSYC 101

Spring

WI

Diverse Cultures - Purple

PSYC 461 (3) Marketing Psychology

Analysis of product marketing and consumer purchasing strategies and their determinants.

Prerequisite: 8 PSYC credits

Fall

PSYC 466 (4) Psychology of Aging

Aging process and development during the adult years; psychology and psychological concerns of the aging individual; dealing with death.

Prerequisite: PSYC 101

Spring

PSYC 476 (4) Applied Behavior Analysis

This course provides an overview of the procedures and processes of behavior change in applied contexts. Topics include functional assessment, behavioral intervention planning, and specific applied behavioral analytic interventions with an emphasis on non-aversive options.

Prerequisite: PSYC 211W

Spring

PSYC 478 (4) Health Psychology

The interface of behavioral and medical science is explored. Research on environmental and learning factors in the etiology and treatment of physical disease and rehabilitation is examined. Specific topics include pain management, medical compliance, behavior disorders in nursing homes and on chronic illnesses.

Prerequisite: Three courses in PSYC

Spring

PSYC 485 (1-4) Topics in Applied Psychology

Specific topics depend on the instructor; all will focus on applications of psychology in current contexts and/or issues. May be retaken for credit.

Prerequisite: PSYC 101

On Demand: Fall and Spring

PSYC 489 (1-5) Advanced Topics

Application of psychology to topics of current interest. May be retaken for credit. Variable

PSYC 490 (1-3) Workshop

Topics to be announced. May be retaken for credit.

Fall, Spring

PSYC 496 (2) Laboratory Research in Psychology

Individualized research experience with a faculty mentor in the psychology department. You will gain specific research experience as designed by a faculty mentor. To register for this course, you must first apply and be accepted to join a psychology faculty members' research team.

Prerequisite: PSYC 211W

Fall, Spring

PSYC 497 (1-8) Field Experience

A learning experience integrated with the student's course of study, to be developed with an advisor and the field experience coordinator. May be retaken for credit up to an 8 credit total for all enrollments. Available for P/N grading only.

Prerequisite: 9 credits of PSYC

Fall, Spring

PSYC 499 (1-4) Individual Study

Individualized learning under faculty supervision.

Fall, Spring