

PSYCHOLOGY, B.A.

Requirements

Total minimum number of credits required for a major in Psychology leading to the B.A. degree — 120.

Total minimum number of credits for a minor in psychology — 18.

The Psychology major at Wilkes University emphasizes a scientific approach to the content, methods, and theories of human and nonhuman behavior. Wilkes students are prepared to pursue professional careers in psychology or related fields such as medicine or law, obtain employment immediately upon graduation, or attend graduate school in psychology.

Psychology Major

Coordinator: Dr. Jennifer Thomas

The Psychology major must complete a minimum of 120 credit hours. In addition to satisfying the University's General Education requirements, the student majoring in Psychology completes a minimum of 41 credits in psychology, including PSY 101 (General Psychology), five breadth area courses, two applied psychology courses, a four-course capstone sequence, and a career mentoring course. (Please see the course listings for the specific course requirements.) PSY 101 is a prerequisite to all other psychology courses. The Psychology major must take either BIO 105 (Human Biology) or another biology course approved by the department in partial fulfillment of their Area II General Education requirement. It is also strongly recommended that the student take a foreign language.

Students are encouraged to consult the Undergraduate Bulletin for all information regarding degree requirements. Each student should also meet frequently and work closely with the faculty advisor in order to make the optimal course selections based upon the student's interests and career goals. With numerous free elective credits, many Psychology majors choose to major or minor in a second discipline.

There are two different options for satisfying the capstone requirement in psychology. For students who are interested in pursuing graduate studies in psychology or psychology research in their career, the research-based capstone will provide an excellent opportunity for hands-on research experience. For those who are more interested in pursuing a career immediately after graduation, or are pursuing non-research based careers, or graduate school in an applied area, the applied option will provide valuable experience in real-world settings, and with additional guidance and structure, will enhance the student's applied skills. The courses for the two options are detailed below.

All students majoring in psychology must complete a common set of courses in the major.

Breadth Area Courses (21 cr.)

Psychology majors must take all of the following courses:

PSY101	General Psychology	3
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PSY 221	Developmental Psychology	3
PSY 242	Personality	3
PSY 341	Social Psychology	3
PSY 331	Cognition	3
PSY 311	Behavioral Neuroscience	4
PSY 309	Career Mentoring for the Social Sciences	2

Applied Topic Area Courses (minimum 6 cr.)

Psychology majors will also choose at least two psychology courses from the following list of applied topics.

PSY 250	Applied Behavior Analysis	3
PSY 257	Neuropsychology	3
PSY 264	Positive Psychology	3
PSY 266	Peak Performance Coaching	3
PSY 351	Behavioral Medicine	3
PSY 352	Abnormal Behavior**	3
PSY 353	Clinical Methods in Psychology	3
PSY 354	Exceptional Individual	3
PSY 355	Forensic Psychology	3
PSY 356	Industrial/Organizational Psychology	3
PSY 358	Psychological Tests and Measurements	3
PSY 359	Psychopharmacology [§]	

**Course was formerly called "Psychopathology"

Capstone Sequence (14 cr.)

Majors must choose one of the following capstone options:

Option #1 - Research-Based Capstone		
PSY 200	Statistics	4
PSY 300	Research Methods	4
PSY 400	Research Capstone	3
	PSY Elective	3
Note: The courses for this option must be completed in sequence and may not be taken concurrently. It is recommended that students complete most of the required		

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psychology courses before taking PSY 300, which should not be taken prior to the junior year.

Option #2 - Applied Capstone

PSY 200	Statistics	4
PSY 301	Psychological Research	3
PSY 399	Internship Experience	3
PSY 401	Applied Capstone	4

Note: PSY 301 and 399 may be taken in any order and may be taken concurrently, but both must be successfully completed prior to enrolling in PSY 401. Students taking PSY 401 will need a second internship as part of the requirement for this course. The second internship should be arranged prior to enrolling in PSY 401.

