

**Advising Booklet for Undergraduate Psychology Majors**

This curriculum applies to all students who are majors in the Department of Psychology. This booklet includes requirements for the B.A. and B.S. degree in Psychology.

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**STUDENT INFORMATION:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ @mix.wvu.edu

Semester entered WVU \_\_\_\_\_ Expected date of graduation \_\_\_\_\_

B.A. or B.S.? \_\_\_\_\_ Minor, double major or dual degree: \_\_\_\_\_

Career/graduate school plans: \_\_\_\_\_

\*ASSIGNED ADVISOR: \_\_\_\_\_

*\*Students will find the name of their advisor listed on their DegreeWorks page.*

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**Graduation Checklist**

**GEF Requirements (Post-Fall 2016)**

- GEF 1 (English 101) and
- GEF 1 (English 102) OR
- GEF 1 (English 103)
- GEF 2 A/B (Science and Technology)
- GEF 3 (Mathematics & Quantitative skills)
- GEF 4 (Society & Connections)
- GEF 5 (Human Inquiry & the Past)
- GEF 6 (The Arts & Creativity)
- GEF 7 (Global Studies & Diversity)
- GEF 8 (Focus)
  - Focus 8 <sup>(1)</sup>
  - Focus 8 <sup>(2)</sup>
  - Focus 8 <sup>(3)</sup>

**GEC Requirements (Pre-Fall 2016)**

- GEC 1 (English 101) and
- GEC 1 (English 102)
- GEC 2A (Math)
- GEC 2B (Science w/lab)
- GEC 2B (Science - lab optional)
- GEC 2C (Statistics)
- GEC 3
- GEC 4
- GEC 5
- GEC 6
- GEC 6F (Orientation)
- GEC 7
- GEC 8
- GEC 9

**University Requirements:**

- 120 Credit Hours Completed
  - First Year Seminar Class Completed
  - Academic Standing: Above 2.0 Grade Point Average
  - Residency Rule: 90 total credits or final 30 consecutive credits must be taken at WVU's Main Campus.  
Courses taken at WVU branch campuses (e.g. Potomac State) do not count towards credits taken at WVU's Main Campus.
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**College Requirements: Bachelor of Arts (BA) or a Bachelor of Science (BS)**

**BA:**

- LANG. 101
- LANG. 102
- LANG. 203
- LANG. 204

**BS:**

- MATH 155 (**OR** MATH 153 and 154)
- Science 1A
- Science 1B
- Science 2A
- Science 2B
- Science 3A
- Science 3B

**Major Requirements: Psychology**

- PSYC 101\*
- STAT 201\* or 211\* and  PSYC 202
- OR**  PSYC 203\* and  PSYC 204
- PSYC 301
- PSYC 302
- CLUSTER A/B
- CLUSTER C
- CLUSTER D
- CLUSTER E
- 300/400 LEVEL ELECTIVE
- WRITING COURSE **OR**  SPEAKWRITE DESIGNATED COURSE
- CAPSTONE

**(Classes marked \* require a minimum grade of C- or better)**

**General Matriculation Plan:**

Each academic year (i.e. two semesters) students should complete the following courses:

<b>Freshman</b>	<b>Sophomore</b>	<b>Junior</b>	<b>Senior</b>
PSYC 101	PSYC 202 / 203 & 204 (Research Methods)	PSYC 302	PSYC Cluster A/B
MATH 126 (or higher)	PSYC Cluster C/D/E	PSYC 301	PSYC Capstone
PSYC Cluster C/D/E	PSYC Cluster C/D/E	PSYC Elective or Enrichment Course	PSYC Upper-Level Elective
General Education Electives	General Education Electives	General Education Electives	General Education Electives
BA or BS Requirements	BA or BS Requirements	BA or BS Requirements	Electives (optional minor or second major)
Electives	Electives	Electives (optional minor or second major)	

**Advising Activities:**

Each year, Psychology majors are expected to progress through three tiers of degree requirements: University, Eberly College of Arts and Science, and Major Requirements. In addition, students should start forging out a post-graduation plan, meaning that they should explore how they want to apply their education to their future career or graduate school goals.

