

# Department of Psychology



## Undergraduate Program Handbook

### *Department Overview and Program of Study*

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## WELCOME

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Welcome to the Undergraduate Program in Psychology at UWM. We hope that you find this handbook informative and will seek advising if you have further questions. We also appreciate your suggestions so that we can continually improve the program.

The program provides broad training in psychology, the science of behavior, including training in the research methods used to conduct experiments. In addition, the department has research strengths in behavior analysis, clinical psychology, health psychology, and neuroscience, and provides opportunities to pursue more specialized coursework in these areas. Students may earn either a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degree.

In addition to the courses, the department offers other valuable learning opportunities. Engaging in psychology-related work outside the classroom helps you apply what you've learned in your courses and gain experience that will be helpful when seeking your first job after finishing your degree or when applying to graduate school. Many students serve as research assistants on faculty and graduate-student projects. There are also opportunities for students to engage in field placement work in the community.

Although an undergraduate major in psychology does not focus on professional training, it provides an excellent foundation for many careers. Some careers require graduate study or specialized training, while others are open to B.A. or B.S. graduates. Information about career planning can be found in this document, on the department website, through conversations with a psychology faculty advisor, and through the UWM Career Development Center.

This handbook provides an overview of the psychology at UWM, including: course requirements, research and field placement opportunities, and advising options. The handbook also describes other resources for academic success and career exploration. If this manual does not answer a specific question feel free to contact your Psychology faculty or L&S advisor.

Welcome,

Deborah Hannula, Associate Chair and Director of Undergraduate Studies  
W. Hobart Davies, Chair

## UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM OVERVIEW

### MISSION/PURPOSE

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Psychology as a scientific discipline aims to describe, understand, influence and predict behavior. Toward this end, the mission of the Undergraduate Program of Studies in Psychology is to: a) provide familiarity with core areas of knowledge in psychology, b) foster an understanding of the biopsychosocial bases of behavior, c) develop understanding of and proficiency in scientific research methods and statistics, d) encourage appreciation for the applicability of psychological principles to everyday problems, and e) enhance critical thinking and communication skills relevant to many career paths.

### GOALS AND LEARNING OBJECTIVES

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#### **Demonstrate knowledge of major content areas in psychology**

Students should demonstrate understanding of multiple major content areas in psychology: the social bases of behavior, the biological bases of behavior, sensation and perception, language, memory, individual differences, conditioning and learning, human development, stress and coping, psychopathology, psychological assessment and intervention, multicultural psychology, and the history of psychology.

#### **Demonstrate understanding of and proficiency in scientific methods**

Students will demonstrate: a) knowledge of correlational and experimental methods, descriptive and inferential statistical techniques, research design, and ethical principles governing research; b) the ability to apply this knowledge to use appropriate statistical tests, design and conduct research, write research reports; and c) the ability to summarize and interpret scientific data.

#### **Apply Knowledge Acquired as a Major**

Students will be able to address practical problems by applying knowledge acquired as a major.

#### **Demonstrate effective writing skills**

Students will be able to demonstrate professional writing conventions (e.g., grammar, audience awareness, formality), the ability to write clear, concise paragraphs, and to appropriately organize and develop ideas.

### PROGRAM TUTORIALS AND INFORMATION

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This handbook and the information available on the undergraduate section of the [department website](#) are the primary sources of information about the program. From these materials you can learn about program requirements, advising, research and field placement opportunities, and careers in psychology. For a brief overview of the program's requirements, advising and other opportunities, a [five-minute video](#) is available on the department's home page for undergraduate study.

## ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS AND PROGRAM OF STUDY

### REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR AND MINOR

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Requirements for the Major	Requirements for the Minor
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Psychology 101, Introduction to Psychology</li> <li>▪ Psychology 210, Psychological Statistics</li> <li>▪ Psychology 325, Research Methods</li> <li>▪ Psychology 254, Physiological Psychology</li> <li>▪ ONE from: Psychology 205, 214, 230, or 260</li> <li>▪ EITHER:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Three Systems and Foundations courses AND two Advanced Laboratory courses</li> <li>OR</li> <li>○ Four Systems and Foundations courses AND one Advanced Laboratory course</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Psychology 101, Introduction to Psychology</li> <li>▪ One from: Psychology 205, 210, 214, 230, 254, or 260</li> <li>▪ Four additional Psychology courses, at least three of which must be upper level (300-level or higher)</li> <li>▪ NOTE: Although 210 and 325 are not required, if you are considering a Psychology major we highly recommend that you take these courses because they are required for the major</li> </ul>

#### **Bachelor of Arts vs. Bachelor of Science Requirements**

The required Psychology courses for the major are identical for the BA and the BS degrees. However, the [L&S degree requirements](#) are different. The general education requirements are different and BS students must take at least 30 credits of [L&S Approved Advanced Natural Science](#) courses (in any L&S department, not just in Psychology). Psychology courses that satisfy this requirement are noted in the list of courses on p. 7.