Recommended Course Sequence

First Semester Credits	
BIO 105 Human Biology	3
Distribution Requirement	3
ENG 101 Composition or Distribution Requirement	3-4
FYF 101 First-Year Foundations	3
PSY 101 General Psychology	3
Total Credits	15-16

Second Semester	
Distribution Requirements	9
ENG 101 Composition or Distribution Requirement	3-4
PSY 242 Personality	3
Total Credits	15-16

Third Semester	
Distribution Requirements	6
Free Electives	6
PSY 221 Developmental Psychology	3
Total Credits	15

Fourth Semester	
Distribution Requirements	6
Free Elective	3
PSY 331 Cognition or PSY 341 Introduction to Social Psychology	3
PSY 200 Statistics or Major Elective	3-4
Total Credits	15-16

Fifth Semester	
Free Electives	9
PSY 331 Cognition or PSY 341 Introduction to Social Psychology	3
PSY 200 Statistics or Major Elective	3-4
Total Credits	15-16

Sixth Semester	
PSY 309 Career Mentoring	2

PSY 311 Behavioral Neuroscience or Major Elective	3-4
Free Electives	6
PSY 300 Research Methods or PSY 301 Psychological Research	3-4
Total Credits	14-16

Seventh Semester	
PSY 311 Behavioral Neuroscience or Major Elective	3-4
PSY 400 or PSY 401 Senior Capstone*	3
or PSY 300 Research Methods	3-4
or PSY 301 Psychological Research	
or Free Electives	6-9
Total Credits	15-16

Eighth Semester	
Major Elective or PSY 400 or PSY 401 Senior Capstone*	3
Free Electives	9
Total Credits	12

*Students can choose to take the capstone course in either the fall or spring of their senior year.

PSY. PSYCHOLOGY

PSY-101. GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY

Credits: 3

An introduction to the field of psychology with emphasis on objective and systematic methods of inquiry. Extensive survey of major psychological topics including: biological basis of behavior, sensory systems, learning, cognition, emotions, consciousness, development, stress, personality, social factors and mental health.

PSY-200. STATISTICS

Credits: 4

An introduction to the use of statistical procedures (by hand and with SPSS) in the analysis of psychological data. Topics include descriptive statistics and inferential statistics. Techniques such as t-tests, ANOVA, correlation and regression will be used for hypothesis testing. It is recommended that students take this course at the end of their sophomore or their junior year. Psychology and Neuroscience majors must earn a 2.0 or higher in this course.

Pre-Requisites

[[PSY-101]] and Math competency (MTH 101 or higher).

PSY-221. DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY

Credits: 3

The course provides a general view of human growth and development from conception through the life span. Physical, cognitive, personal, and social development of the various stages of life will be presented. Discussions will include issues such as the influence of heredity versus environment and how these issues can be studied using various developmental research techniques.

Pre-Requisites

[[PSY-101]].

PSY-222. ADOLESCENT PSYCHOLOGY

Credits: 3

This course is designed as a study of the adolescent stage of life. Emphasis will be placed on the following areas of development: physical; emotional; cognitive; and social.

Pre-Requisites

[[PSY-101]].

PSY-242. PERSONALITY

Credits: 3

An examination of the major theoretical perspectives on personality development and functioning, with additional emphasis on the assessment of personality and research in personality.

Pre-Requisites

[[PSY-101]].

PSY-250. APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS

Credits: 3

This course will explore the dynamics and management of human behavior. As such, the course will involve exercises with empirical research, statistics, literature searches and analysis with emphasis on the principles emanating from Operant and Pavlovian conditioning phenomena.

Pre-Requisites

[[PSY-101]].

PSY-257. NEUROPSYCHOLOGY

Credits: 3

A survey of the relationship between nervous system physiology and human behavior with emphasis on neurological disorders, neuropsychological assessment, head injury, cerebral asymmetry, and rehabilitation.

Pre-Requisites

[[PSY-101]].

PSY-264. POSITIVE PSYCHOLOGY

Credits: 3

Positive Psychology encompasses psychological theory and research about what makes our lives satisfying, purposeful, and "worth living", as well as what creates happiness and well-being. Students will examine the major theories and concepts of the field of positive psychology, and will engage in a variety of empirically-supported interventions designed to help them reach their fullest potential, improve overall quality of life, and enhance psychological well-being.

