

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. degrees in Psychology.

STUDENT INFORMATION:

Name _____

Phone _____ @mix.wvu.edu

Semester entered WVU _____ Expected date of graduation _____

B.A. or B.S.? _____ Minor(s), double major or dual degree _____

Career/graduate school plans: _____

*ASSIGNED ADVISOR _____

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

Graduation Checklist

GEF Requirements: Degree Pursuant Courses

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> GEF 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> GEF 7 (Global Studies & Diversity) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (English 101) and <input type="checkbox"/> (English 102) | <input type="checkbox"/> GEF 8 (Focus) |
| OR | <input type="checkbox"/> Focus 8 ⁽¹⁾ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GEF 1 (English 103) | <input type="checkbox"/> Focus 8 ⁽²⁾ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GEF 2 A/B (Science and Technology) | <input type="checkbox"/> Focus 8 ⁽³⁾ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GEF 3 (Mathematics & Quantitative skills) | <i>(*The focus can also be completed with a</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GEF 4 (Society & Connections) | <i>double major, a dual degree, or a minor)</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GEF 5 (Human Inquiry & the Past) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GEF 6 (The Arts & Creativity) | |

University Requirements:

- 120 Credit Hours Completed
- First Year Seminar Class Completed (from any program)
- Academic Standing: Above 2.0 Cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA)
- Residency Rule: 90 total credits or final 30 out of 36 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. (Psychology Residency Rule: At least 10 Psychology credits must be taken at the WVU Main Campus.)

College Requirements: Bachelor of Arts (BA) or a Bachelor of Science (BS)

BA:

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

BS:

- MATH 150 **OR** 155 **OR** MATH 153 and 154
- Science 1A
- Science 1B
- Science 2A
- Science 2B
- Science 3A
- Science 3B

Major Requirements: Psychology Degree Pursuant Courses

- PSYC 101***
- PSYC 203/203L*** and **PSYC 204/204L***
- PSYC 301/301L
- PSYC 302/302L
- CLUSTER A/B
- CLUSTER C
- CLUSTER D
- CLUSTER E
- 300/400+ PSYC LEVEL ELECTIVE #1
- 300/400+ PSYC LEVEL ELECTIVE #2
- PSYC CAPSTONE

***Psychology Credit Limit:** Students may not count more than 42 credits in Psychology towards their **Bachelor of ARTS** degree if graduating with exactly 120 credits. 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). **Note:** PSYC 191 & PSYC 491 credits (capstone and non-capstone) do NOT count toward the 42 PSYC credit limit for BA degree.

(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:

Freshman	Sophomore	Junior	Senior
PSYC 101	PSYC 203 & 204 (Research Methods & Data Analysis I & II)	PSYC 302	PSYC Cluster A/B
MATH 124 or 126 (or higher)	PSYC Cluster C/D/E	PSYC 301	PSYC Capstone
PSYC Cluster C/D/E	PSYC Cluster C/D/E	PSYC Upper-Level Elective	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 (optional minor or second major)	Electives (optional minor or second major)	

How to Register for Your Courses:

- Students can register for their next semester’s courses using the Schedule Builder Tool, or the STAR Tool, both available as tabs in the student portal: <http://portal.wvu.edu>
- For directions on how to register and related tasks, please use this link: <https://registrar.wvu.edu/registration>
- Common Registration Errors that will prevent enrolling in a course
- Other common error messages include:

Pre-Requisite/Test Score Error: There are some common registration issues that result in this error message:

- You are attempting to register for a class before you have taken the pre-requisite course, or you have not articulated the AP credit that counts as a pre-requisite course.
- Please select the pre-requisite course as listed in the schedule of courses, and in Schedule Builder, or articulate your AP credit before registration.
- The course has a co-requisite, such as a lab that must be taken at the same time or previously for credit. For example, students need to register for PSYC 203 and PSYC 203L at the same time in order to successfully enroll.

Cohort Restriction: You are attempting to register for a course in the Honors College, while not an Honors College Student. Please select a non-honor’s section of the same course or another course instead.

Field of Study Restriction: You are attempting to register for a course or a specific section that is reserved for students majoring or minoring in particular area of study. To view if a section is restricted to specific majors or minors, look up the course using the course schedule in STAR. Select a section of the desired course. First click on the title of the course, then click on the Restrictions button.

