

Department of Psychology

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Mississippi State University offers majors leading to the B.S., the M.S., and Ph.D. degrees. Undergraduate students wishing to major in psychology must have a minimum 2.0 GPA on all college work attempted prior to entering the major. Transfer students also must have a minimum 2.0 GPA to be admitted to the psychology major. **Students must earn a grade of C or higher in all PSY courses applied toward the psychology major requirements.**

The Bachelor of Science degree program in psychology is designed to provide training either for immediate employment or for advanced training in psychology or related fields. Many careers in psychology require advanced study beyond the bachelor's degree, but there are also career opportunities at the bachelor's level.

A bachelor's degree in psychology prepares graduates to pursue:

- master's or doctoral study in psychology, such as clinical or counseling psychology, cognitive psychology, social psychology, developmental psychology, experimental psychology, forensic psychology, etc.
- graduate school in related areas such as guidance, clinical mental health counseling, school counseling, educational psychology, rehabilitation, social work, criminology, law school, management, marketing, etc.
- admission to medical, nursing, or physical therapy school with a psychology major and all necessary science courses.
- immediate employment in private business, community mental health, or government (e.g., case management, social work, personnel work, quality control jobs, management training, marketing research, sales, etc.).

B.S. in Psychology

The Bachelor of Science degree program in psychology provides students broad training in psychology while still ensuring adequate exposure to the humanities and social sciences. Foreign language proficiency at the second-semester level is required.

General Education and College Requirements

English Composition

| | | |
|------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| EN 1103 | English Composition I ¹ | 3 |
| or EN 1163 | Accelerated Composition I | |
| EN 1113 | English Composition II ¹ | 3 |
| or EN 1173 | Accelerated Composition II | |

Foreign Language

| | |
|---|---|
| 2 semesters: one Foreign Language - see advisor | 6 |
|---|---|

Humanities

| | |
|--|---|
| Literature - see General Education courses | 3 |
| History - see General Education courses | 3 |

Mathematics

| | | |
|----------------------|------------------------------|---|
| MA 1313 | College Algebra ¹ | 3 |
| Advanced Math course | | 3 |

Fine Arts

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| See A&S Core List | 3 |
|-------------------|---|

Natural Sciences

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|---|-----|
| Physical Sciences w/lab (CH, GG, PH) ² | 3-4 |
| Biological Sciences w/lab (BIO, EPP, PO) ² | 3-4 |
| Natural Science Elective ³ | 3-4 |

| | | |
|---|--------------------|---|
| Social Sciences Electives ⁴ | | |
| PSY 1013 | General Psychology | 3 |
| Behavioral/Social Science (See Gen. Ed./A&S Core) | | 3 |

Major Core

| | | |
|----------|--|---|
| PSY 1021 | Careers in Psychology (typically offered only in Spring) | 1 |
| PSY 3104 | Introductory Psychological Statistics | 4 |
| PSY 3213 | Psychology of Abnormal Behavior | 3 |

| | | |
|--|--|-------|
| PSY 3314 | Experimental Psychology | 4 |
| PSY 3343 | Psychology of Learning | 3 |
| PSY 3623 | Social Psychology | 3 |
| PSY 3713 | Cognitive Psychology | 3 |
| PSY 3803 | Introduction to Developmental Psychology | 3 |
| PSY 4403 | Biological Psychology | 3 |
| PSY Upper Division Electives ⁵ | | 18 |
| Oral Communication Requirement | | |
| CO 1003 | Fundamentals of Public Speaking | 3 |
| or CO 1013 | Introduction to Communication | |
| Writing Requirement | | |
| Satisfied by successful completion of PSY 3314 | | |
| Computer Literacy | | |
| Satisfied by successful completion of PSY 3314 | | |
| General Electives | | |
| General Electives - enough to equal 124 total hours ⁶ | | 32-34 |
| Total Hours | | 124 |

(31 hours must be A&S 3000/4000 work)

- 1 Or equivalent
- 2 See General Education courses.
- 3 Consult advisor.
- 4 Must be from 2 different areas.
- 5 Psychology majors must take 6 additional 3000/4000 level Psychology courses from among the courses offered by the department. Two of these courses may be a Directed Individual Study (PSY 4000).
- 6 Consult advisor. No more than 2 one-credit PE courses may be counted toward graduation.

For a Psychology concentration in the B.S.I.S program of study, at least half of the classes (six hours for the 12-hour concentration or nine hours for the 18-hour concentration) must come from the list of core PSY courses while the remainder may come from the list of PSY electives. All of these must be upper-division courses. Students should see the undergraduate coordinator in the Psychology Department to plan a concentration that will complement their career interests.

Minor in Psychology

For the 18-hour minor in Psychology, at least nine hours must come from the list of core PSY courses, while the remainder may come from the list of PSY electives. All minor courses must be upper-division. See <http://advising.psychology.msstate.edu> for detailed minor requirements. Students should consult a PSY major advisor to plan a minor program that will complement their major studies and career interests.

Minor in Cognitive Science

A minor in Cognitive Science is designed for students who wish to pursue an interdisciplinary study of mind and thought. Students completing the program will have a broad understanding of the field of cognitive science and will have demonstrated an approach that highlights the interdisciplinary nature of Cognitive Science. The candidate must complete 18 hours of coursework from the approved list. All students will be required to pass PSY 4713/CSE 4633, PSY 3713, and a computer programming course (CSE 1233, CSE 1273, CSE 1284, or CSE 1384). In addition, all students must pass 9 hours of approved electives from two (2) departments from the following list:

PSY 4423 Sensation and Perception
 PSY 4713 Language and Thought
 PSY 4733 Memory
 PSY 4743 Psychology of Human-Computer Interaction
 PSY 4753 Applied Cognitive Psychology/IE 4123 Psychology of Human-Computer Interaction
 PHI 4143 Philosophy of Science
 EN 4403 Introduction to Linguistics/AN 4403 Introduction to Linguistics
 EN 4443 English Syntax
 EN 4463 Studies in Second Language Acquisition
 EN 4633 Language and Society/SO 4633 Language and Society/AN 4633 Language and Society
 BIO 4133 Human Genetics
 CSE 3813 Introduction to Formal Languages and Automata
 CSE 4633 Artificial Intelligence

CSE 4663 Human-Computer Interaction
CSE 4833 Introduction to Analysis of Algorithms
IE 4113 Human Factors Engineering