PSY-266. PEAK PERFORMANCE COACHING

Credits: 3

Peak Performance Coaching is a field of study and application with the aim of helping individuals reach their optimal level of performance. Students will learn and use multiple methods that can help clients with the process of setting and reaching goals. This course surveys and applies approaches such as Neurolinguistic Programming (NLP) and Life Coaching, employing techniques from these disciplines.

Pre-Requisites

[[PSY-101]]

PSY-300. RESEARCH METHODS

Credits: 4

A lecture and laboratory course designed to familiarize the student with the methods of psychological research. Hands-on experimental participation will give the student direct experience with research design and statistical analyses using SPSS. The student will prepare a formal APA style research proposal to be used for the capstone experience.

[Click here for course fees.](#)

Pre-Requisites

[[PSY-101]] and [[PSY-200]]. Students must have earned a 2.0 or higher in [[PSY-200]]. To be taken by Psychology or Neuroscience majors only, during the junior or senior year.

PSY-301. PSYCHOLOGICAL RESEARCH

Credits: 3

An introduction to how psychological research methods and statistics are used in academic journals and the popular media. The following topics will be discussed: scientific method, research methods used to gather evidence, descriptive statistics and hypothesis testing. Students will be asked to critically review and evaluate research findings.

Pre-Requisites

[[PSY-101]] and [[PSY-200]]. Students must have earned a 2.0 or higher in [[PSY-200]]. To be taken by Psychology majors only, during the junior or senior year.

PSY-309. CAREER MENTORING FOR THE SOCIAL SCIENCES

Credits: 2

This course will offer career guidance for students in the Behavioral and Social Sciences. The course will include topics such as mentoring, networking, résumés and interviewing skills.

Pre-Requisites

[[PSY-101]], junior standing. Course will be cross-listed with PS and [[SOC-309]] Course credits will not count towards minor credits. Open only to majors in the Social and Behavioral Sciences.

PSY-311. BEHAVIORAL NEUROSCIENCE

Credits: 4

A study of the physiological mechanisms mediating behavior and cognition. Emphasis on the structure and function of the nervous system and the neurophysiological bases of sensory processes, emotion, abnormal behavior, sleep, learning and memory, pain, and drug abuse. Laboratory experience includes brain dissection and psychophysiological techniques employed in human behavioral neuroscience research.

[Click here for course fees.](#)

Pre-Requisites

[[PSY-101]]; junior or senior standing.

PSY-331. COGNITION

Credits: 3

A survey of human cognitive processes such as attention, pattern recognition, memory, language, and problem solving as well as other selected aspects of human cognition. The course includes historical as well as current perspectives on cognitive issues and emphasis on the research techniques used.

Pre-Requisites

[[PSY-101]].

PSY-333. CRITICAL THINKING IN PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCE

Credits: 3

This course provides an opportunity to learn and practice the basic skills of critical thinking within the context of psychological science. Students will evaluate claims and theories in psychology, generate alternative explanations of psychological findings, identify common fallacies in thinking, construct and evaluate arguments, and learn how to become a more intelligent consumer of information. Additional topics include the interface of politics and the media with science and the dangers of pseudoscience.

Pre-Requisites

[[PSY-101]].

PSY-341. INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

Credits: 3

An introduction to the study of social behavior from a psychological perspective. Topics include attitude formation and change, conformity, leadership, culture, gender and sexuality, prejudice and discrimination. Cross listed with [[SOC-341]].

Pre-Requisites

[[ANT-101]], [[PSY-101]], or [[SOC-101]].

PSY-351. BEHAVIORAL MEDICINE**Credits:** 3

This course provides a survey of the basic theoretical concepts and major issues in Behavioral Medicine. Specifically, this course examines how the areas of health, illness, and medicine can be studied from a psychological perspective. Topics of emphasis include the following: the psychological aspects of wellness and illness; preventive medicine; stress; chronic and terminal diseases (such as cancer and AIDS); and the use of alternative medicine.

