

Interested in This Major?

Current Students: Visit us in Garland Hall, Room 224, call us at 414-229-4746, or email que@uwm.edu

Not a UWM Student yet? Call our Admissions Counselor at 414-229-7711 or email let-sci@uwm.edu

web: uwm.edu/psychology



What is Psychology?

Psychology is a science that examines the social and biological bases of behavior. There are many specialties within the field of psychology, but these can be broadly categorized into two general approaches. One approach is focused on empirical research investigations and resulting theoretical perspectives; the other uses information learned from these research studies in clinical or applied settings.

At UWM, faculty have special expertise in clinical psychology, neuroscience, and health psychology, and we offer courses that cover a wide range of disciplines (e.g., social psychology, gender studies, aging).

At UWM, you can study psychology as it relates to:

- * learning
- * self-image
- * aging
- * stress
- * developmental disorders
- * medical side effects
- * anxiety
- * personality
- * addiction
- * OCD
- * PTSD
- * memory
- * hormones
- * exercise

Is Psychology Right For Me?

Psychology is an ideal major if you are interested in understanding the social, psychological, and biological bases of behavior. Courses in the major emphasize the scientific method, active learning and lifelong career skills in writing, analysis, and problem-solving. Graduates are proficient with words, numbers and statistics, and have a thorough understanding of how to interpret and present data. Students majoring in psychology take several required laboratory classes, and many enroll in

additional lab or research courses for even more hands-on experience.

Career Opportunities

A psychology degree is flexible. Some students go on to graduate school or a professional school to become researchers, doctors, pharmacists, lawyers and therapists. Other popular career tracks include social work, business management, marketing, human resources, sales and real estate. Because applied psychology focuses on humans, students of psychology tend to gravitate towards jobs that require a high level of interpersonal interaction and communication.

To be a licensed, practicing therapist in Wisconsin, a master's degree or PhD is required.

Research Opportunities

The Psychology Department offers many opportunities for students to become involved in research. Many of our undergraduates work in research laboratories where they collaborate with faculty and graduate students conducting experiments with both humans and animals. There is a wide variety of research conducted by our psychology faculty so students are likely to find a laboratory doing research that is of interest to them. These topics include behavior, health, learning, and neuropsychological problems in children; mental illnesses such as anxiety, ADHD, addiction, and depression; animal and human neuroscience studies of learning, memory, attention, sleep, emotion, and mental illness; and societal and environmental influences on health.



Talented undergraduates may work with faculty members to design and implement research projects around topics such as therapy outcomes and client expectations vs. outcomes.

More frequently undergraduates work in research and teaching laboratories where they collaborate with faculty and



graduate students in environmentally controlled areas for human subject research and federally-certified facilities for the care of laboratory animals.

It is not unusual to find undergraduates as co-authors on published, nationally-recognized journal articles.

Courses in the Major

To be accepted as a major in psychology, students must have completed Psych 101 and 15 university credits. Additionally, students must maintain a 2.5 GPA on all credits in the major.

The coursework in the major consists of 33 or 34 credits in psychology. Study in the major begins with a set of core courses, required for all students:

Course #	Course Name
Psych 101	Intro to Psychology
Psych 210	Psychological Statistics
Psych 254	Physiological Psychology
Psych 325	Research Methods in Psychology
Psych 205 or Psych 214 or Psych 230 or Psych 260	Personality Introduction to Conditioning and Learning Social Psychology: Psychological Perspectives Child Psychology

In addition to the core courses above, students must complete at least 5 advanced courses (300 or above) in psychology at UWM. There are two ways to satisfy this requirement: 1) one Advanced Laboratory course and four Systems & Foundations courses (16 credits), or 2) two Advanced Laboratory courses and three Systems & Foundations courses (17 credits).

The College requires a research experience in the major. The Department of Psychology has structured its advanced laboratory courses (Psych 502, 505, 514, 623, 654, 656, 660, 677) to satisfy that requirement.

In the laboratory courses, you will run multiple experiments, collect and analyze data quantitatively, and write up the results in standard journal format, integrating the results with a critical survey of relevant professional literature. In addition, you will make a presentation of your research results.