- If you are receiving a “**Blocked Error**” message due to a hold on your account, you can view the cause of the block by logging into STAR and clicking on the Student Services and Housing, and then Financial Aid menu, selecting Student Records, and then View Holds. Common holds that might be appearing on your account include:
 - 1) Parking Office: You have an unpaid parking ticket for parking in a restricted area on campus. Please contact the Office of Transportation and Parking to pay your ticket and remove the hold: <https://transportation.wvu.edu>
 - 2) Account Balance Due: You owe money to the University. Please call the Mountaineer Hub at (304)-293-1988 to pay your balance and get your hold lifted.
 - 3) Judicial Hold: You have violated some part of the Student Code. You will need to resolve the issue before registering. Please contact the Office of Student Conduct at <https://studentconduct.wvu.edu/>
 - 4) Libraries: You have an overdue library book or piece of media from WVU: Libraries. Please contact WVU Libraries at (304)-293-4040.
 - 5) PIN Required: Please See Your Academic Advisor. You must attend either a group advising or individual advising meeting with your advisor before having your registration hold removed. Contact your advisor.

For further questions, contact the Office of the Registrar, at 304-293-5355.

Course Program of Study (CPoS):

For students who receive financial aid from the federal government (FAFSA) and/or the West Virginia Promise Scholarship, your schedule will be audited every semester to make sure that you are in courses that are specifically applicable to your Course Plan of Study (CPoS). Merit-Based Scholarships, such as the Scholarship of Distinction, do not generate an audit. To receive funding, students must be enrolled in at least 12 credits of CPoS courses each semester. CPoS courses include (1) GEF requirements; (2) BA (language) or BS (math and science) requirements; (3) major requirements; and (4) additional courses **if needed to reach 120 credits**. The courses for **one minor** OR a **second major** will also count as CPoS courses. **Students using FAFSA-based funding to pay their tuition will need to evaluate their CPoS courses as they progress towards graduation.** For more information about financial aid, please consult this website: <https://financialaid.wvu.edu/home/maintain>

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 or meet privately with their academic advisor before enrolling in courses.**

Additional Activities by Year:

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

West Virginia University wants you to be successful in all of your personal and academic endeavors. Many resources are available for additional support, outside of advising.

If you are currently struggling in your course(s):

Many tutoring resources are available at WVU. Please visit this link to learn more:

<https://tutoring.wvu.edu>

If you are currently feeling anxious, depressed, or otherwise struggling with personal matters that are affecting your academic performance:

The Carruth Center provides a variety of counseling services for a wide range of student concerns. This includes individual counseling, group counseling, couples counseling and drug or alcohol counseling. Their Psychiatry Center also offers outpatient evaluation and treatment for problems such as depression, anxiety disorders, bipolar disorder, and attention deficit disorder. More information can be found at this website: <https://carruth.wvu.edu>

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

FOR PRE-REGISTRATION ADVISING, FOLLOW THE STEPS BELOW:

1. Sign up to attend a pre-registration advising session with an advisor. During the pre-registration period, advisors will contact advisees about scheduling an advising appointment to have your Advising Hold removed. Follow your advisor's directions about signing up for either an individual or group pre-registration session.
2. Familiarize yourself with your DegreeWorks Audit. You can access your DegreeWorks from your Student Portal.
3. Write down questions that you'd like to ask your advisor.
4. Review the Advising FAQ on our departmental website to see if your question has already been answered. <https://psychology.wvu.edu/students/current-undergraduate-students/advising>

YOUR ADVISOR MAY DECLINE TO MEET WITH YOU IF YOU ARRIVE FOR YOUR MEETING UNPREPARED.

Completing Your Advising Booklet

Please use the following instructions to complete your Psychology Advising Booklet:

GENERAL EDUCATION FOUNDATIONS (Page 9):

University GEF Policies.

The main purpose of the GEF curriculum is to ensure 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 choose 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 2nd major, or a 2nd 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>

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.

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. Courses may fulfill more than one requirement. (e.g., PSYC 101 applies to GEF 4 and the major).
3. There are two ways to meet the F1 requirement.
 - a. Take ENGL 101 (Eberly students enroll in Spring terms) followed by ENGL 102 (Eberly students enroll in Fall terms)
 - b. ENGL 103 Accelerated Academic Writing
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, 2nd major or 2nd 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).