#### **Tracking Progress**

You may track your progress toward completing the major using the [Psychology Major Checklist](#) or the [Psychology Minor Checklist](#). A full list of Psychology courses can be found on p. 7.

#### **Requirements for Students who Enrolled at UWM or a UW System School Before Summer 2014**

The requirements for the major and the minor described above are effective for all students who enrolled at UWM or a UW System school beginning Summer session 2014 or after. Students who first enrolled at UWM or a UW System school prior to Summer 2014 may EITHER complete these requirements OR the earlier curriculum which can be found on the [Program of Study](#) page on the department website.

In general the new requirements are easier to satisfy. For example, only one advanced laboratory course is required for the major and Psychology 210 (Psychological Statistics) and Psychology 325 (Research Methods) are not required for the minor. However, if you are a Psychology minor and are considering majoring in Psychology we strongly encourage you to take Psych 210 and 325 as they are required for the major.

## DECLARING THE MAJOR OR MINOR

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Declare the major as soon as you can. This will ensure that you have a Psychology faculty advisor. Data also show that students who declare early are more likely to successfully complete their degree.

Eligibility to Declare the Major	Eligibility to Declare the Minor
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Complete 15 university credits</li><li>▪ Complete Psychology 101</li><li>▪ Read this handbook and complete the online <a href="#">tutorial/quiz</a> on the program</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Complete 45 university credits</li><li>▪ Complete Psychology 101</li></ul>

### How to Declare the Major or Minor

- Choose a Psychology faculty member to be your advisor (p. 11 or the [department webpage](#)).
- Majors only: Read this handbook and then complete the [online tutorial/quiz](#) for new majors.
- Complete the Declaration of Major or Minor form in the department main office, Garland 224. Bring your unofficial transcript and be prepared to name your Psychology faculty advisor.

## COURSE SEQUENCING

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The major is designed to provide breadth and depth, and to build skills in research methods. Thus, there is a four-semester sequence of prerequisites that must be taken in order, beginning with Psychology 101. After you have passed Psychology 101 (grade of D- or higher) you may take other Psychology courses at the same time as the remaining courses in the prerequisite sequence. A minimum of 33 credits and 10 courses is necessary to complete the major.

### The Four Semester Research Methods Sequence

1. **Psychology 101 – Introduction to Psychology.** Students who receive a score of 4 or 5 on the AP Psychology test or who have completed an equivalent course at another institution will receive credit for Psychology 101 at UWM. This course is a prerequisite for all other courses in psychology, including Psychology 210 (Psychological Statistics). Be aware that you need to earn an average GPA of 2.62 across Psychology 101 and 210 to be eligible to take the required Psychology 325 (Research Methods) course (see table on p. 7). (An AP exam score of 4 or 5 counts as an “A.”)
2. **Psychology 210 – Psychological Statistics.** This course provides foundational knowledge in statistics used in scientific research. This course is a prerequisite for Psychology 325 (Research Methods). Again, be aware of the GPA requirement for Psychology 101 and 210 (see table on p. 7). To take Psychology 210 you must have passed the Quantitative Literacy Part A requirement: a grade of C or higher in Math 103, 105, 175, or the equivalent. Psychology 210 satisfies the Quantitative Literacy Part B requirement.
3. **Psychology 325 – Research Methods.** This course covers hypothesis testing, design, analysis, and interpretation of psychological experiments, as well as how to write research reports. This course is a prerequisite for the required Advanced Laboratory course(s). A GPA of 2.62 across both Psychology 101 and 210 is required to be eligible to take this course. A low grade in either may necessitate retaking one or both courses to earn a suitable grade. The table on p. 7 can be

used to determine eligibility. You must also complete the Oral and Written Communication Part A requirement (a grade of C or higher in English 102 or equivalent) before enrolling in Psychology 325. Psychology 325 satisfies the Oral and Written Communication Part B requirement. Note that this course tends to fill up quickly.

4. ***One (or two) Advanced Laboratory course(s)***. The advanced lab courses apply the research methods learned in Psychology 210 and 325 to a specific area of psychology. These courses satisfy the L&S research requirement.