**Activities by Semester:**

Each semester, students should:

1. **Review** their DegreeWorks page.
2. **Review** their Plan of Study and the classes they will take in the next term.
3. **Explore** minor degrees in areas that supplement their career goals and interests.
4. **Develop** questions for their advisor.
5. **Attend a group advising session before enrolling in courses.**

Activities by Year:

<p><b>Freshman Advising Activities:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Attend First Year Seminar with Freshman Advisor.</li> <li>2. Research majors and minors, and explore electives (use <a href="http://catalog.wvu.edu">http://catalog.wvu.edu</a>).</li> <li>3. Map out a 4-year plan to complete degree(s).</li> <li>4. Consider joining the Psychology Club.</li> <li>5. Seek out mentoring with upper-classmen/graduate students/faculty.</li> <li>6. Work on GPA (overall and in Major).</li> </ol>	<p><b>Sophomore Advising Activities:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ask faculty and graduate students about internships &amp; research opportunities.</li> <li>2. Explore career options.</li> <li>3. Seek leadership and service experiences.</li> <li>4. Visit Career Services and attend a Career Fair.</li> <li>5. Seek out mentoring with upper-classmen/graduate students/faculty.</li> <li>6. Work on GPA (overall and in Major).</li> </ol>
<p><b>Junior Advising Activities:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Complete non-capstone internships/enrichment experiences.</li> <li>2. Prepare resume and attend a Career Fair.</li> <li>3. Seek leadership and service experiences.</li> <li>4. Learn about graduate programs or job openings, research opportunities to pursue capstone and enrichment experiences in a potential career.</li> <li>5. Work on GPA (overall and in Major)</li> <li>6. Plan how you will complete degree requirements with advisor.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Senior Advising Activities:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Complete Capstone Experience.</li> <li>2. Update resume and attend Career Fair.</li> <li>3. Seek leadership and service experiences.</li> <li>4. Work on GPA (overall and in Major).</li> <li>5. Complete degree requirements.</li> <li>6. Apply for graduation!</li> <li>7. RSVP to the Commencement Ceremony, and celebrate your accomplishments.</li> </ol>

## INSTRUCTIONS TO STUDENTS

This booklet is designed to aid you and your advisor in planning your undergraduate curriculum as a psychology major.

- You are responsible for scheduling your classes
- You are responsible for meeting all requirements and deadlines for your degree

### **YOU NEED TO UPDATE YOUR BOOKLET AND BRING IT TO ALL ADVISING MEETINGS**

#### **FOR GROUP ADVISING, FOLLOW THE STEPS BELOW:**

1. Sign up to attend a group advising session with an advisor. During the pre-registration period, advisors will post group advising sign-up sheets outside of the records office: room 1120. **YOU MUST ATTEND A GROUP ADVISING SESSION TO HAVE YOUR HOLD LIFTED.**
2. Before your meeting, update your booklet.
3. Bring a copy of your DegreeWorks page to your advising session. You can access your DegreeWorks page from your Student Portal with your laptop or smartphone, or save the page as a PDF using the PDF tab at the top of the website, and print from there.

#### **YOUR ADVISOR MAY DECLINE TO MEET WITH YOU IF YOU HAVE NOT UPDATED THIS BOOKLET PRIOR TO YOUR MEETING.**

Individual advising appointments should ONLY be used for advising questions, which cannot be answered in group advising or by using the Advising Booklet or the Advising FAQ located on our departmental website, <http://www.psychology.wvu.edu/undergraduate>. **Advisors will NOT lift registration holds during individual advising meetings.** Students should attend group advising sessions to have their registration hold lifted for the following semester.

### ***Completing Your Advising Booklet***

If your Catalog Year is 2016-2017 or if you are new in the major and haven't taken STAT 201 or 211 - Please use the following instructions to complete your Psychology Advising Booklet:

#### **GENERAL EDUCATION FOUNDATIONS (Page 7):**

##### **University GEF Policies.**

General Education Foundations are replacing the GEC requirement for students who enter WVU as of the fall 2016 semester. This program will also replace the writing requirement with SpeakWrite. The Psychology Department is a SpeakWrite Certified Program. While completing

the required courses in Psychology every student will complete enough courses to fulfill the SpeakWrite requirement. The main purpose of the GEF curriculum is to insure that all of graduates are exposed to a variety of fields, as well as developing skills to help them achieve in any work environment. Students will fulfill seven areas (GEF 01 – GEF 07) (22-28 credits) and chose three courses that fulfill GEF 08, the Focus. The Focus can be met by any additional three courses on the list, or the completion of a minor, a 2<sup>nd</sup> major, or a 2<sup>nd</sup> degree. A list of courses that meet the GEF Objectives can be found on the Office of the University Registrar website at: <http://registrar.wvu.edu/gef>

Current students may switch their catalog year forward to be in GEF in fall of 2016 – but they cannot switch back later. Students entering into the GEF curriculum cannot switch into an earlier catalog year.

