

# Department of Psychology

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The study of psychology provides a better understanding of human nature and of the behavior of oneself and others as individuals and as members of groups. The Department of Psychology offers either a Bachelor of Arts degree or a Bachelor of Science degree. The department also serves other disciplines by offering courses that meet their needs.

## ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Students intending to major in psychology should declare their interest to the psychology department so that they can be assigned a psychology advisor. Applications to the major in psychology are reviewed twice a year. Applications should be submitted prior to Oct. 1 or prior to March 1. Applicants must have completed PSY101, PSY200, ENG104, ENG108, and MAT112 or higher before being accepted into the psychology major. (*Caution to students: MAT110 is not acceptable preparation in mathematics for admission to the psychology major.*) Admission is competitive. A selection committee reviews all applicants and determines those who will be admitted. The information used in the selection process includes: 1) grades earned in the courses necessary for admission consideration; 2) an essay on the application concerning vocational aspirations in psychology; and, 3) grades in all college work to date.

Applications of transfer students (upon their request) will be given a preliminary review by the department chairperson before MWSU's pre- or regular registration. All applications will be considered active for one academic year. If a student is not admitted during that year the student must reapply in order to remain under consideration. Students are strongly urged to take PSY300 and PSY301 during the first two semesters after acceptance to the major.

## Course Admission Requirements

The following courses may be taken only by students who have declared a major or minor in a discipline (psychology, nursing, criminal justice, social work, education, physical education, business, communication) that lists the course as required or elective for that major or minor: PSY300, PSY301, PSY303, PSY319, PSY325, PSY335, PSY365, PSY400, PSY415, PSY430, or PSY490. Under the individual course listings, this requirement is designated "major course requirement." Exceptions to this course prerequisite require written departmental approval.

## BACHELOR OF ARTS OR

## BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

### General Major in Psychology

This program requires 44 credits in the major and can lead to either a B.A. or B.S. degree. In addition to the major requirements, the student must fulfill the requirements for the specific degree program. The B.A. requires 12 credits in a single foreign language.

#### Required Core Courses

			<i>Credits</i>
PSY	101	General Psychology	3
PSY	200	Intermediate Psychology	3
PSY	300	Introductory Psychological Statistics	3
PSY	301	Psychology Research Methods	3
PSY	303	Psychology Research Team	3
PSY	430	History and Systems in Psychology	3
PSY	490	Senior Seminar	3
		<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>21</b>

**Restricted Elective Core Courses**

The student must take at least one course (3 credits) from each of the following restricted elective core groupings.

	<i>Credits</i>
<b>Interpersonal/Intercultural Core</b> (3 credits each)	
PSY 222 Psychology of Gender	
PSY 230 Psychology of Communication	
PSY 260 Cross-Cultural Psychology	
	3

<b>Learning/Cognition Core</b> (3 credits each)	
PSY 335 Learning	
PSY 340 Cognitive Psychology	
PSY 360 Motivation and Emotion	
	3

<b>Biological/Comparative Core</b> (3 credits each)	
PSY 345 Animal Behavior	
PSY 350 Physiological Psychology	
PSY 355 Sensation and Perception	
	3

<b>Social/Personality Core</b> (3 credits each)	
PSY 310 Industrial/Organizational Psychology	
PSY 325 Psychology of Personality	
PSY 365 Social Psychology	
	3

<b>Developmental/Lifespan Core</b> (3 credits each)	
PSY 319 Child / Adolescent Psychology	
PSY 321 Adult Psychology	
	3

<b>Abnormal/Psychological Assessment Core</b> (3 credits each)	
PSY 309 Abnormal Psychology	
PSY 400 Introduction to Psychological Testing and Assessment	
	3

**Psychology Electives**

The student must take an additional 6 credits of electives (at least 3 credits numbered 300 and above) in Psychology. These electives may be chosen from the remaining courses in the restricted core electives above or from other upper-division offerings in the catalog.

<b>TOTAL</b>	6
	45

**Personnel Psychology Concentration**

This program leads to a B.S. with a major in Psychology and a concentration in personnel psychology. The program has a similar required course core as the general major program in Psychology, with the addition of courses relevant to human resources. The Personnel Psychology program requires a minimum of 33 credits in psychology plus 21 credits in the cognate field of business.

This program is recommended for those students seeking employment in human resources, public relations, or other positions in business or industry where one works closely with employees or the public. It should be noted that the program does not provide technical training in personnel management, but rather a liberal arts background and preparation for on-the-job training.