### **Topical Courses in Psychology**

Once you have completed Psychology 101 you have many course options. A good option is to complete one of the 200-level introductory courses (205 – Personality, 214 – Conditioning and Learning, 230 – Social Psychology, 254 – Physiological Psychology, 260 – Child Psychology) as they introduce specific fields and some of them are prerequisites for other courses. Note that Psychology 254 is required of all majors, as well as for almost all of the upper level neuroscience courses. In addition to Psychology 254, at least one other 200-level course is required for the major.

Psychology 210 (Psychological Statistics) is also a good course to take, if you have completed the Math prerequisite (a grade of C or higher in Math 103, 105, 175, or equivalent).

You may also begin taking some of the upper level Systems and Foundations courses once you have completed Psychology 101.

We recommend that you talk with your L&S and Psychology faculty advisors about planning courses appropriate for your interests.

## PSYCHOLOGY 325 ELIGIBILITY

A GPA of 2.62 across Psychology 101 and 210 is required to take Psychology 325. Students may retake a course up to two times (three times total) if necessary (see p. 10).

			210 grade (4 credits)											
			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 Grade (3 credits)	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	1.17
	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	<u>2.72</u>	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	<u>2.76</u>	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	2.210	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	

## LIST OF PSYCHOLOGY COURSES

### Required Courses for All Majors

These courses provide a foundation in the major domains of psychology and an understanding of the methodologies used to conduct research in these domains.

NUMBER	TITLE	CREDITS	PREREQUISITES
101	Introduction to Psychology	3	None
210	Psychological Statistics	4	101; Math 103, 105, 175
254	Physiological Psychology	3	101
325	Research Methods in Psychology	4	GPA of 2.62 in 101 & 210 (see Eligibility Table)

One of the following four courses:

205	Personality	3	101
214	Introduction to Conditioning & Learning	3	101
230	Social Psychology: Psychological Perspectives	3	101
260	Child Psychology	3	101



### Systems and Foundations Courses

Students must take EITHER four Systems and Foundations courses AND one advanced lab OR three Systems and Foundations and two advanced labs.

<sup>NS</sup> denotes Advanced Natural Science course: BS requires 30 L&S Advanced Natural Science credits (in any L&S department). Does not apply to BA.

<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
407	Personality Theory	3	205
412	Abnormal Psychology	3	101
433	<sup>NS</sup> Neuropsychology	3	254, or cons instr
454	<sup>NS</sup> Psychopharmacology and Addiction	3	254, or cons instr
503	<sup>NS</sup> Perception	3	Jr st; 9 cr in psych
510	<sup>NS</sup> Advanced Psychological Statistics	3	Jr st; 210
540	Clinical Psychology: Science and Practice	3	Jr st; 325
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
578	Psychology of Race, Ethnicity, and Health	3	Jr st; 101
609	<sup>NS</sup> Motivation (rarely offered)	3	Jr st; 254 or cons instr
610	<sup>NS</sup> Experimental Design	3	Jr st; 210
611	Current Topics: (subtitled), topics include: <sup>NS</sup> <i>Visual Cognition</i> <sup>NS</sup> <i>Cellular and Molecular Neuroscience</i> <sup>NS</sup> <i>Sleep, Brain Rhythms and Memory</i>	3	Jr st; others vary by course
645	<sup>NS</sup> Hormones and Behavior	3	Jr st; 254
620	Single-Subject Research Methods	3	Jr st; 325 or cons instr
627	<sup>NS</sup> Cognitive Neuroscience	3	Jr st; 210, 254
657	<sup>NS</sup> Neurobiology of Learning and Memory	3	Jr st
680	<sup>NS</sup> Psychology of Aging	3	Jr st; 325 or cons instr
682	<sup>NS</sup> The Aging Brain	3	Jr st; 254

### Advanced Laboratory Courses

These courses provide first-hand laboratory experience with research techniques in a particular area of psychology. You must have passed Psychology 325 with a grade of D- or higher to enroll.

<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	<sup>NS</sup> Advanced Physiological Psychology	4	Jr st; 254, 325
656	<sup>NS</sup> Psychophysiology	4	Jr st; 254, 325
660	Experimental Child Psychology	4	Jr st; 325
677	Experimental Social Psychology	4	Jr st; 325

## AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION – SUGGESTED COURSES

There are currently no concentrations or “tracks” in the major. Students may choose to take a broad and general survey of psychology courses. However, students may tailor their program of study to a specific area of psychology. The UWM psychology department has strengths in the following areas:

<b>Behavior Analysis</b>	Study of environmental influences on behavior in both basic and applied contexts
<b>Health Psychology</b>	Relationships between psychological/behavioral factors and physical health and illness
<b>Mental Health/Professional</b>	Introduction to clinical or counseling psychology (psychological disorders, assessment and treatment). NOTE: You CANNOT get licensed as a therapist with a bachelor’s degree.
<b>Neuroscience</b>	Role of the brain in behavior

The following courses would be appropriate for students seeking an emphasis in one of these four areas of specialization. These are merely suggested courses in these areas. The list does NOT include required courses (such as Psychology 254, Physiological Psychology).