A checklist for the major is available at <https://uwm.edu/psychology/undergraduate/resources/psychology-major-checklist/>

Online Major

The courses required for the Psychology major are available in an online format as well. Students can

complete their major requirements entirely online, and it may be possible to complete most or all of the entire degree online, particularly the Bachelor Arts degree. The degree requirements for the Bachelor of Science are not online at this time.

For students who need to meet the foreign language requirement, UWM does not offer extensive foreign language online. Students can come to UWM for just those classes or they can take the courses at a college nearer to them and then transfer the credits back to UWM.

There is no distinction made between online students and traditional students. Online students take the same classes, from the same professors, and earn the same degree – the only difference is the format in which the content is delivered.

Minor in Psychology

The minor consists of 18 credits, including Psychology 101 and one class chosen from Psych 205, 210, 214, 230, 254 or 260. The remaining courses are psychology electives with at least 9 credits at the 300-level or above. A checklist for the minor can be viewed at <https://uwm.edu/psychology/undergraduate/resources/psychology-minor-checklist/>.

Fieldwork and Internships

Psychology is one of the most popular majors nationwide.

Going beyond the basic coursework by completing a field placement and/or internships is an excellent way to set yourself apart and demonstrate that you have the drive and ambition to do more than just the basic expectations.

Field placements and internships involve volunteer work in a psychology-related setting while earning course credit. They are an excellent opportunity to get out of the classroom for more real-world, hands-on learning experiences.



Psi Chi is a national honors society for psychology students.

Students have worked in forensic, health, school, and clinical psychology settings as part of field work.

Events

The department regularly hosts guest lectures and colloquia featuring speakers from around the country.

Recent topics have included:

- Visual Attention Over Time and Space
- Behavioral Economics in the Clinic
- The Reproductive Cell Cycle Theory of Aging
- Adolescence: A Time of Continued Neural Development



This sample four-year plan shows just one possible pathway to earning a degree with this major in four years. This plan **does not** replace the advice of your advisor, and students are cautioned to meet regularly with their advisor to create a personalized plan that matches their particular circumstances. This plan also follows the degree requirements for students who began their college education in Fall of 2013 or later. If you started college prior to Fall of 2013, your degree requirements may be different.

Degree Requirements for a Bachelor of Arts with a Psychology major (brief summary):

Psychology is also available as a Bachelor of Science degree with a different set of requirements (see next page).

1. English Proficiency and UWM Oral and Written Communication (OWC) GER - English 102 (fulfills Part A) and one OWC-Part B course.
2. Math Proficiency, UWM Quantitative Literacy (QL) GER, and Formal Reasoning – two courses can satisfy all three requirements. Some courses have prerequisites, however, so a student may end up taking more than two total classes depending on his/her placement test scores. Students will usually take Math 103, 105, or 108 AND three credits in either a 200-level or above math course, Philosophy 211, or an approved Letters & Science statistics course.
3. Foreign Language – 4 semesters of a single Foreign Language (or 3 semesters of one language and 2 semesters of another language) (May be satisfied through 4 years of a single Foreign Language in high school.)
4. L&S Humanities (HU) – 12 credits
5. L&S Social Sciences (SS) – 12 credits
6. L&S Natural Science (NS) – 12 credits including one laboratory
7. L&S International (Int'l) – 9 credits usually accomplished in conjunction with Humanities and/or Social Science courses
8. UWM Arts GER – 3 credits
9. UWM Cultural Diversity GER – 3 credits usually accomplished in conjunction with a Humanities or Social Science course
10. 120 credits including 90 credits in L&S and with 36 of the 90 credits in L&S upper-level (numbered above 300) courses
11. Complete the Psychology major requirements
 - 33-34 credits; at least 15 credits in courses numbered 300 or above at UWM
 - Psychology 101, 210, 254, 325
 - One from Psychology 205, 214, 230, or 260
 - Take either one advanced lab course (list A) and four systems (list B)/foundations (list C) courses OR two from list A and three from lists B and C.
 - » List A: Psych 502, 505, 514, 623, 654, 656, 660, 677
 - » List B/C: Psych 319, 320, 407, 412, 433, 454, 503,

510, 540, 550, 551, 555, 578, 609, 610, 611, 620, 627, 645, 657, 680, 682

Sample Four Year Plan BA Psychology:

There are hundreds of courses that satisfy various requirements and courses can count towards more than one requirement. For example, Psych 101 counts towards the major and as a social science. (This sample assumes no high school Foreign Language was taken and that the student placed into college-level math and English.)