**GEF Advising Booklet instructions:**

1. On the line for each objective, write in ONE course (including credit hours, semester, and grade) that you have completed that fulfills this objective.
2. There is no limit on how many courses in one subject may count (in contrast to GEC)
3. Course may overlap with other requirements.
4. There are two ways to meet the F2 requirement.
  - a. F2A Option – 6 credits of science: lecture courses without labs
  - b. F2B Option – 4 credits of science: lecture with linked lab
5. Focus (F8) can be met by any additional three courses on the list, a completion of a minor, 2<sup>nd</sup> major or 2<sup>nd</sup> degree. There is no limit to the number of GEF courses a student can take. Each course will count towards the total number of credit hours that are needed for graduation (120 hours).

If your Catalog Year is before 2016-2017 or if you are advanced in the major – Please use the following instructions to complete your Psychology Advising Booklet:

**GENERAL EDUCATION CURRICULUM OBJECTIVES (Page 8):**

**University GEC Policies.**

Every student at West Virginia University has to fulfill the requirements for the General Education Curriculum. The main purpose of this curriculum is to insure that all of graduates are exposed to a variety of fields, as described in the 9 GEC Objectives. Please read the full description of the GEC and of the policies that govern it; a list of all the courses that meet all the various GEC Objectives can be found on the Office of the University Registrar.

Students are strongly encouraged to work with their advisers to select GEC courses that may broaden and strengthen their interest in their major field. GEC courses can also be used to explore new areas to which students have not yet been exposed.

The official listing of courses that fulfill each of the nine GEC objectives is available at: [http://registrar.wvu.edu/current\\_students/general\\_education\\_curriculum](http://registrar.wvu.edu/current_students/general_education_curriculum).

**GEC Advising Booklet instructions:**

1. On the line for each objective, write in ONE course (including credit hours, semester, and grade), that you have completed that fulfills this objective. Some courses have been

- filled in for you based on University and/or Psychology major requirements. If that course is currently in progress, write the semester and credit hours, but leave the grade blank.
2. Even though many courses are eligible to fit in several GEC objectives, you may only count each course you have completed towards (1) GEC objective.
  3. You may only count a maximum of three major (Psychology) courses towards GEC objectives. These courses will typically fulfill GECs 4 and 6.
  4. You may only count a maximum of two non-major (including minor) courses towards GEC objectives.
  5. Only courses that have sections specifically listed as writing (W01), can be used as writing courses.

### **PSYCHOLOGY MAJOR REQUIREMENTS** (Pages 9-10)

1. Write in the semester/year and grade for any of the courses within this section that you have completed.
2. The STAT/Research Methods requirements may be fulfilled in one of two ways:
  - a. STAT 201\* or 211\* and PSYC 202, **OR**
  - b. PSYC 203\* and PSYC 204 (Math 126 is the prerequisite; there is no STAT requirement). PSYC 203 and 204 integrate statistics and research design.
3. Note that if you are getting a B.A. degree, you will need to complete at least 78 non-Psychology credits in order to graduate. Non-capstone PSYC 491 credits count towards these 78 non-Psychology credits.

### **B.A. REQUIREMENTS** (Page 9; Please draw an X through this section if you are receiving a B.S. degree)

#### **Eberly College of Arts and Sciences requirements for BA Degree**

- A. World Language. Completion of the 4<sup>th</sup> semester of a world language (e.g. 200 or 204). Generally requires two years of study of the same language. **These courses may NOT be used simultaneously to fulfill GEC Objective requirements.** These courses are **not required for B.S. degree.**

Students who studied French, German, or Spanish in high school within the past five years **must** take the placement exam in that language. Other students who wish to demonstrate proficiency in a language **may** take the placement exam. Students will receive credit for courses they test out of, provided they complete the course they test into with a grade of B or above. Visit <http://worldlang.wvu.edu/pExams> for information regarding the Foreign Language Placement Exam.