Behavior Analysis Emphasis			Health Psychology Emphasis		
	#	Course Name		#	Course Name
<b>Introductory</b>	214	Conditioning & Learning	<b>Systems and Foundations</b>	320	Psychology of Women
<b>Systems and Foundations</b>	551	Learning & Motivation Theories		555	Health Psychology
	620	Single Subject Res. Methods		578	Psych of Race, Ethnicity, and Health
<b>Advanced Labs</b>	502	Applied Behavior Analysis	<b>Advanced Labs</b>	656	Psychophysiology
	514	Conditioning and Learning		660	Experimental Child Psychology
	660	Experimental Child Psychology		677	Experimental Social Psychology
Mental Health/Professional Emphasis			Neuroscience Emphasis		
	#	Course Name		#	Course Name
<b>Introductory</b>	205	Personality	<b>Systems and Foundations</b>	454	Psychopharmacology and Addiction
	214	Conditioning and Learning		503	Perception
	260	Child Psychology		609	Motivation
<b>Systems and Foundations</b>	319	Gay and Lesbian Psychology		611	Visual Cognition
	320	Psychology of Women		611	Sleep, Brain Rhythms and Memory
	407	Personality Theory		611	Cellular & Molecular Neuroscience
	412	Abnormal Psychology		627	Cognitive Neuroscience
	414	Psychological Testing		645	Hormones & Behavior
	433	Neuropsychology		657	Neurobiol of Learning & Memory
	454	Psychopharmacol. & Addiction		682	The Aging Brain
	540	Clinical Psych: Science/Practice	<b>Advanced Labs</b>	623	Perceptual Processes
560	Developmental Theories	654		Advanced Physiological Psychology	
680	Psychology of Aging				
<b>Advanced Labs</b>	502	Applied Behavior Analysis			
	505	Cognitive Processes			
	514	Conditioning and Learning			
	660	Experimental Child Psychology			

## HONORS IN THE MAJOR

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Psychology majors who meet the following criteria are awarded Honors in the major:

1. A 3.0 cumulative GPA on all credits attempted
2. A 3.5 GPA on all credits that count toward the major
3. A 3.5 GPA on all advanced credits (300-level or higher) that count toward the major

## GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS – COLLEGE OF LETTERS & SCIENCE

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To graduate with a Bachelor's Degree from the College of Letters & Science, students must complete the requirements for the major and the [L&S degree requirements](#). Students should meet regularly with their [L&S advisor](#) to ensure appropriate progress toward the degree.

## TRANSFER STUDENTS AND COURSE EQUIVALENCIES

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Transfer students must complete 15 UWM credits in upper level (300-level or higher) in their major. For a minor nine upper level (300-level or higher) must be completed in the minor at UWM. For additional requirements for transfer students (beyond the major or minor) please consult the [L&S degree requirements](#).

UWM will count transfer courses from other institutions as UWM equivalents if we offer the same (or a very similar course). Sometimes psychology courses are not transferred as UWM equivalents despite strong overlap in course content. To request consideration for such courses to be counted as equivalent to a UWM Psychology course complete this [form](#) available on the department website. Please note that this form is only for psychology courses.

## STUDY ABROAD COURSE EQUIVALENCIES

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Students who study abroad must be sure to earn at least 15 upper level (300-level or higher) non-transfer UWM credits in Psychology. To request consideration for study abroad courses to count as UWM equivalents obtain the necessary form from the [Study Abroad](#) program for the Center for International Education. Then contact the Associate Chair, Dr. Hannula at [Hannula@uwm.edu](mailto:Hannula@uwm.edu) to determine whether the courses in your study abroad program satisfy UWM Psychology requirements.

## RETKING COURSES

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Students wishing to retake a course for a second time should complete this [form](#) available on our department website. You may not retake a course more than twice (three times total).

Psychology 101 (Introduction to Psychology) and Psychology 210 (Psychological Statistics) are among the most frequently retaken courses. This is because an average GPA of 2.62 across these two courses is required to enroll in Psychology 325 (Research Methods), which is required for the major. Please be aware of the grade you need to earn in 101 and 210 (see table on p. 7). Avoiding retaking these courses can save time and money!