Pre-Requisites

[[PSY-101]].

PSY-352. ABNORMAL BEHAVIOR**Credits:** 3

A general survey of psychological disorders in children and adults with emphasis on symptomatology, etiology, and assessment. Forensic and classification issues are also examined.

Pre-Requisites

[[PSY-101]], [[PSY-242]].

PSY-353. CLINICAL METHODS IN PSYCHOLOGY**Credits:** 3

A survey of the clinical methods in psychology including general therapeutic models and specific clinical techniques. Issues of assessment and diagnosis of psychological disorders are examined.

Pre-Requisites

[[PSY-101]]; [[PSY-242]]; [[PSY-352]]

PSY-354. THE EXCEPTIONAL INDIVIDUAL**Credits:** 3

A study of the psychological, physical, and social challenges and needs of exceptional individuals with an emphasis on etiology, assessment, impact, and educational interventions.

Pre-Requisites

[[PSY-101]], [[PSY-221]].

PSY-355. FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY**Credits:** 3

A survey of the role that psychology has played in the legal system from issues of morality and theories of crime, to eyewitness testimony, the evaluation of criminal suspects, and jury selection. The application of the methods and theories of psychology to the legal system will be emphasized.

Pre-Requisites

[[PSY-101]]

PSY-356. INDUSTRIAL/ORGANIZATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY**Credits:** 3

A survey of the applied areas of personnel, organizational, human factors, and consumer psychology.

Pre-Requisites

[[PSY-101]].

PSY-358. PSYCHOLOGICAL TESTS AND MEASURES**Credits:** 3

A survey of the psychometric properties of various instruments and measures of psychological phenomena (especially intelligence and personality). A variety of group and individual tests are studied as to their reliability, validity, and utility.

Pre-Requisites

[[PSY-101]], [[PSY-200]].

PSY-359. PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY**Credits:** 3

A study of the effects and mechanisms of the action of psychoactive drugs on behavior. Focus will be placed on drugs used to treat psychopathological disorders and drugs of abuse. Topics of emphasis include a survey of stimulants, depressants, antipsychotics, antidepressants, psychedelics, and legal drugs, such as caffeine, nicotine, and alcohol.

Pre-Requisites

[[PSY-101]].

PSY-362. HISTORY OF PSYCHOLOGY**Credits:** 3

A study of the philosophic and scientific roots of contemporary psychology, with emphasis on the applicability of past questions and knowledge to current psychological thought.

Pre-Requisites

[[PSY-101]].

PSY-398. TOPICS**Credits:** 3

The study of a topic of special interest not extensively treated in other courses. Topics chosen according to interest of the instructor. Because of its variable content, this course may be repeated for credit.

PSY-399. COOPERATIVE EDUCATION**Credits:** 1-3

Professional cooperative education placement in a private or public organization related to the student's academic objectives and career goals. In addition to their work experience, students are required to submit weekly reaction papers and an academic project to a Faculty Coordinator in the student's discipline. (See the Cooperative Education section of this bulletin for placement procedures.)

[Click here for course fees.](#)**Pre-Requisites**

Sophomore standing, minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA, consent of academic advisor, and approval of placement by the department chairperson.

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PSY-400. RESEARCH CAPSTONE

Credits: 3

This course is designed to provide a research-based capstone experience for senior Psychology majors. Students will run an experiment, conduct the appropriate statistical analysis, and present the results formally in an APA manuscript, a poster, and in an oral presentation.

[Click here for course fees.](#)

Pre-Requisites

[[PSY-101]]; [[PSY-200]]; [[PSY-300]]; Senior status and departmental permission.

PSY-401. APPLIED CAPSTONE

Credits: 4

This course will offer a professional capstone experience, including a required internship experience. Students will prepare client case presentations based upon their observations during their internship. An internship is required prior to taking PSY 401 (PSY 399) and a second internship is required for this course, which is counted with the four credit requirement.

[Click here for course fees.](#)

Pre-Requisites

[[PSY-101]]; [[PSY-200]]; [[PSY-301]]; [[PSY-399]]; Senior status.