

**Requirements and Objectives  
of the Undergraduate Program  
of Studies in Psychology**

**University of Wisconsin-  
Milwaukee**

Psychology is the science of behavior. Courses in psychology provide an understanding of the social and biological bases of behavior, proficiency in scientific methods and statistics, insight into the applicability of psychological principles to everyday problems, and familiarity with many core areas of knowledge, including conditioning and learning, personality, social behavior, psychopathology and therapy, human development, health, stress and coping, gender, race and ethnicity, sensation and perception, language, memory, and individual differences.

Individuals who have majored or minored in psychology at the University of Wisconsin--Milwaukee have found employment in a wide variety of occupations in business, education, and the social services and/or have gone on to graduate or professional school.

### **PROGRAM OF STUDIES**

All psychology majors begin their study with introductory psychology. Additional coursework includes both survey courses and more specialized courses referred to as advanced laboratory courses, systems courses, and foundation courses. The goal of advanced laboratory courses is for students to become knowledgeable and proficient in scientific methods. The objective of systems courses is to familiarize students with the major theories of psychology. Finally, foundation courses strive to increase students' knowledge of the major content areas in psychology.

The Department's teaching philosophy and strategies emphasize the concept of active learning. The faculty believe that students learn best when they actively participate in their own learning. Our philosophy is captured in a Chinese proverb:

I hear, and I forget,  
I see, and I remember,  
I do, and I understand.

Wherever possible, Psychology faculty provide opportunities for active learning.

Related to the importance placed on active learning in psychology coursework at UWM, is the value placed on teaching important skills such as how to write, how to support arguments with data, and how to use a computer. In the process of learning about psychology, UWM psychology students learn invaluable skills that will serve them well throughout their lives.

Psychology faculty members teach computer literacy skills in many courses. In Introductory Psychological Statistics, students are introduced to analyzing data via SPSS. Students further develop computer literacy in at least seven other courses including Research Methods, Experimental Design, Psychophysiology, Conditioning and Learning, Cognitive Processes, Experimental Personality, and Physiological Psychology. In Advanced Psychological Statistics, students' master how to analyze data.

UWM Psychology graduates are highly literate. Moreover, they have been trained to write in more than one literacy format. We offer Seminar on Writing in Psychology. Psychology majors at UWM are accustomed to writing essays and papers in most upper division courses and are given training in the technique of concise writing within a set format as they write up research reports in Research Methods in Psychology and the Advanced Laboratory courses required for the major. Proficient writing is a skill that is much valued in the commercial and business worlds.

It is highly unusual to produce graduates who are simultaneously proficient with words and numbers, yet our graduates are both. Students are trained in 16 credits of required coursework to interpret data, and to understand probability statements, and they become familiar with a wide range of statistical procedures. When faced with numerical information, our graduates feel competent and seek to discover what the numbers imply.

Psychology's educational objectives also emphasize familiarity with major theories of psychology. Although students are exposed to theory in every course in Psychology, systems courses are specialized courses dealing with theories and/or processes in subfields of psychology or the history of psychology.

The curriculum for the undergraduate major in Psychology also emphasizes scientific methods. All psychology majors take three laboratory courses in research methods. The first (Psych 325, Research Methods in Psychology) teaches the basic techniques and ethical principles of research and introduces the research designs used in many psychological studies. The two advanced laboratory courses build upon this knowledge base by providing first-hand laboratory experience with research techniques in a particular area of psychology such as child psychology, social psychology, cognitive psychology, personality, physiological psychology, psychophysiology, applied behavior analysis, or conditioning and learning.

### **UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH APPRENTICESHIPS**

Many psychology majors enroll in Psych 290, Undergraduate Research Lower Division, and Psych 690, Undergraduate Research Upper Division, to get additional hands-on research experience. Psych 290 and Psych 690 are essentially research apprenticeships with a faculty mentor. These apprenticeship opportunities allow students to acquire considerable expertise in research, measurement, problem solving, interpersonal awareness, critical evaluation, and higher order analysis. Research experiences are excellent preparation for the job market and graduate and professional school. They allow students to develop a portfolio of valuable skills.