## ADVISING

Students will choose a psychology faculty member to serve as their psychology advisor when declaring the major or minor. However, there is no need to wait until declaring the major to seek advising from a faculty member. Psychology faculty advisors are best able to assist with opportunities in the psychology program and career planning. L&S advisors (see p. 11) are better suited to assist with questions about the degree requirements. Students are encouraged to meet with their advisors regularly.

### CHOOSING A FACULTY ADVISOR

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Students should choose a faculty advisor from the area that is of most interest to them (see table below), as these faculty will be most knowledgeable regarding career planning in that area. However, students are free to choose any faculty member in the department as an advisor.

Area of Interest	Description	Faculty Advisors	UWM Email
Behavior Analysis	Study of environmental influences on behavior in both basic and applied contexts	Kodak Tiger	<a href="mailto:Kodak@uwm.edu">Kodak@uwm.edu</a> <a href="mailto:tiger@uwm.edu">tiger@uwm.edu</a>
Health Psychology	Relationships between psychological/behavioral factors and physical health and illness	Fleming Merritt Reddy	<a href="mailto:mundo@uwm.edu">mundo@uwm.edu</a> <a href="mailto:merrittm@uwm.edu">merrittm@uwm.edu</a> <a href="mailto:reddy@uwm.edu">reddy@uwm.edu</a>
Mental Health/Professional	Introduction to clinical or counseling psychology (psychological disorders, assessment and treatment). NOTE: You CANNOT get licensed as a therapist with a bachelors degree.	Cahill Davies Klein-Tasman Lee Lisdahl Osmon Ridley	<a href="mailto:cahill@uwm.edu">cahill@uwm.edu</a> <a href="mailto:hobart@uwm.edu">hobart@uwm.edu</a> <a href="mailto:bklein@uwm.edu">bklein@uwm.edu</a> <a href="mailto:leehj@uwm.edu">leehj@uwm.edu</a> <a href="mailto:medinak@uwm.edu">medinak@uwm.edu</a> <a href="mailto:neuropsych@uwm.edu">neuropsych@uwm.edu</a> <a href="mailto:rridley@uwm.edu">rridley@uwm.edu</a>
Neuroscience	Role of the brain in behavior	Diba Driscoll Frick Greene Greenberg Hannula Helmstetter Moyer	<a href="mailto:diba@uwm.edu">diba@uwm.edu</a> <a href="mailto:driscoli@uwm.edu">driscoli@uwm.edu</a> <a href="mailto:frickk@uwm.edu">frickk@uwm.edu</a> <a href="mailto:ag@uwm.edu">ag@uwm.edu</a> <a href="mailto:agreenb@uwm.edu">agreenb@uwm.edu</a> <a href="mailto:hannula@uwm.edu">hannula@uwm.edu</a> <a href="mailto:fjh@uwm.edu">fjh@uwm.edu</a> <a href="mailto:jrmoyer@uwm.edu">jrmoyer@uwm.edu</a>
General	Take a broad range of courses on any topic in psychology ( <i>any faculty member would be appropriate</i> )	Lima Schaefer Smith	<a href="mailto:suelima@uwm.edu">suelima@uwm.edu</a> <a href="mailto:abyness@uwm.edu">abyness@uwm.edu</a> <a href="mailto:kdp@uwm.edu">kdp@uwm.edu</a>

## L&S ADVISING

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Your L&S (or other college/school) advisor is the ideal person to assist with general degree requirements and course planning. They can help ensure that you have taken all of the appropriate general education and breadth courses, and satisfied other L&S and university-wide requirements for graduation. They also can assist you with the requirements for the Psychology major and minor. Your psychology faculty advisor can assist you with planning your psychology courses and career development, but they will not be able to assist you with the general degree requirements.

The name of your advisor is available on the top right of your unofficial transcript in PAWS. You may also contact the [L&S advising office](#) to schedule an appointment. We strongly encourage you to meet with your L&S advisor regularly.

## DIRECTOR OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

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Students may also consult with the Associate Chair of Psychology, Deborah Hannula, [hannula@uwm.edu](mailto:hannula@uwm.edu), who handles 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.

## UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

### BENEFITS OF RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIPS

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Serving as a research assistant in a Psychology faculty research laboratory is a valuable opportunity. Research experience allows students to develop a portfolio of valuable skills, such as problem solving, interpersonal awareness, critical evaluation, and general research experience. Research assistantships also are an excellent way to get to know a faculty member better, which can be of great use for letters of recommendation for graduate school or jobs. Such experience is excellent preparation for the job market and graduate school. Research experience is absolutely crucial for students who wish to go to graduate school, especially for a Ph.D. program. In fact, the earlier you start the better – freshman and sophomores are encouraged to get involved.