#### **BA Advising Booklet instructions:**

1. List the world language classes that you have completed, including semester and grade (Ex: Span 101, 102, 203, and 204).
2. You may NOT count world language classes towards both GEC objectives AND B.A. requirements. You will want to use your world language classes here, and choose other classes to fill your GEC objectives.

**B.S. REQUIREMENTS** (Page 9; Please draw an X through this section if you are receiving a B.A. degree)

**Eberly College of Arts and Sciences requirements for BS Degree**

Students completing a B.S. degree must complete 3 disciplines of science courses, with a minimum of two of the specified courses (or course/lab combinations) in three of the disciplines listed below. Recommended disciplines for psychology majors are biology and statistics, but students may choose any three of the six listed disciplines. Students planning to attend medical school may wish to take coursework in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. **These courses may also be used to fill GEC requirements.** These courses are **NOT required for B.A. degree.**

**BS Advising Booklet instructions:**

1. There are six available disciplines (BIOL, CS, GEOL, CHEM, PHYS, & MATH/STAT). You will need to choose and complete three of these six disciplines. You will normally complete two classes in each discipline. Write in these courses as well as their credit hours, semester taken, and grade received.
2. You will also need to complete MATH 155 (or MATH 153 & 154). This math requirement will not count towards any of the three disciplines.
3. You may have to take courses with several different prerequisites. Please visit the catalog or department websites for the most current placement information.



## Major in Psychology at WVU

### A. General Education Foundations

GEF 1: English (6 Credits)

	Credits	Sem.	Grade
<b>ENGL 101</b>	3		
<b>ENGL 102</b> <i>PR: ENGL 101</i>	3		
<b>OR ENGL 103</b> <i>(Replaces 101 and 102)</i>	3		

GEF 2 A/B Science and Technology (4-6 credits)

2A: Two Lecture courses (6 credits)

	3		
	3		

OR

2B: One Lecture/Lab combination

	4		
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GEF 3: Mathematics & Quantitative Skills (3 Credits) (\*see notes)

	3		
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GEF 4: Society and Connections (3 credits)

	3		
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GEF 5: Human Inquiry & the Past (3 credits)

	3		
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GEF 6: The Arts & Creativity (3 credits)

	3		
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GEF 7: Global Studies & Diversity (3 credits)

	3		
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GEF 8: Focus (9 credits, normally 3 three-credit courses)

	3		
	3		
	3		

\*All students must take MATH 126 or higher. MATH 126 is the prerequisite for PSYC 203 and 204. BS students must take MATH 126 or higher to progress to MATH 155 or equivalent(s) (MATH 153 and 154).

## B. General Education Credits

### GEC 1: Communication (6 Credits)

	Credits	Sem.	Grade
<b>ENGL 101</b>	3		
<b>ENGL 102</b> <i>PR: ENGL 101</i>	3		
<b>OR ENGL 103</b> <i>(Replaces 101 and 102)</i>	3		
<b>Writing Course*</b>			

### GEC 2: Basic Math/Scientific Inquiry (13-15 Credits)

2A: (\*\*see notes)

	3		
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2B:

	4		
	3		

2C:

	3		
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### GEC 3: The Past and Its Traditions

	3		
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\*The University Writing Requirement can be taken in any subject for which the student has met the prerequisite or has department approval. Students may elect to complete their writing requirement in the major (Psychology) but due to seat availability or student interest, students may take their writing requirement outside of the department.

\*\*All students must take MATH 126 or higher. MATH 126 is the prerequisite for PSYC 203 and 204. BS students must take MATH 126 or

### GEC 4: Issues of Contemporary Society

	3		
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### GEC 5: Artistic Expression

	3		
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### GEC 6: The Individual in Society

	1		
	3		

### GEC 7: American Culture

	3		
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### GEC 8: Western Culture\*\*\*

	3		
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### GEC 9: Non-western Culture\*\*\*

	3		
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higher to progress to MATH 155 or equivalent(s) (MATH 153 and 154).

\*\*\*Completion of the 4<sup>th</sup> semester of a world language (e.g. 200 or 204) generally requires two years of study of the same language.