### Required Psychology Core Courses

			<i>Credits</i>
PSY	101	General Psychology	3
PSY	200	Intermediate Psychology	3
PSY	300	Introductory Psychological Statistics	3
PSY	301	Psychology Research Methods	3
PSY	303	Psychology Research Team	3
PSY	490	Senior Seminar	3
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>			<b>18</b>

### Personnel Psychology Core Courses

PSY	230	Psychology of Communication	3
PSY	310	Industrial/Organizational Psychology	3
PSY	325	Psychology of Personality	3
PSY	365	Social Psychology	3
PSY	415	Intermediate Statistics for the Behavioral Sciences (3)	<b>OR</b>
PSY	420	Practicum in Psychology (4)	3-4
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>			<b>15-16</b>

### Cognate Field

GBA	211	Business Law I	3
ACC	201	Introductory Financial Accounting	3
ECO	260	Principles of Macroeconomics	3
MGT	305	Management of Organizations	3
MKT	301	Principles of Marketing	3
COM	210	Presentational Communication	3
COM	324	Small Group Communication	3
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>			<b>21</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>54-55</b>

Note: It is recommended that all students preparing for graduate school take PSY430; this is a requirement for entrance to many graduate schools.

## MINORS

### Minor in Psychology

PSY	101	General Psychology	3
PSY	200	Intermediate Psychology	3
PSY	xxx	Approved Electives	9

One course from the following (3 credits each) 3

PSY	335	Learning
PSY	340	Cognitive Psychology
PSY	345	Animal Behavior
PSY	350	Physiological Psychology
PSY	355	Sensation and Perception
PSY	360	Motivation and Emotion

One course from the following (3 credits each) 3

PSY	230	Psychology of Communication
PSY	310	Industrial/Organizational Psychology
PSY	319	Child/Adolescent Psychology
PSY	325	Psychology of Personality
PSY	365	Social Psychology

**TOTAL** **21**

## Minor in Childhood Studies

Missouri Western State University offers an interdisciplinary minor in Childhood Studies. This minor is intended for those students who have child-related emphases in their major disciplines, such as juvenile delinquency, child psychology, or pediatrics or for those who simply wish to learn more about the subject of childhood. The minor will also provide a foundation of study for those students who intend to go on to professional or graduate school in order to study in child-related areas. This minor does not provide students with certification to teach in the state of Missouri.

Students must successfully complete at least eighteen hours from the following list of classes. To insure that the minor is a truly interdisciplinary experience, **at least three disciplines must be represented with no more than nine hours coming from any one discipline:**

	<i>Credits</i>
EDU 315 Psychology and Education of the Exceptional Child (Declared Childhood Studies minors are exempt from EDU303 and EDU304 as prerequisites for this course.)	2
EDU 421 Family, Community, Schools-Partnering for Young Children (Declared Childhood Studies minors are exempt from EDU358 as a prerequisite for this course.)	3
EDU 420 Counseling Techniques/Parents	2
ENG 400 Literature for Adolescents	3
ENG 403 Literature for Children	3
LAT 370 Domestic Relations	3
LAW 110 Juvenile Delinquency	3
LAW 440 Juvenile Law and Procedures	3
NUR 433 Health Alterations: Maternal Child	6
PED 392 Child Growth and Motor Development	3
PSY 240 Life-span Developmental Psychology	<b>OR</b>
PSY 319 Child/Adolescent Psychology (Prerequisite: PSY101. Declared Childhood Studies minors are exempt from PSY200 as a prerequisite for this course.)	3
PSY 470 Child Psychopathology and Exceptionalities (Prerequisite: PSY101 and either PSY240 or PSY319. Declared Childhood Studies minors are exempt from PSY200 as a prerequisite for this course.)	3
SOC 330 The Family	3
SWK 325 Family and Child Welfare	3
*Internship: Relevant field experience/practicum/internship through any academic department. May be repeated for credit.	1-3
*Relevant Special Topics Course offered through any academic department. May be repeated for credit.	1-3
*Relevant Independent Study arranged with any full-time faculty member. May be repeated for credit.	1-3

\* Only three credit hours of any one internship (including student teaching), special topics course, or independent study maybe applied to the minor.

Each student interested in this minor should discuss with his or her major academic advisor which courses best fit that student's discipline and concentration area as well as which general studies courses need to be chosen to satisfy prerequisites. Students enrolled in the Minor in Childhood Studies will also be assigned an advisor from the Childhood Studies Committee. Programs of study shall be kept on file by the Director of Childhood Studies.

## Semester Designation

F -- the course is offered in the fall semester

Sp -- the course is offered in the spring semester

Su -- the course is offered in the summer semester

DD -- the course is offered at the discretion of the department

## PSYCHOLOGY COURSES

Waiving of any course prerequisites requires prior departmental approval.

**PSY 101 General Psychology (3) F, Sp, Su.** General information about psychology in everyday life, designed to correct misconceptions and to give the student a better understanding of self and others.