PSYCHOLOGY MAJOR REQUIREMENTS (Pages 11-13)

1. Write in the semester/year and grade for any of the courses within this section that you have completed.
2. Research Methods requirements:
 - a. PSYC 203 and PSYC 204. *You will most likely take PSYC 203 and 204 starting in your SECOND YEAR of the Psychology Program.* Both require a C- to progress in the major.
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. PSYC 191, 491 and PSYC 491A credits count towards these 78 non-Psychology credits.

B.A. REQUIREMENTS (Page 10)

Eberly College of Arts and Sciences requirements for B.A. Degree

World Language. Completion of the 4th 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 GEF Objective requirements.** These courses are **not required for a B.S. degree.**

Students with prior instruction in a language should take the placement test in that language and begin at the level they are placed and complete 204. Students who earn at least a B in the course that they place into can request back credit for courses they were able to skip. Visit <https://worldlanguages.wvu.edu/students/undergraduate-students/placement> for information regarding the Foreign Language Placement Exam.

B.A. 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 GEF objectives AND B.A. requirements. You will want to use your world language classes here and choose other classes to fill your GEF objectives.

B.S. REQUIREMENTS (Page 10)

Eberly College of Arts and Sciences requirements for B.S. 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 GEF requirements.** These courses are **NOT required for B.A. degree.**

B.S. 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 (one in each semester) 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 150, 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

ENGL 101	3		
ENGL 102 <i>PR: ENGL 101</i>	3		
OR ENGL 103 <i>(Replaces both 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 PSYC students must take MATH 124 or higher.** MATH 124 is the prerequisite for PSYC 203 and 204. B.S. students must take MATH 124 or higher to progress to MATH 150, or equivalent(s) such as MATH 155 or MATH 153 and 154.

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

Bachelor of Arts: *

Credits Sem. Grade

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

Bachelor of Science (Choose one):

Credits Sem. Grade

MATH 150	3		
<u>OR</u> MATH 155	4		
<u>OR</u> (MATH 153	3		
<u>and</u> MATH 154)	3		

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 115/115L AND 117/117L

CS 110 AND 111

GEOL (101/101L) or GEOL 110/110L or GEOG 110/110L) AND (GEOL 103/103L or 203 or 230)

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

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

Credits Sem. Grade

101: Introduction to Psychology**	3		
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203/203L: Research Methods & Data Analysis I* <i>PR: PSYC 101 and MATH 124 or higher</i>	3		
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204/204L: Research Methods & Data Analysis II <i>PR: PSYC 203**</i>	3		
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*Start PSYC 203 in your second year of the program.

301/301L: Biological Foundations of Behavior <i>PR: PSYC 204** or BIOL 219/220</i>	3		
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302/302L: Behavior Principles <i>PR: PSYC 204</i>	4		
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** Requires earning a C- or better

ONE* from each of the following Clusters:

*Choose one course from Cluster A **OR** Cluster B

Cluster A: Learning and Cognition

402: Advanced Behavior Principles <i>PR: PSYC 302</i>	3		
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423: Cognition and Memory <i>PR: PSYC 204</i>	3		
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424: Learning and Behavior <i>PR: PSYC 302</i>	3		
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474: Applied Behavior Analysis <i>PR: PSYC 302</i>	3		
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OR Cluster B: Biological Bases of Behavior
Credits Sem. Grade

425: Perception <i>PR: PSYC 204</i>	3		
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426: Physiological Psychology <i>PR: PSYC 301</i>	3		
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427: Psychobiology of Sleep <i>PR: PSYC 204</i>	3		
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428: Hormones and Behavior <i>PR: PSYC 301</i>	3		
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Cluster C: Clinical (choose one)

281: Introduction to Abnormal Psychology <i>PR: PSYC 101</i>	3		
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362: Psychological Assessment <i>PR: PSYC 204</i>	3		
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363: Personality Theory <i>PR: PSYC 204</i>	3		
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364: Psychology of Adjustment <i>PR: ***See Below</i>	3		
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382: Exceptional Children <i>PR: PSYC 241</i>	3		
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367: Introduction to Clinical Psychology <i>PR: PSYC 281 (PSYC 204 or 304 recommended)</i>	3		
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***ONE Prerequisite of the following: PSYC 203, 204, 241, 251, 281 **OR** 293.