**These language classes may not be used simultaneously to fulfill GEC objective requirements.** These courses are **NOT required for B.S. degree.**

**Choose either Bachelor of Arts OR Bachelor of Science:**

**Bachelor of Arts:\***

Language 101	3		
Language 102	3		
Language 203	3		
Language 204	3		

**Bachelor of Science:**

MATH 155	4		
OR (MATH 153 and MATH 154)	4		

Discipline 1: Class 1			
Discipline 1: Class 2			

Discipline 2: Class 1			
Discipline 2: Class 2			

Discipline 3: Class 1			
Discipline 3: Class 2			

**BS Disciplines:** Choose three different disciplines of the following six:

BIOL 115 AND 117

CS 110 AND 111

GEOL (101/102 or GEOL 110/111 or GEOG 110/111) AND (GEOL 103/104 or 203 or 230)

CHEM (111 AND 112) OR (115 AND 116) OR (117 AND 118)\*\*

PHYS (101 AND 102) OR (111 AND 112)  
MATH 156 AND (MATH 251 or STAT 211 or STAT 215)

OR  
STAT 211 AND (STAT 312 or STAT 331, or STAT 421)

OR  
STAT 215 AND (STAT 312 or STAT 331, or STAT 421)

\*Completion of the 4th semester of a world language (e.g. 200 or 204) generally requires two years of study of the **same language**.

\*\*Taking both CHEM 111 and CHEM 115 will result in duplicate credits. So will taking CHEM 112 and CHEM 116.

**C. Requirements for Psychology Majors**

<b>101: Introduction To Psychology</b>	3		
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<b>202: Research Methods</b> <i>PR: PSYC 101 and MATH 126</i>	3		
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**OR**

<b>203: Research Methods I</b> <i>PR: PSYC 101 and MATH 126</i>	3		
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<b>204: Research Methods II</b> <i>PR: PSYC 203</i>	3		
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<b>301: Bio. Foundations of Behavior</b> <i>PR: PSYC 202 or 204</i>	3		
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<b>302: Behavior Principles</b> <i>PR: PSYC 202 or 204</i>	4		
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ONE\* from each of the following Clusters:  
\*Choose one course from Cluster A **OR** Cluster B

Cluster A: Learning and Cognition

<b>423: Cognition &amp; Memory</b> <i>PR: PSYC 202</i>	3		
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<b>424: Learning and Behavior</b> <i>PR: PSYC 202</i>	3		
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<b>474: Behavior Modification</b> <i>PR: PSYC 202</i>	3		
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**OR** Cluster B: Biological Bases of Behavior

<b>234: Drugs and Behavior</b> <i>PR: PSYC 101</i>	3		
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<b>425: Perception</b> <i>PR: PSYC 202 or 204</i>	3		
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<b>426: Physiological Psychology</b> <i>PR: PSYC 301</i>	3		
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<b>427: Psychobiology of Sleep</b> <i>PR: PSYC 202 or 204</i>	3		
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Cluster C: Clinical (choose one)

<b>281: Intro. To Abnormal PSYC.</b> <i>PR: PSYC 101</i>	3		
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<b>362: PSYC Assessment</b> <i>PR: PSYC 202 or 204</i>	3		
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<b>363: Personality Theory</b> <i>PR: PSYC 202 or 204</i>	3		
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<b>364: PSYC Of Adjustment</b> <i>PR: ***See Below</i>	3		
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<b>370: Emotions and Mood</b> <i>PR: 202 or 204</i>	3		
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<b>382: Exceptional Children</b> <i>PR: PSYC 241</i>	3		
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<b>367: Intro. To Clinical PSYC.</b> <i>PR: PSYC 202 or 204</i>	3		
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\*\*\*ONE Prerequisite of the following: PSYC 202, 203, 241, 251, **OR** 293

Cluster D: Developmental (choose one)

<b>241: Intro. To Human Dev.</b> <i>PR: PSYC 101</i>	3		
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<b>342: Prenatal and Infant Dev.</b> <i>PR: PSYC 241</i>	3		
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<b>343: Child and Adolescent Dev.</b> <i>PR: PSYC 241</i>	3		
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<b>345: Adulthood and Aging</b> <i>PR: PSYC 241</i>	3		
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Cluster E: Social (choose one)

<b>231: Leadership and Human Relations</b> <i>PR: PSYC 101</i>	3		
<b>232: Sex Roles and Behavior</b> <i>PR: PSYC 101</i>	3		
<b>251: Intro. to Social PSYC.</b>	3		

<i>PR: PSYC 101</i>			
<b>332: Multicultural Issues</b> <i>PR: PSYC 101</i>	3		
<b>351: Topics in Social PSYC.</b> <i>PR: PSYC 251</i>	3		
<b>379: Community PSYC</b> <i>PR:*** See Below</i>	3		

\*\*\* ONE Prerequisite of the following: PSYC 202, 203, 204, 241, 251, **OR** 293

D. Psychology Elective Courses

ONE additional 3 credit 300 or 400 level course must be selected from the list below.