**PSY 200 Intermediate Psychology (3) F, Sp.** Introduction to scientific psychology with emphasis on methodology and critical thinking about psychological ideas. Prerequisite: PSY101.

**PSY 210 Psychology of Personal Adjustment (3) DD.** Principles and techniques for maintaining good mental health; the approach is practical rather than descriptive. Prerequisite: PSY101.

**PSY220 Health Psychology/Stress Management (3) F.** The psychological and social factors that influence health and disease. Attention is also focused on stress management, the health care system, and the evaluation of health-related research. Prerequisite: PSY101.

**PSY 222 Psychology of Gender (3) Sp.** The similarities and differences between the female and male gender in the following psychological areas: role acceptance, gender identity, sexuality, parenthood, achievement and ability, personality, adjustment and mental health, and relationships. Prerequisite: PSY101. LAS International/Intercultural.

**PSY230 Psychology of Communication (3) F.** The elements of interpersonal communication; emphasizes techniques of communicating thoughts and ideas, listening techniques, understanding meaning; designed to improve the students interpersonal relationships. Prerequisite: PSY101. LAS International/Intercultural.

**PSY 240 Life-span Developmental Psychology (3) Sp.** The cognitive, personality, emotional, social, and physical changes that occur from conception through old age. This course is intended primarily for majors in fields which require a developmental psychology overview of the life span. Credit for this course is not applicable toward a psychology major. Prerequisite: PSY101.

**PSY 250 Behavior Modification (3) DD.** The application of behavioral principles to human problems. Prerequisite: PSY101.

**PSY 260 Cross-Cultural Psychology (3) Sp.** Psychological issues from a cross-cultural perspective, enabling students to appreciate the diverse ecological and cultural settings in which their behavior is increasingly influenced by global diversity and the global economy. Prerequisite: PSY101. LAS International/Intercultural.

**PSY270 Psychology of Religious Experience (3) DD.** Psychological theories and research methods investigates the nature, antecedents, and consequences of religious experience and behavior. Emphasis on the scientific study of religion. Prerequisite: PSY101.

**PSY 280 Career Development in Psychology (3) DD.** Career opportunities, levels of training, and professional issues in the field of psychology. Designed for those seeking employment and/or graduate school training in psychology. Prerequisite: PSY200.

**PSY 283 Introduction to Psychological Research (1-2) DD.** Introduction to research in psychology. The student will be involved in an individual or team research project, or assist with a faculty member's research. Prerequisite: Departmental approval.

**PSY 290 Introduction to Forensic Psychology (3) DD.** Examines the role of forensic psychologists in police training and selection, criminal profiling, jury selection, insanity and competency, child custody, and death penalty trials. Prerequisite: PSY101.

**PSY 300 Introductory Psychological Statistics (3) F, Sp.** Descriptive and inferential statistical procedures used in the social sciences. Both computer and manual computations will be performed. Prerequisite: A declared major or minor that requires this course, PSY101, PSY200, a grade of C or better in MAT112, LAS Computer Literacy.

**PSY 301 Psychology Research Methods (3) F, Sp.** Training in the techniques and methods of scientific psychology; emphasizes construction of hypotheses, experimental design, data interpretation, and style of reporting research. Prerequisite: A declared major or minor that requires this course, PSY101, PSY200, and PSY300. LAS Ethics.

**PSY 303 Psychology Research Team (3) F, Sp.** Applied learning experience in designing and conducting original research in psychology, data analysis, writing and presenting research results. Prerequisite: A declared major or minor that requires this course, PSY101, PSY200, PSY300, PSY301, and demonstrated proficiency in the basics of APA format and SPSS. LAS Writing; LAS Ethics.

**PSY 309 Abnormal Psychology (3) F.** Descriptive and exploratory consideration of abnormal behavior, with a survey of past and present theories, classifications, and therapies. Prerequisite: PSY101.

**PSY 310 Industrial/Organizational Psychology (3) Sp.** Research and theories of I/O Psychology and applied to the problems and issues of the work place with an emphasis on the role of cognitive activity in work-related behavior. Prerequisite: PSY101.

**PSY 314 Technology and Society (3) F, Sp.** Participatory course emphasizing a particular problem and/or issue related to technology and society. Class participants will investigate the semester's theme using currently available technologies. Same as BIO314, ENG314, HUM314, PSC314. Prerequisites: Completion of Category one -- Basic Skills General Studies courses.

**PSY 319 Child/Adolescent Psychology (3) F.** Life-cycle changes that occur from conception through early adolescence, emphasizing the origins and principles of normal development. Prerequisite: A declared major or minor that requires this course, PSY101, and either PSY200 or EDU225. (Declared minors in Childhood Studies are exempt from the PSY200 prerequisite.)