	Semester 1	Semester 2
Year 1	English 101	English 102 (OWC-A)
	Math 103 or 105 (QL-A)	L&S Social Science, not Psych
	1st semester Foreign Language	2nd semester Foreign Language
	L&S Humanities	Psych 205, 214, 230, or 260 (SS)
	Psych 101 (SS)	Arts GER
Year 2	Psych 210 (formal reasoning) (QL-B)	L&S Humanities/Cultural Diversity
	L&S Humanities	Psych 325 (OWC-B) (NS+)
	3rd semester Foreign Language (Int'l)	4th semester Foreign Language (Int'l)
	Psychology elective	L&S Social Science, not Psych
	Psych 254 (NS)	L&S Natural Science
Year 3	L&S Humanities/International	Psych systems and foundation
	Psychology upper-level	L&S upper-level
	Psych systems and foundation	Psych systems and foundation
	L&S Natural Science	Elective
	Elective	L&S Natural Science
Year 4	Psych systems and foundation	Elective
	L&S upper-level	Psych advanced lab
	L&S upper-level	L&S upper-level
	L&S upper-level	L&S upper-level
	Elective	Elective

This sample four-year plan shows just one possible pathway to earning a degree with this major in four years. This plan **does not** replace the advice of your advisor, and students are cautioned to meet regularly with their advisor to create a personalized plan that matches their particular circumstances. This plan also follows the degree requirements for students who began their college education in Fall of 2013 or later. If you started college prior to Fall of 2013, your degree requirements may be different.

Degree Requirements for a Bachelor of Science with a Psychology major (brief summary):

Psychology is also available as a Bachelor of Arts degree with a different set of requirements (see previous page).

Requirements for the BS degree are the same (see previous page) as for the BA with the following exceptions. The differences for BS students are in the areas of math, foreign language, and science and are:

- Math Proficiency and UWM Quantitative Literacy (QL) GER, and Formal Reasoning - All BS students will take math through the first semester of calculus. They will also take an approved statistics course, usually Psych 210.
- Foreign language – only 2 semesters of a single foreign language are required
- L&S Natural Science (NS) – 12 credits including a laboratory course in three distinct natural science areas
- 120 credits with 90 credits in Letters and Science and with 36 of the 90 credits in L&S upper-level (numbered 300 and above) courses. Thirty of the 36 upper-level credits must be natural science courses.
- At least 15 upper-level Psych credits must be taken from those designated as advanced natural science courses: Psych 433, 454, 503, 510, 609, 610, 611 (certain subtitles only), 623, 627, 645, 654, 656, 657, 680, 682

Sample Four Year Plan BS Psychology:

There are hundreds of courses that satisfy various requirements and courses can count towards more than one requirement. For example, Psych 101 counts towards the major and as a social science. (This sample assumes no high school Foreign Language was taken and that the student placed into college-level math and English.) placed into college-level Math and English.)

	Semester 1	Semester 2
Year 1	English 101	English 102 (OWC-A)
	Math 105 (QL-A)	Math 211 (NS)
	1st semester Foreign Language	2nd semester Foreign Language
	L&S Humanities	L&S Natural Science with lab, not Psych
	Psych 101 (SS)	Psych 254 (NS)
Year 2	Psych 210 (formal reasoning) (QL-B)	L&S Humanities/Cultural Diversity
	L&S Humanities	Psych 325 (OWC-B) (NS+)
	L&S Social Science/ International, not Psych	L&S Social Science/ International, not Psych
	L&S Natural Science with lab, not Psych	Psych systems or foundations
	Psych 205, 214, 230, or 260 (SS)	Elective
Year 3	L&S Humanities/ International	L&S Natural Science upper-level
	Psychology upper-level	Arts GER
	Psych systems and foundation	Psych systems and foundation
	Psych systems and foundation	Psych systems and foundation
	Elective	Elective
Year 4	Psych systems and foundation	Psych systems and foundation
	Psychology upper-level	L&S upper-level
	Psych systems or foundations	L&S upper-level
	Elective	Elective
	Elective	Elective