PSYC: Listed in Section B: 342, 343, 345, 351, 362, 363, 364, 365, 370, 379, 382, 423, 424, 425, 426, and 474. Other: PSYC 368: Ethics and Practice in Behavior Analysis (PR: PSYC 101), PSYC 331: History and Systems, and 493: Special Topics Courses.

E. Electives:

	3				3		
	3				3		
	3				3		

F. Capstone: Choose one of the following:

<b>490: Teaching Practicum</b>	3		
<b>491: Field Experience</b>	3		
<b>495: Independent Study</b>	3		
<b>498: Honors Thesis</b>	3		

### Recommended Psychology Courses

- Students interested in **graduate study in Psychology** (Masters of Science, Ph.D, etc.) should consider: PSYC 331, 362, 491, 495, 498, 423, 424, 425, and 426. A minor in Statistics is also recommended.
- Students interested in **graduate study in field OTHER than Psychology** (Masters of Social Work, Masters in Counseling, Master of Arts, Law School, MBA, etc.) should consider: PSYC 241, 251, 331, and at least one course from among PSYC 281, 362, 363, 364, 379, 382, 474, 491, 495, and 498.
- Students interested in entering a **career in mental health or applied psychology that require a Bachelor’s Degree** (Human Resources Management, High School Administrator, Public Relations, Professional Writing and Editing, Event Planning, etc.) should consider: PSYC 241, 251, 362, 474, 491, 495, 498, and appropriate courses from among PSYC 281, 343, 345, 363, 364, 365, 370, 379, and 382.
- Students interested in **Health Professions** (medical school, nursing programs, etc.) should consider: PSYC 343, 345, 362, 363, 370, 382, 423, 426, 474, 491, 495, 498. Meet with your advisor to discuss courses outside PSYC needed for admission to health-related programs.
- Common electives and minors for psychology majors include biology, child development and family studies, mathematics, communications, business, philosophy, political science, social work, sociology (criminology), anthropology, women and gender studies, and statistics courses.

**Minor:** \_\_\_\_\_

	3		
	3		
	3		
	3		
	3		
	3		

- **All psychology majors are encouraged to take upper-division courses that provide them an opportunity to apply basic principles of psychology.** For this purpose, PSYC 490, 491, 495, and 498 are recommended. Students must have instructor consent before enrolling in these courses. For more information on these courses, please turn to the next page.

## **Psychology Enrichment Courses Capstone Requirement and Non-Capstone Experiences**

***Students should start planning for their capstone and non-capstone courses at least one semester in advance: contact faculty, attend the Info Night, complete the signed contracts and register for the correct course.***

The Psychology Department offers several **Special Experience Courses**. Those students earning a B.S. degree are especially encouraged to participate in PSYC 495 or 498. Students earning a B.A. degree who expect to work in mental health and direct care are encouraged to gain career experience by participating in PSYC 491. All students are encouraged to participate in these practical experience courses, some of which can also meet the Capstone Experience requirement.

Extracurricular academic experiences are critically important for baccalaureate graduates of Psychology for them to be accepted into graduate or professional programs, or to seek employment. The goal is for the student to become well-rounded in regards to their professional skills. Ideally, students will complete two semesters of their most essential contractual course, and one semester of an alternative course. For example, students interested in going to medical school after completing their Bachelor's degree should complete two semesters of PSYC 495: Independent Study, and then one semester of PSYC 491: Field Experience (both courses described on page 14).

Typically, Special Experience Courses and Capstones are taken in the third and fourth year of undergraduate study. They are offered every semester, including some summer terms.

### **Upper-Level Psychology *Potential* Trajectory:**

- ➔ **Junior Year Semester 1:** Start contacting faculty to inquire about labs, research experience, teaching practicums, and field experience courses.
- ➔ **Junior Year Semester 2:** Consider completing one Special Experience Course. Go through the application process, meeting all of the correct deadlines for respective Capstone Course for the following semester.
- ➔ **Senior Year: Both Semesters 1 and 2--** Apply to jobs, internships, or graduate programs. Complete capstone within the twelve months prior to graduation. Graduate successfully!