**PSY 321 Adult Psychology (3) Sp.** Life-cycle changes that occur from middle and late adolescence through old age and death; explores the changes in physical and sensory development, intelligence, personality, friendships, and work and family roles. Prerequisite: PSY101.

**PSY 325 Psychology of Personality (3) F.** Dynamics of personality development and human behavior; emphasizes theories of personality. Prerequisites: A declared major or minor that requires this course, PSY101, and PSY200.

**PSY 335 Learning (3) Sp (odd-numbered years).** Major theories of learning in contemporary psychology, with a brief historical introduction. Prerequisites: A declared major or minor that requires this course, PSY101, and PSY200.

**PSY 340 Cognitive Psychology (3) F (even-numbered years).** The field of Cognitive Psychology, including human learning, memory, problem solving, language, and attention. Artificial intelligence will be examined. Prerequisites: PSY101 and PSY200.

**PSY 345 Animal Behavior (3) DD.** Introduction to the comparative method in exploring and classifying behavior in animals. Prerequisites: PSY101 and PSY200.

**PSY 350 Physiological Psychology (3) Sp.** Introduction to the relationships between brain, mind, and behavior; includes brain mechanisms underlying perception, motivation, emotion, learning, memory, and higher cognition. Prerequisite: A declared major or minor that requires this course, PSY101, and PSY200.

**PSY 355 Sensation and Perception (3) F (even-numbered years).** Data and theory concerning sensory and perceptual processes; includes sensory mechanisms, neuropsychological bases of perception, perceptual development, and psychological phenomena encountered in the various senses. Prerequisite: PSY101 and PSY200.

**PSY 360 Motivation and Emotion (3) Sp (even-numbered years).** Theoretical and research issues on such motivational topics as drive, goal, directedness, incentive, reinforcement, external stimulation, emotion, instinct, and self-actualization. Prerequisites: PSY101 and PSY200.

**PSY 365 Social Psychology (3) F.** The individual in relation to society; includes theoretical foundations, socialization, social cognition, group dynamics, and leadership. Prerequisite: A declared major or minor that requires this course PSY101, and PSY200.

**PSY 400 Introduction to Psychological Testing and Assessment (3) Sp.** Basic principles of tests, measurements, and assessment. Detailed study and evaluation of some of the most useful and meaningful person assessment techniques. Professional and ethical standards as well as social issues related to testing. Prerequisites: A declared major or minor that requires this course and PSY300. LAS Ethics.

**PSY 410 Introduction to Counseling Psychology (3) DD.** An overview of counseling as applied in a variety of institutional settings; reviews differing counseling techniques and theories as well as types of problems encountered in counseling; includes survey of research related to counseling. Prerequisites: PSY101 and PSY325.

**PSY 415 Intermediate Statistics for the Behavioral Sciences (3) DD.** Basic statistical procedures applied to behavioral research; focuses on the integration of the use of computers for data collection and analysis. Prerequisites: A declared major or minor that requires this course and either PSY301 or MAT132. LAS Computer Literacy.

**PSY 420 Practicum in Psychology (4) F.** Senior students in psychology apply their knowledge to an actual situation in the field. An additional 4 credits may be earned by taking PSY421. Prerequisites: Senior standing, declared Psychology major, and departmental approval.

**PSY 421 Practicum in Psychology (4) DD.** Senior students in psychology applying their knowledge to an actual situation in the field. An additional 4 credits may be earned by taking PSY420. Prerequisites: Senior standing, declared Psychology major, and departmental approval.

**PSY 430 History and Systems in Psychology (3) F.** The major historical approaches to defining, organizing and explaining psychological phenomena. Prerequisites: A declared major or minor that requires this course, PSY101, and PSY200.

**PSY 450 Independent Research/Project (1-5) F, Sp.** Investigation of a research problem, project, or topic on an individual conference basis. Prerequisites: Declared Psychology major, a minimum of 2.5 GPA in major field, and departmental approval.

**PSY 470 Child Psychopathology and Exceptionalities (3) DD.** An overview of the theories, research diagnosis, and treatment of childhood disorders, exceptionalities, and special needs. Prerequisites: PSY101, PSY200, and either PSY240 or PSY319. Declared minors in Childhood Studies are exempt from the PSY200 prerequisite.

**PSY 490 Senior Seminar (3) F, Sp.** An integrative, capstone experience for senior psychology majors. Emphasizes written and oral analyses of current issues in psychology based on integrative reviews of empirical research. Students will review and prepare for the departmental exit exam, and take the exam as part of their course requirement. Prerequisites: A declared major or minor that requires this course and PSY301. LAS Writing.