PSYCHOLOGY, BS

Psychology majors have a wide range of interests. Anyone preparing for a career that involves contact with other people can benefit from taking classes in psychology. Among the common pre-professional concentrations for psychology majors are pre-medical, pre-physical therapy, pre-law, pre-occupational therapy, and pre-physical therapy. Many psychology majors have interests in communication studies such as advertising and public relations. Others have interests in business and can apply their knowledge of psychology to marketing, management, or organizational behavior. Psychology majors can approach the study of behavior from a variety of perspectives ranging from humanistic psychology, which focuses on human growth and potential, to biological bases of behavior, which focuses on relations among body, brain, and behavior. Written and oral communication skills are essential to success in psychology and related fields.

Admission into the Major

Students are expected to formally declare a major no later than the fourth semester of full-time enrollment (or at 61 semester hours for transfer students). Students can declare a major by completing the Change of Major/Minor Application online under the Student tab of myBama.

Special Opportunities

The psychology department honors program is designed to afford qualified majors the opportunity to participate in activities to prepare for graduate training in psychology. The two-year program is research-oriented and involves interactions with selected faculty and peers in an enriched and accelerated academic environment. Completion of the program is contingent on the submission of an independently conducted research project equivalent in quality to a master's thesis. Psychology majors who are in the second semester of the sophomore year with nine hours of coursework in psychology (including PY 101 Intro to psychology, PY 211 or PY 212 Elem Statistical Methods, and a 300-level course) to be completed by the end of the semester may apply for admission to the Psychology Department Honors Program. To be accepted, it is recommended that a student must have at least a 3.5 GPA in psychology coursework and a 3.3 cumulative GPA; however, meeting these standards does not guarantee admission.

Students earning the bachelor of science (BS) degree with a major in psychology must complete all University, College and departmental degree requirements. These include the general education requirements, the following major requirements, all requirements for an approved minor and other sufficient credits to total a minimum of 120 applicable semester hours.

Code and Title		Hours
Major Courses		
PY 101	Intro To Psychology	3
PY 211	Elem Statistical Methods	3
PY 321	Professional Issues	1
PY 355	General Experimental Psych	3
PY 370	History & Systems	3
Select one seminar sequence: [1]		6
PY 379 & PY 491	Junior Honors Seminar and Senior Seminar In Psychology	
PY 391 & PY 491	Junior Seminar and Senior Seminar In Psychology	
Electives		
Select three hours of PY elective 300 or 400 level		3
	Credit Hours Subtotal:	22
Area Requirement		
Select three courses from three content areas		9
	Credit Hours Subtotal:	9
Ancillary Courses		
Grades in ancillary courses are not computed into the major GPA. The major in psychology requires successful completion of the following courses outside the major:		
MATH 125 or MATH 145	Calculus I / Honors Calculus I	4
Select eight hours of the following:		8
BSC 108	Intro Biology Non Maj I	
BSC 109	Intro Biology Non Maj II	
BSC 114 & BSC 115	Principles Of Biology I and Laboratory Biology I	
BSC 116 & BSC 117	Principles Biology II and Laboratory Biology II	
BSC 118	Honors General Biology I	
BSC 120	Honors Gen Biology II	
CH 101	General Chemistry	
CH 102	General Chemistry	
CH 104	Introductory Chemistry	
CH 105	Introductory Org Chem	
CH 117	Honors General Chemistry	
CH 118	Honors General Chemistry	
PH 101	General Physics I	
PH 102	General Physics II	
PH 105	General Physics W/Calc I	
PH 106	General Physics W/Calc II	
PH 125	Honors Gen Ph W/Calculus	
PH 126	Honors Gen Ph W/Calculus II	
	Credit Hours Subtotal:	12
Total Hours		**43**

Footnotes

[1] Two seminars are required, and one must be PY 491 Senior Seminar In Psychology

Grade Point Average

A 2.0 grade point average in the major is required for completion of the degree. Please see the Grades and Grade Points section of this catalog for an explanation on grade point average calculations.

Upper-level Residency

A minimum of 12 hours of 300- and 400-level courses in the major must be earned on this campus.

Required Minor

This major requires the completion of a minor.

Additional Major Requirements

Majors must receive a minimum grade of C- in PY 211 Elem Statistical Methods. Students are responsible for ensuring that they have met all University, College, major and minor requirements. However, each student must meet with an adviser in the major department for academic planning and to be approved for registration each semester. College advisers are also available for additional assistance with minor, college and University requirements.

Prerequisites

PY 101 Intro To Psychology or PY 105 Honors Intro Psychology is a prerequisite for all higher-numbered psychology courses. Unless otherwise stated, all 400-level PY courses have as a prerequisite 12 hours in the psychology department, including PY 355 General Experimental Psych . PY 355 General Experimental Psychology requires a grade of C- in PY 211 Elem Statistical Methods as a prerequisite.

Area Requirement

Students must complete courses from three of the following content areas for a total of nine hours. At least one course should be at the 400 level.

Developmental

Code and Title		Hours
PY 352	Developmental Psych	3
PY 365	Psychology Of Aging	3
PY 461	Child Psychology	3

Learning/Cognition

Code and Title		Hours
PY 361	Psychology Of Learning	3
PY 381	Cognitive Neuroscience	3
PY 470	Intro Cognitive Psychlgy	3

Social/Personality

Code and Title		Hours
PY 358	Psychopathology	3
PY 368	Intro To Personality	3
PY 372	Social Psychology	3

Biologically Based

Code and Title		Hours
PY 313	Sensation and Perception	3
PY 353	Bio Basis of Psych Disorders	3
PY 413	Physiological Psych	3

Psychology majors choose from a wide range of occupations in business, academics, mental health/ social services, human resources, human relations and behavioral/medical research. A good resource for evaluating possible job opportunities for persons with a bachelors, masters or doctorate degree can be found at: http://www.psychwww.com/careers/index.htm

Types of Jobs Accepted

Many psychology majors apply to a variety of graduate programs. There are Ph.D. and masters programs in both clinical and non-clinical aspects of psychology in graduate psychology departments. Doctorates and masters degrees may also be earned in school psychology and counseling in many colleges of education, human development and social work.

Learn more about opportunities in this field at the Career Center