Psychology faculty members are committed to developing the intellectual talents of all students. Our commitment is reflected in the outstanding record of Psychology faculty participation in UROP apprenticeships and the Committee on Institutional Cooperation Summer Research Opportunities Program and the Ronald E. McNair Post-baccalaureate Achievement Program for low income, and/or first generation, and/or traditionally underrepresented undergraduate students. In addition, each year, a few high school students have come to the department to learn about psychology in general, research methods, scale development, data collection techniques, statistical analysis, computer programming and scientific writing. They also have sought academic advice. Our faculty members have also been involved in the American Psychological Association's Minority Undergraduate Students of Excellence Program which helps undergraduate students gain entry into graduate programs in psychology. The faculty has also encouraged talented freshmen and sophomores to apply for the American Psychological Association Summer Research Institute.

The Department takes great pride in the fact that many of our undergraduates have carried out research under the supervision of Psychology faculty that has resulted in publications in some of the best journals in the field. The record shows that there are over 150 scholarly products that UWM Psychology undergraduates and faculty have produced together. (Note that this is the number of scholarly products with undergraduate and faculty authors. Psychology faculty have also produced many scholarly products with graduate students, other collaborators, and alone.)

## **FIELD PLACEMENTS**

The Department also offers Psych 292, Field Placement in Psychology Lower Division, and Psych 692, Field Placement in Psychology Upper Division. Field Placement in Psychology is an additional way for students to learn by doing and at the same time increase their marketability and/or chances for admission to graduate school. Students have worked with forensic psychologists, industrial/organizational psychologists, health psychologists, clinical psychologists, and school psychologists in a variety of settings (e.g., the Medical College of Wisconsin). Others have also gained valuable field experience by working with children and adults with special needs, and by training sea lions at the Milwaukee County Zoo. Over 100 field placements are available in the Milwaukee area.

## **SENIOR THESIS**

In addition to providing research apprenticeships and field placements in psychology, the Department allows especially talented seniors to complete a thesis. Completion of Psych 698, Senior Thesis, allows a student to demonstrate his or her ability to formulate a research idea and pursue independent and original investigation. Students who complete a thesis are in a very competitive position with respect to graduate admission.

## **RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

All majors must complete a research experience. The Psychology major requires two advanced lab courses. The research experience can be filled by passing one of these advanced laboratory courses.

## **ADVISING**

Reflecting our strong interest in providing undergraduates with individualized guidance, all members of the Psychology faculty serve as advisors. Students are free to select any faculty advisor in psychology. Simply start contacting the faculty member of your choice. Students are encouraged to meet with their advisors to discuss career choices and to select coursework that will best prepare them for their goals as soon as they enroll at UWM. There is no need to wait until the major is officially declared to consult with a psychology advisor. Students also have an advisor for non-psychology matters in the College of Letters & Science. To obtain an advisor in the College of Letters and Science, call (414) 229-4654, or visit Holton 142. The UWM chapter of Psi Chi, the honors society in psychology, also provides psychology course selection advice from a student's perspective. In addition to one-on-one advice from a psychology faculty member, students may also attend an annual meeting, Psychology Open Forum, in which the undergraduate program of studies and educational objectives are reviewed and any questions they have are answered. Furthermore, students are encouraged to consult with the Associate Chair of Psychology, Christine Larson (414) 229-4996 or [larsoncl@uwm.edu](mailto:larsoncl@uwm.edu), who handles all inquiries about undergraduate matters, including course transfers, career options, admission to graduate programs in psychology, course-related questions, and special problems and grievances that arise. Meet the Faculty, held each September, allows students to have increased contact with their faculty advisor. Everyone is welcome to attend. Students who just want to get together with faculty and other students, think they might take a psychology course, are undecided about a major, plan to major or minor in psychology, or are majors are invited to come and socialize. This event gives beginning students a chance to meet all of the faculty members in the department and select an advisor and/or research mentor within the first month of enrollment at UWM. The Department also maintains an undergraduate e-mail reflector to increase psychology faculty and student communication.

## **COURSE SYLLABI AND FACULTY TEACHING EVALUATIONS**

Course syllabi and summaries of faculty teaching evaluations are available to students in the main office of Psychology, Garland 224.