The Department is proud that many of our undergraduates have carried out research under the supervision of Psychology faculty that has been published in some of the best journals.

### COURSE CREDIT AND PAID RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

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Students may earn credit for their research assistantships by enrolling in Psych 290, Undergraduate Research Lower Division (freshman and sophomores), and Psych 690, Undergraduate Research Upper Division (juniors and seniors). Some paid opportunities are available in the form of Stipend for Undergraduate Research Fellowships ([SURE](#)) awarded by the [Office of Undergraduate Research](#). However, most research assistantships are unpaid. Talk with your faculty research supervisor to see if you should apply for a SURF award.

## FINDING A RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIP

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1. Find a faculty member or members whose research is of most interest to you and most relevant to your career goals.
  - Think about what aspects of psychology interest you. Read scientific articles in this area.
  - Check the psychology department website's [list of faculty members](#) and their research interests. Some professors have a lab webpage that describes what they do in more detail. Links to these webpages can be found under each faculty member's page on the departmental faculty listing.
  - Other departments, such as Social Work, Counseling Psychology, Human Movement Sciences, and others may also offer research opportunities that may be of interest to you. Consult their websites if you are not finding relevant options in the Psychology department.
  - Check the [Office of Undergraduate Research](#) webpage for listings of research opportunities.
2. Apply to work in the lab(s) that interest you.
  - Do NOT send a mass email to many faculty at once.
  - Contact the faculty member you are interested in working with. Go to office hours, send a brief email describing your interests, or make an appointment to meet with them.
  - Either via email or in person, provide a brief description of your background (e.g., major, year in school) and why you are interested in working in that lab. Do your homework before emailing! Read their papers, understand the kind of research they do.
  - Some faculty have information regarding how to apply to work in their lab on their lab web page. Check for this before emailing the faculty and follow those instructions if they exist.
3. If no opportunities are available, don't be afraid to inquire again in a few months, or to ask the faculty member if they may have spots available in future semesters.

## SENIOR THESIS

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In addition to providing research assistantships, the Department allows especially talented seniors to complete a thesis. Completion of Psychology 698, Senior Thesis, allows a student to demonstrate his or her ability to formulate a research idea and pursue independent and original investigation. Completing a senior thesis makes a student more competitive for admission to graduate school.

### Procedures for Completing a Senior Thesis

Undergraduate theses should be supervised by a psychology faculty member. Students must have a 3.5 overall GPA to do a thesis. The remaining procedures (next paragraph) for completing a thesis are guidelines. Consult your intended thesis advisor about the expectations for completing your thesis.

Students should form a thesis committee consisting of their research advisor and at least one other UWM faculty member. Before conducting the thesis research, students are strongly encouraged to write a thesis proposal and orally defend it at a meeting of the thesis committee. After the research is completed, students are required to write a thesis and orally defend it at a meeting of the thesis committee.

## FIELD PLACEMENTS

Psychology is one of the most popular majors in the United States. Thousands of graduates each year complete basic coursework in psychology. Going beyond the basic coursework by completing a field placement is one 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 are basically like doing volunteer work in a psychology-related setting while earning course credit. Field placements offer you the opportunity to get out of the classroom for more real-world, hands-on learning experiences. Also, completing a field placement can help you network and obtain references for jobs and graduate school. Students have worked in forensic, health, school, and clinical psychology settings. Others have gained valuable experience working with children and adults with special needs, and by training sea lions at the Milwaukee County Zoo.

### GENERAL FIELD PLACEMENT REQUIREMENTS

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With the permission of a faculty sponsor, students can register for field placement by enrolling in Psych 292 (freshman, sophomores), 692 (juniors), or 697 (seniors). Typically field placements are 3 credits, which corresponds to 9-10 hours per week for one semester. A minimum of 135 hours of work is required for the semester. Some field placements ask students to work less (say 5 hours per week) over two semesters and students would register for the second of their two semesters of work. If you find a placement that you are very interested in, but are unsure how to work out the hours per credit please contact your faculty sponsor or the Associate Chair for Undergraduate Studies, Deborah Hannula, [hannula@uwm.edu](mailto:hannula@uwm.edu).