**The Psychology Capstone Experience** is intended to provide the psychology student with an intensive exploration into an aspect (e.g. teaching, service, research) and area (e.g. clinical, developmental, behavioral analysis, behavioral neuroscience) of psychology as a means for enhancing learning and integrating the knowledge and experiences acquired as a psychology major.

At the end of every semester, Capstone students participate in the Departmental Capstone Poster Session. Non-capstone psychology students are encouraged to attend the poster session in order to gain information about the numerous options for their Capstone Experience and to speak with students who have completed the different types of projects.

**Additionally, all Capstone students MUST complete the ACAT, a standardized assessment of psychology content.**

**All psychology majors MUST complete a Capstone Experience within the 12 months prior to graduation.**

**For all Capstone and non-capstone Experiences, a contract must be completed** by the student, supervising faculty member, and graduate student, if appropriate. **The contracts for each Capstone Experience are located in the Student Records Office (LSB 1120).** Once the contract has been completed, signed, and turned in to Vee Lewis (LSB 1120A), Ms. Lewis will provide the student with the CRN to register for the course. **Students are responsible for meeting all deadlines, registering for the course and ensuring they are signed up for the correct number of credit hours.**

- See more at: <http://www.psychology.wvu.edu/undergraduate/the-psychology-major#sthash.L64gAXwl.dpuf>

At other times, students should visit the Student Records Office (LSB 1120A) for information.

**PSYC 490 (Teaching Practicum)** – PSYC 490, Teaching Practicum, is for students who wish to act as tutors or proctors for a course they have previously taken. Enrollment in PSYC 490 requires instructor consent and the completion of a contract (forms available in the Student Records Office, LSB 1120A).

*As a requirement of their Capstone Experience*, students also complete a pedagogy-related project. An example of previous project includes, but is not limited to an examination of students' anxiety before exams and whether their anxiety is associated with their performance, or another topic that examines features of teaching.

Typically, PSYC 490 positions are only available in the fall and spring semesters. Interested students should approach the faculty supervisor for a class that they have already taken. Around registration, a list of available PSYC 490 positions will be posted in the Student Records Office (LSB 1120) and announcements will be made through PSYC news emails.

**PSYC 491 (Field Experience)** – PSYC 491, Field Experience in Psychology, involves on- or off-campus placement for a semester. This program works best with students interested in counseling psychology, school psychology, social work, mental health counselors, and business and marketing psychology. The program is offered for up to 15 hours of credit during the fall and spring semesters and for up to 12 hours of credit during the summer terms. PSYC 491 credits will not count towards the 42 PSYC credit limit for Bachelor of Arts degrees. PSYC 491 may be repeated for a maximum of 18 total credit hours. These credit hours count toward the 120 credits needed for graduation. In this experience, students complete an internship within the field of psychology. A current list of placements are listed on the Department of Psychology website. Open the Field Experience link for more information and to complete the application materials. Once your placement is approved by Ms. McWilliams (you will get an email to confirm this) Vee Lewis will lift your hold. Please register carefully, because credits vary.

*As a requirement of their Capstone Experience*, students must report on their experience during their field experience, such as what they did and what they learned.

Each semester, the department holds a PSYC 491 Info Night where information is provided about the PSYC 491, what application materials are required, and when applications materials are due. **Make sure that you are aware of the deadlines for all the applications.**

**PSYC 495 (Independent Study)** – PSYC 495, Independent Study, is for students who are participating in group research, independent research, or independent projects. This program is best suiting for students interested in clinical psychology, industrial/organizational psychology, and research-oriented graduate programs. Enrollment in PSYC 495 requires instructor consent and the completion of a contract (forms available in the Student Records Office, LSB 1120A). In this experience, students work in a research lab here in the Psychology Department with a faculty mentor and potentially one or more graduate students. Requirements vary by lab, but have previously included: attending lab meetings, working on literature reviews, recruiting participants for active studies, entering and/or coding data, and helping with data analyses.

*As a requirement of their Capstone Experience*, students must report on their experience as a research assistant, such as what they did and what they learned.