### **SPECIAL UNDERGRADUATE EVENTS**

The Psychology Department hosts a number of special events for undergraduates each year. As noted, *Meet the Faculty* allows students to get to know the faculty outside of the classroom, and select an academic advisor and/or research mentor. *The Psychology Open Forum*, held in the spring semester, presents an opportunity for students to provide feedback on how well the faculty is doing in educating them. In this forum, the learning goals for the major are reviewed, as is the program of studies. This focused group event not only has increased the accessibility of psychology faculty to undergraduates, but has also stimulated an ongoing critique and resulted in a variety of improvements in the Department, including the creation of Psych 692, Field Placement in Psychology. Another special undergraduate event held each year is, *How to Get into Graduate School*. A faculty member, selected by the Psi Chi membership delivers this talk. Undergraduates are also involved in the life of the department as full-voting members of department committees, such as the Undergraduate Program Committee and Colloquium Committee. Events are advertised in flyers placed around Garland/Pearse, are announced in class, and are listed on the email reflector.

### ***Psi Chi, The Honor Society in Psychology***

Psi Chi is a national honor society in Psychology. For over fifty years, the UWM chapter has nurtured and promoted excellence in psychology through a variety of programs and activities, which range from serving the community to initiatives in the public understanding of psychology. Psi Chi's activities include presentations by psychologists covering a wide range of topics. Psi Chi also co-sponsors programs designed to increase understanding of psychology and offers students information, advice, and help on academic matters. Psi Chi provides many opportunities for student fellowship, academic support and an increased understanding of the field of psychology. To join, you need three semesters of college course work, nine credits of psychology course work, a minimum overall GPA of 3.2 and a rank of 35% in one's class. Graduate students need a minimum overall GPA of 3.0 in all graduate courses.

### **AFTER UWM**

Our former undergraduates have been extraordinarily successful in terms of their professional placements and accomplishments. They have secured careers as CEO's of major corporations, marketing and finance executives, personnel managers, research and development specialists, psychologists, counselors, lawyers, physicians, professors, and administrators.

### **DECLARING THE MAJOR**

Students are encouraged to declare the major as soon as they have completed 15 university credits and have a mean GPA of at least 2.62 in Psych 101 and Psych 210. (Check the GPA grid at the end of this document). After completing Psych 210, students must bring an unofficial transcript available from PAWS to the main office of Psychology (Garland 224). The Department will examine the transcript to verify eligibility to declare the major and process the paperwork. The declaration of major paperwork asks students to formally identify a psychology faculty advisor. Students should be consulting with their psychology advisor as well as their College of Letters & Science advisor as soon as they enroll at UWM.

### **REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR**

The major consists of Psych 101, 210, 254, 325; one from Psych 205, or 214, or 230, or 260; and two Psychology Advanced Laboratory courses, a research experience fulfilled by passing a Psychology Advanced Laboratory class, and either (a) two Psychology Systems courses or (b) one Psychology Systems course and one Psychology Foundations course (6 credits).

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>CREDITS</u>	<u>PREREQUISITES</u>
101	Introduction to Psychology	3	None
210	Psychological Statistics	4	101
254	Physiological Psychology	3	101
325	Research Methods	4	GPA of 2.62 in 101 & 210
205	Personality	3	101
or			
214	Introduction to Conditioning & Learning	3	101
or			
230	Social Psychology: Psychological Perspectives	3	101
or			
260	Child Psychology	3	101

PSYCHOLOGY FOUNDATIONS COURSES [TAKE ONE OR NONE]:

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>CREDITS</u>	<u>PREREQUISITES</u>
319	Gay and Lesbian Psychology	3	Jr st; 101
320	Psychology of Women	3	Jr st; 101
380	Honors Seminar: (Subtitled)	1-4	Soph st, 101
414	Psychological Testing	3	210
430	Seminar in the Social Psychology of American Problems	3	9 credits in psychology
510	Advanced Psychological Statistics	3	Jr st; 210
578	Psychology of Race, Ethnicity, and Health	3	Jr st; 101
610	Experimental Design	3	Jr st; 210
611	Current Topics: (Subtitled)	3	Jr st
620	Single-Subject Research Methods	3	Jr st, 325 or cons instr
685	Seminar on Writing in Psychology	3	Jr st; 325 or cons instr

PSYCHOLOGY SYSTEMS COURSES [TAKE ONE OR TWO]:

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>CREDITS</u>	<u>PREREQUISITES</u>
407	Personality Theory	3	205
412	Psychopathology	3	205
433	Neuropsychology	3	254, or cons instr
454	Psychotropic Drugs and Behavior	3	254, or cons instr
503	Perception	3	Jr st; 9 cr in psych
550	History of Psychology	3	Jr st; 9 cr in psych
551	Learning & Motivation Theories	3	Jr st; 9 cr in psych
555	Health Psychology	3	254 or cons instr
560	Developmental Theories	3	Jr st; 260 or cons instr
609	Motivation	3	Jr st; 254 or cons instr
680	Psychology of Aging	3	Jr st; 325 or cons instr

PSYCHOLOGY ADVANCED LABORATORY COURSES [TAKE TWO]:

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>CREDITS</u>	<u>PREREQUISITES</u>
502	Applied Behavior Analysis	4	Jr st; 325
505	Cognitive Processes	4	Jr st; 325
514	Conditioning and Learning	4	Jr st; 325
654	Advanced Physiological Psychology	4	Jr st; 254, 325
656	Psychophysiology	4	Jr st; 254, 325
660	Experimental Child Psychology	4	Jr st; 325
677	Experimental Social Psychology	4	Jr st; 325

### DECLARING THE MINOR

Students are encouraged to declare the minor as soon as they have completed 45 university credits and have passed Psych 101, Introduction to Psychology. Students must bring an unofficial transcript, available from the Registrar's Office (Mellencamp 274), to the main office of Psychology (Garland 224). The department will examine the transcript to verify eligibility to declare the minor and process the paperwork.

### REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PSYCHOLOGY MINOR

The minor consists of Psych 101, 210, 325; one from Psych 205, or 214, or 230, or 254, or 260; and two psychology courses at the 300 level or above (one of which must be a Systems course).

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>CREDITS</u>	<u>PREREQUISITES</u>
101	Introduction to Psychology	3	None
210	Psychological Statistics	4	101
325	Research Methods	4	GPA of 2.62 in 101 & 210
205	Personality	3	101
or 214	Introduction to Conditioning & Learning	3	101
or 230	Social Psychology: Psychological Perspectives	3	101
or 254	Physiological Psychology	3	101
or 260	Child Psychology	3	101

Plus two psychology courses at the 300 level or above (one of which must be a Systems course).

**Eligibility for Psy 325**

## GRADE MATRIX

		210 Grade (4 cr)												
		A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F	
		4.00	3.67	3.33	3.00	2.67	2.33	2.00	1.67	1.33	1.00	0.67	0.00	
101	A	4.00	4.00	3.81	3.62	3.43	3.24	3.05	2.86	<u>2.67</u>	2.47	2.29	2.10	1.71
Grade	A-	3.67	3.86	3.67	3.48	3.29	3.10	2.90	<u>2.72</u>	2.53	2.33	2.14	1.96	1.57
	B+	3.33	3.71	3.52	3.33	3.14	2.95	2.72	2.57	2.38	2.19	2.00	1.81	1.43
	B	3.00	3.57	3.38	3.19	3.00	2.81	<u>2.62</u>	2.43	2.24	2.05	1.86	1.67	1.20
	B-	2.67	3.34	3.24	3.05	2.86	<u>2.67</u>	2.48	2.29	2.10	1.90	1.72	1.53	1.14
	C+	2.33	3.28	3.10	2.90	<u>2.71</u>	2.52	2.33	2.14	1.95	1.76	1.57	1.38	1.00
	C	2.00	3.14	2.95	2.76	2.57	2.38	2.19	2.00	1.81	1.62	1.43	1.24	0.86
	C-	1.67	3.00	2.81	<u>2.62</u>	2.43	2.24	2.05	1.86	1.67	1.48	1.29	1.10	0.72
	D+	1.33	2.86	<u>2.67</u>	2.47	2.28	2.10	1.90	1.71	1.52	1.33	1.14	0.95	0.57
	D	1.00	<u>2.71</u>	2.53	2.33	2.14	1.95	1.76	1.57	1.38	1.19	1.00	0.81	0.43
	D-	0.67	2.57	2.38	2.19	2.00	1.81	1.62	1.43	1.24	1.05	0.86	0.67	0.29
	F	0.00	2.29	2.10	1.90	1.71	1.53	1.33	1.14	0.95	0.76	0.57	0.38	0.00