### HOW TO FIND A FIELD PLACEMENT

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Finding a field placement involves a bit of legwork to find an appropriate placement and coordinate with a faculty sponsor. To find an appropriate field placement:

1. Find a field placement opportunity that is related to your interests.
  - Think about what aspects of psychology interest you and what kind of job you would like to have when you complete school. Finding a field placement that is related to your interests can help you decide if that is the field for you and provide experience that increases your marketability.
  - Explore options for volunteer positions that could serve as a field placement. You may already be working at or know of a setting in which you'd like to do your placement. If not, use the internet to find sites of interest. You may also talk with faculty members you know about opportunities they are aware of.
  - Consult this [list of organizations](#) in the Milwaukee area that rely on volunteers.
2. If you have not already, find a faculty member who is willing to have you sign up for the field placement under his or her name. Discuss the placement(s) you are considering with him or her and learn about the process for enrolling and requirements for completing the course.
3. Contact the possible placement site to see if they have opportunities available that would work as a

field placement course (e.g., appropriate number of hours, willing to complete a few brief evaluations of your contributions).

4. Your field placement supervisor (not the faculty sponsor) will be your primary supervisor. You will work out your schedule and responsibilities with them by completing a contract together regarding expectations for the placement. The supervisor will also provide an evaluation of your work that will determine your grade. Forms for completing this contract and the supervisor evaluations are available on the [department website](#).

## EXAMPLE FIELD PLACEMENT SITES

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Field placements are not limited to the examples listed here. They are simply presented as examples of the types of field placements students have done in recent years.

COPE Services Crisis Line  
Easter Seals  
Milwaukee County Behavioral Health  
Running Rebels  
Sojourner Truth Center  
Walker's Point Youth and Family Center  
The Center for Autism Treatment  
The Autism Behavioral Network

## PSI CHI – THE NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY IN PSYCHOLOGY

Psi Chi is the national honor society in Psychology. For over fifty years, the [UWM chapter of Psi Chi](#) 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 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.

Information on [how to apply](#) can be found on the Psi Chi section of the department webpage.

## AFTER UWM

### CAREERS IN PSYCHOLOGY

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Students should start preparing early for their career after UWM and make the best use of resources available to support them in achieving their professional goals. Many students go on to graduate school to pursue psychology-related careers. Others find careers in business, education, human services, and other professions. Sometimes choosing a career is the hardest decision students make.



There are many online resources available to explore career options. This useful website, [Careers in Psychology](#), is available on our department page. [UWM's Career Development](#) center has a host of online tools for exploring careers and preparing yourself to be competitive for jobs in your chosen field. The Career Development center also offers informational events an in-person advising on issues related to career planning and development. The UWM Alumni website also includes a section on [Career Services](#). In addition, the following resources offer a brief overview of career options with a psychology degree.

### **Career options with a B.A. or B.S. in psychology**

A bachelors degree in psychology does not make you a “psychologist.” The term psychologist is reserved for those who have completed a doctoral degree in psychology. Many careers in the field of psychology, particularly those that involve providing psychological treatments, require a masters or doctoral level degree. While there are few bachelor’s degree employment options directly in psychology, a B.A. or B.S. in psychology is excellent preparation for many careers in which an understanding of human behavior is important. Psychology is an incredibly broad field and offers training in human behavior, cognition, perception, development, neuroscience, health, and treatment. The American Psychological Association is the largest organization in support of professional in the field. The APA has put together [information](#) for undergraduate students who want to know what they will be able to do with an undergraduate degree in psychology. In addition, the following list contains examples of the types of careers available to those with bachelors degrees in psychology.

- **Community and Social Services:** Program Director, Volunteer Coordinator, Social Worker (in Wisconsin a “social worker” must have a social work degree, but many states use this title for people with psychology backgrounds).
- **Human Resources:** Employee Development, Training Coordinator, Claims Administrator, Employment Interviewer. Note: a minor in [business](#) is recommended if your desired career is in this area.
- **Scientific Research:** Laboratory Manager, Research Specialist, Marketing Research, Opinion Survey Researcher. If you are interested in a career in research be sure to become a [research assistant](#) in a faculty laboratory. Taking additional statistics courses may also be useful. If you want to pursue research as a professor or director of your own laboratory you will need a Ph.D.
- **Residential Care:** Residential/Human Services Worker (for many populations, including developmentally delayed, delinquents, elderly). Note: if you are interested in working with juvenile (or other offenders) a double major or minor in [Criminal Justice](#) would be useful.
- **Management and Business:** Banking, Customer service, Sales, Public Relations, Restaurant and hotel work in a variety of capacities. Note: several different minors may be useful for careers in this area, including [business](#) and [communication](#).
- **Student Affairs/Services:** Student activities/housing, Alumni relations and development work, College Student Personnel Worker
- **Probations/Parole/Law Enforcement:** Parole Officer, Corrections Officer, Juvenile Intake Worker. Note: consider a double major or minor in [Criminal Justice](#) if you are interested in careers in this field.
- **Education:** Child Care Worker, Peace Corps volunteer, Teacher’s aide, Parent Educator. Note, if you are interested in working with children consider UWM’s certificate in [Childhood and Adolescence Studies](#). If you wish to be a K-12 teacher in the public school system (and some private schools) you will need to complete an [education](#) degree.