Faculty typically require that a PSYC 495 Capstone student first complete at least 1 semester of non-capstone PSYC 495 in their lab previously. Interested students should approach the faculty member(s) whose research interests them. Information about faculty members' research is available on the departmental website under "faculty member directory." Around registration, a list of available PSYC 495 positions will be posted in the Student Records Office (LSB 1120) and announcements will be made through PSYC News emails.



**PSYC 497 (Research)** - This *non-capstone enrichment experience course* can be worth between 1-6 credits, and is given a letter grade (A, B, C, D, F) at the completion of the semester.

**PSYC 498 (Honors Thesis and Investigation)** – This *Capstone Option* is for students admitted to the Psychology Honors Program. (Note: this program is distinct from the Honors College.) Applications for the (psychology Honors Program are available in the Student Records Office – LSB 1120. In this option, students develop their own study, propose the study to their faculty member and the graduate students with whom they will be working, carry out the study, write up their findings, and then defend their study. PSYC 498 may be repeated for a maximum of 6 total credit hours. Information is available in the Student Records Office (LSB 1120A).

Completing a PSYC 498 experience generally requires 2 semesters. During the first semester, students typically register for the Writing section of PSYC 498. Then during the second semester, students will register for the Capstone section of PSYC 498. Faculty often require that the student work in their lab for PSYC 495 credit previously. PSYC 498 positions are primarily available in the fall and spring semesters. However, some faculty members will work with students completing a PSYC 498 Capstone Experience during the summer. Interested students should approach the faculty member(s) whose research interests them. Information about faculty members' research is available on the departmental website under "faculty member directory."

**Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analyst Course Sequence** -- Students may complete a course sequence that has been pre-approved by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB). Students that complete the course sequence and the experience requirements are eligible to take the certification exam to become a Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analyst (BCaBA). For more information visit the BACB website: <http://www.bacb.com/index.php>. In addition to other major requirements, students are required to complete PSYC 203, 204, 302, 368, 379, 382, 424, and 474. Students who want to take the exam, must complete a minimum of 1,000 hours of supervised independent field work in behavior analysis.

Arranging the supervised field work is the student's responsibility either during undergraduate study or after graduation. Although the WVU course sequence provides the requisite course work for certification as a BCaBA, it cannot guarantee completion of the experiential hours required to sit for the exam.

### Application and Certification for Graduation (3 steps)

Students should monitor DegreeWorks carefully to verify progress toward their degree. DegreeWorks will be used to certify that graduation requirements are met. If any requirements are not reflected correctly in DegreeWorks, a report can be filed in the Student Records Office (LSB 1120A) and action will be taken to resolve the issue.

1. Apply online for a **diploma review** with the Eberly College Office of Undergraduate Studies, in the Colson Hall Annex. The form is found at <http://eberly.wvu.edu/students/current-students/office-of-undergraduate-studies/student-resources>, or <https://forms.as.wvu.edu/ugrad/view.php?id=16274>. Students should apply **the semester before they anticipate graduating**. Ex: apply in Fall if you expect to graduate in Spring

Date completed: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Complete an application for graduation (to **receive diploma**) thru the link in their DegreeWorks account **the semester they intend to graduate**. Students will receive emails with instructions and deadlines. This will allow them to receive their diploma. Check your e-mail frequently for updates.

Date completed: \_\_\_\_\_

3. To participate in the **Commencement** Ceremony, students must RSVP at <http://graduation.wvu.edu/>.\*

Date completed: \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE:** Students who plan to complete their degree in August, but wish to participate in May Commencement should complete the following steps by their deadlines:

1. Complete diploma review in Spring of Commencement
2. RSVP to the Commencement Ceremony in Spring
3. Apply for graduation in *summer*. Do **NOT** apply for graduation in spring. You will be denied!

#### **Additional graduation requirements:**

**Psychology Credit Limit:** BA students may not count more than 42 credits in Psychology towards their degree. Students who have earned more than 42 credits in Psychology must take additional credits above 120 to earn their degree (e.g. 43 Psychology credits earned = 121 total credits needed). Non-capstone PSYC 491 credits will not count towards the 42 PSYC credit limit for Bachelor of Arts degrees.

**Psychology Residency Rule:** At least 10 Psychology credits must be taken at the WVU Main Campus.

\*For information about life after graduation, take a look at <http://grad.wvu.edu/>, and <http://careerservices.wvu.edu/>