

PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT

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The Psychology Department provides students with a background in the major areas of expertise within the modern discipline of psychology. A major in psychology leads to the Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degree. Completion of requirements for a Bachelor's degree in Psychology ensures that students have been given an extensive background in research methods and have been introduced to the basic areas of specialization within psychology. To this end, the curriculum is designed around a set of required courses called **The Core** which includes Introduction to Psychology; a sequence of two research methodology courses; Field Experience & Research, an internship course; and a Senior Seminar in a specialized area of interest. In addition to these core courses, students choose six electives: One Group A Platform course in the areas of physiological or cognitive psychology; one Group B Platform course in the areas of clinical, developmental, or social psychology; one Group C Platform course in the areas of diversity and social justice; and three additional electives, at least one of which must be at the 4000 level. In selecting courses beyond the required core, students enrich the scope of their knowledge, and are able to prepare for employment or advancement in a way that matches their particular interests, abilities, and occupational goals. While some students begin employment with a Bachelor's degree, in order to advance professionally, many students go on to pursue graduate degrees in psychology or social work. The program provides majors with a strong background for entering graduate studies in many related fields of human service.

Requirements for a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) Degree in Psychology

A. Departmental Course Requirements (11 courses)

Five Core Courses

- 1) PY2010 Introduction to Psychology
- 2) PY3010 Research Design & Analysis I
- 3) PY4XXX Research Design and Analysis II
- 4) Field Experience & Research (Internship Course)
- 5) One 5000-level Senior Seminar course

Six Electives

- 1) Group A Platform Elective
- 2) Group B Platform Elective
- 3) Group C Platform Elective
- 4) 3000-/4000-level Elective
- 5) 3000-/4000-level Elective
- 6) 4000-level Elective

B. Departmental GPA and Minimum Grade Requirements

Minimum Psychology GPA of 2.5 based on highest grade in each of the 11 courses required for the major

Minimum grade of C in Introduction to Psychology, Research Design and Analysis I, Research Design and Analysis II

C. College-Wide Requirements

- 1) 120 credits overall
- 2) 2.0 Minimum Cumulative GPA
- 3) English Mastery Satisfied (EMS)
- 4) Math Proficiency
- 5) College Diversity Requirement
- 6) General Education Requirements
- 7) Residency Requirement (min. 40 OW credits)
- 8) Liberal Arts Requirement (min 90 LA credits)
- 9) Upper-Division Requirement (45 credits)

Bachelor of Science (B.S.) Degree Requirements

In addition to meeting all the requirements for the B.A., students wishing to earn a Bachelor of Science degree must complete the following:

- Math at the Pre-calculus level or higher (currently MA2090) AND
- Two years (4 semesters) of science courses with laboratory (Biology, Chemistry, and/or Physics). Science courses for non-majors cannot be applied toward the B.S. degree.

Students wishing to earn the B.S. degree must have their program approved by a faculty advisor in the Psychology Department no later than the end of the first half of their junior year.

Declaring a Major

The Psychology Department must approve the Application for Psychology Major before students may declare a major in Psychology. All students must meet with a faculty advisor in the Psychology Department, and bring a transcript of all courses taken at Old Westbury and elsewhere.

In order to be able to declare a major in Psychology, students must meet the following requirements:

1. **At least 32 credits**, taken either at Old Westbury or elsewhere
2. **Cumulative GPA of 2.5** or higher
3. **Introduction to Psychology (PY 2010)** or its equivalent **with a grade of C or higher**
4. **One other Psychology course** applicable to the requirements for the major **with a grade of C or higher**

Transfer Students

1. Transfer students must complete 44 credits in psychology to complete the major. At least 24 of these must be taken at Old Westbury.
2. A maximum of 20 approved and applicable credits can be applied to the major from transfer institutions. Additional psychology credits can count toward the baccalaureate degree but not toward the requirements for the major.
3. Courses will be transferred based upon the number of credits earned at the previous institution, even though a similar course at Old Westbury may earn fewer or more credits.
4. Transfer students who wish to receive transfer credit in the major for psychology courses completed at other institutions must submit a catalog course description and a transcript for all psychology courses for which transfer credit is being sought to a faculty advisor in the Psychology Department.
5. All transfer students are strongly encouraged to speak with a faculty advisor in the Psychology Department to discuss the requirements for the major and plan a course of study that ensures a timely completion of the degree.

Evening Students

The Psychology Department offers the required core courses and electives in the evening on a rotating basis; however, completion of the major typically takes longer for evening students.