### **What do psychologists do?**

The Bureau of Labor and Statistics is a government resource that offers detailed information about thousands of career fields, including [psychology](#). It details what psychologists do on a daily basis, typical work settings, average income, prospective job market, credentials and skills needed to succeed.

### **Careers similar to psychology**

During a person's career as an undergraduate student, he or she will explore, broadly, several subfields of psychology. Such diverse views can lead to a career as a psychologist, or career paths similar to psychology. A career path that starts with an undergraduate degree in psychology can lead to jobs from social work to academia; from academia to policy making; from project management to administration. Students will be more likely to succeed if they consider, early on, the types of credentials and intellectual understanding needed to succeed in their chosen field. The Bureau of Labor and Statistics is also a good source of information for [careers similar to psychology](#).

## **PREPARING FOR GRADUATE SCHOOL**

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A graduate degree, either at the masters or doctoral level, is required for some careers in psychology. For example, a Ph.D. is required to be a professor or a scientist. A graduate degree is also required for many careers involving providing services to individuals with mental health or similar concerns. Choosing the right graduate program can be tricky, especially for students interested in pursuing a career in clinical practice. Students who are interested in a career in clinical practice should be aware that there are a number of different types of degrees, including a masters, Psy.D., or Ph.D., that can lead to a career in therapy or other types of mental health work. A Psy.D. is a more clinically-oriented version of a Ph.D. Masters degrees can be particularly confusing because some will allow you to gain licensure to practice psychotherapy independently and some will not. Students should contact their psychology advisor for help exploring the possibility of applying to graduate programs in psychology. There is also a great deal of information about graduate degrees, particularly for Ph.D.s in clinical psychology, available on the [Career Planning](#) section of the department website.

### **Becoming a Competitive Applicant for Graduate School**

Students should be aware that Ph.D. programs in psychology and neuroscience are extremely competitive. A strong GPA, GRE scores, letters of recommendation, and extensive research experience are necessary to be a competitive applicant. Psy.D. and masters programs are less competitive, but still require good grades, letters of recommendation, and typically experience outside the classroom (such as research or work in the field). Start gaining research experience early! Students should discuss experiences to maximize their chances of gaining acceptance with their faculty advisor. The [Career Planning](#) section of the department website also includes lots of helpful resources and strategies for developing a competitive application.

## OTHER RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS AND FACULTY

### TUTORING AND ACADEMIC SUPPORT - PASS

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Panther Academic Support Services ([PASS](#)) offers a wide range of tutoring options, particularly for 100- and 200-level courses. In Psychology, supplemental instruction is often (but not always) available for 101, 205, 210, 254, and 260. In addition, weekly small group tutoring is available for these same courses. PASS also offers walk-in tutoring, tutoring by appointment, and online tutoring.

### APPEALS, GRIEVANCES & CONCERNS

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L&S has a [formal policy](#) for handling grievances, concerns and grade appeals. Generally speaking, and as outlined in the policy, the first course of action is to discuss the matter with your instructor. Should that not resolve the issue grievances and appeals may be brought to the Associate Chair, Dr. Deborah Hannula ([hannula@uwm.edu](mailto:hannula@uwm.edu)) within 30 days of the event/matter that prompted the appeal or grievance.

### ACCESSIBILITY RESOURCE CENTER

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The [Accessibility Resource Center](#) (ARC) serves students with disabilities. They provide a wide range of support services. Students should consult with SAC about services offered and how to work with instructors to ensure that services are appropriately implemented in their courses.

### WRITING CENTER

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Some Psychology courses are writing intensive. The UWM [Writing Center](#) offers both online and face-to-face assistance for students in all subjects and at any point in the writing process.

### NORRIS HEALTH CENTER

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The [Norris Health Center](#) offers services to students for health problems of all types, including psychological distress. Their website includes links to anonymous [online screening](#) questionnaires for problems such as depression, anxiety, PTSD and eating disorders. Their website also includes a link to [ULLifeline](#), an online resource for mental health issues that is designed especially for college students. Norris offers many other helpful services and programs.