PSYCHOLOGY MAJOR COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND LIST OF COURSES



FIVE CORE COURSES

- Introduction to Psychology
- Research Design & Analysis I
- Research Design & Analysis II
- Field Experience & Research
- Senior Seminar (5000-level course)

SIX ELECTIVES

- Group A Platform Elective
- Group B Platform Elective
- Group C Platform Elective
- 3000-/4000-level Elective (from Group A, B, or C)
- 3000-/4000-level Elective (from Group A, B, or C)
- 4000-level Elective (from Group A, B, or C)

CORE COURSES

Introduction to Psychology (PY2010)
A survey course that exposes students to the major subfields in the discipline. [MINIMUM FINAL GRADE OF C REQUIRED]

Research Design & Analysis I (PY3010) An orientation to basic research methods, statistics, and report writing in psychology. [MINIMUM FINAL GRADE OF C REQUIRED]

Research Design & Analysis II (PY4XXX) Upper-level course in research methods and statistics

Field Experience & Research (PY4130) Includes an internship in which students engage in supervised field work in consultation with a faculty member.

Senior Seminar
A 5000-level course in a specific area of psychology. Course offerings vary each semester, and include the following:

- PY5210 Advanced Perspectives in Developmental Psychology
- PY5310 Approaches to Psychotherapy
- PY5320 Advanced Issues in Clinical Psychology
- PY5330 Topics in Personality Theory
- PY5404 Environmental Neuroplasticity
- PY5410 The Psychology of Language
- PY5510 Advanced Issues in Social Psychology
- PY5520 Families & Public Policy
- PY5610 Research Perspectives in Neuropsychology
- PY5770 Cross-Cultural Psychology

ELECTIVES

PLATFORM ELECTIVES

GROUP A - Cognitive & Physiological

- PY3410 Cognitive Psychology
- PY3420 Learning & Motivation
- PY3610 Brain & Behavior
- PY3620 Drugs & Behavior

Group B - Clinical, Developmental, & Social

- PY3215 Foundations of Child Development
- PY3310 Abnormal Human Behavior
- PY3311 Theories of Personality
- PY3510 Social Psychology

Group C - Diversity & Social Justice

- PY2340 Community Psychology
- PY2530 Psychology of Prejudice
- PY2720 Psychology of Gender
- PY3710 Psychology and Social Justice

GROUP A ELECTIVES

Cognitive

- PY3410 Cognitive Psychology-Learning & Motivation
- PY3420 Psychology of Decision-Making & Judgment
- PY4403 Cognitive Neuroscience
- PY4410 Psychology of Teaching & Learning

Physiological

- PY3610 Brain & Behavior
- PY3620 Drugs & Behavior
- PY4230 The Psychobiology of Aging
- PY4401 Developmental Neuropathology
- PY4402 Neuropsychopharmacology
- PY4610 Clinical Neuropsychology

GROUP B ELECTIVES

Clinical & Personality

- PY3020 Health Psychology
 - PY3310 Abnormal Human Behavior
 - PY3311 Theories of Personality
 - PY3320 Peer Counseling
 - PY3330 Psychology of Addictions
 - PY3530 Forensic Psychology
- (Group B continued next column)

GROUP B ELECTIVES (cont'd.)

- PY4320 Counseling Psychology
- PY4330 Behavior Modification
- PY4340 Clinical & Educational Assessment
- PY4520 Family Dynamics

Developmental

- PY3215 Foundations of Child Development
- PY3230 Adulthood & Aging
- PY4210 The Exceptional Child
- PY4420 Adolescent Development
- PY4450 Infants & Toddlers

Social

- PY3500 Personal & Professional Decision-Making
- PY3510 Social Psychology
- PY3520 Group Process
- PY3540 Environmental Psychology
- PY3550 Social Psychology of Work
- PY3565 Organizational Psychology
- PY4010 History of Psychology
- PY4140 Internship in Applied Psychology
- PY4350 Psychology of Violence

GROUP C ELECTIVES

Diversity & Social Justice

- PY2340 Community Psychology
- PY2530 Psychology of Prejudice
- PY2720 Psychology of Gender
- PY2730 Psychology of Peoples of African Descent in the US
- PY3710 Psychology and Social Justice
- PY3740 Psychology of Latinos
- PY3750 Psychology of Asian Americans
- PY4720 Psychology of Women
- PY4730 African-American Family Dynamics