Cluster E: Social (choose one)

Cluster D: Developmental (choose one)

Credits Sem. Grade

	Credits	Sem.	Grade
241: Introduction to Human Development <i>PR: PSYC 101</i>	3		
341: Child Development <i>PR: PSYC 241</i>	3		
342: Prenatal and Infant Development <i>PR: PSYC 241</i>	3		
344: Adolescent Development <i>PR: PSYC 241</i>	3		
345: Adulthood and Aging <i>PR: PSYC 241</i>	3		

231: Leadership and Human Relations <i>PR: PSYC 101</i>	3		
232: Sex Roles and Behavior <i>PR: PSYC 101</i>	3		
251: Introduction to Social Psychology <i>PR: PSYC 101</i>	3		
332: Multicultural Issues <i>PR: PSYC 101</i>	3		
351: Topics in Social Psychology <i>PR: PSYC 251</i>	3		
370: Emotions and Mood <i>PR: PSYC 204 or PSYC 304</i>	3		
379: Community Psychology <i>PR:*** See Below</i>	3		

*** ONE Prerequisite of the following: PSYC 203, 204, 234, 241, 251, 281 or 293.

D. Psychology Elective Courses

TWO additional 3 credit 300 or 400 level PSYC courses must be selected from the list below, or the table above. Other: PSYC 368: Ethics and Practice in Behavior Analysis (PR: PSYC 101), PSYC 331: History and Systems, and 393 or 493: Special Topics Courses. PSYC 393 or 493 Special Topics courses may also count as a meeting a Cluster elective, too. See your advisor about the designation of PSYC 493 courses.

PSYC 315, 304 and experiential courses, such as 490, 491, 497, and 498 will not count towards the upper-level elective requirement.

PSYC 304 DOES NOT COUNT AS AN UPPER LEVEL ELECTIVE FOR THE PSYC MAJOR, EVEN AFTER SWITCHING TO THE PSYCHOLOGY MAJOR FROM THE PSYCHOLOGY MINOR.

E. Psychology Upper Electives:

	3		
	3		

F. Capstone: Choose one of the following:

490A: Teaching Practicum	3		
491A: Field Experience	3		
495A: Independent Study	3		
498A: Honors Thesis	3		

Recommended Psychology Courses for Career Paths

- Students interested in **graduate study in Psychology** (Masters of Science, Ph.D., etc.) should consider: PSYC 331, 362, 367, 423, 424, 425, 426 and 491, 497, 498, and advanced classes in the discipline the student is pursuing. Additional classes 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, Masters of Divinity, etc.) should consider: PSYC 241, 251, 331, and at least one course from among PSYC 281, 362, 363, 364, 379, 382, 474, 491, 497, 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, Work with Non-Profit Organizations, etc.) should consider: PSYC 241, 251, 362, 402, 474, 491, 497, 498, and appropriate courses from among PSYC 281, 341, 344, 345, 363, 364, 365, 370, 379, and 382.
- Students interested in **Health Professions** (medical school, nursing programs, occupational therapy, physician’s assistant, dental school, etc.) should consider: PSYC 343, 345, 362, 363, 370, 382, 423, 426, 474, 491, 497, 498. Meet with your advisor to discuss courses outside PSYC needed for admission to health-related programs.
- Common electives and popular minors for psychology majors include addiction studies, biology, child development and family studies, communication studies, mathematics, history, human services, general business, philosophy, religious studies, leadership studies, political science, social work, professional writing and editing, sociology, criminology, women and gender studies, forensic and investigative sciences, and statistics. This is merely a list of popular minors for Psychology majors. Additional minors are available.

Minor: _____

More than one minor can be completed with a degree in Psychology. However, only one minor is considered a part of CPoS for funding purposes (See

<https://financialaid.wvu.edu/home/disbursement-refunds>). All minors are at least 15 credit hours, with at least 9 credits at the upper level, per University policy.

	3		
	3		
	3		
	3		
	3		
	3		

All psychology majors are encouraged to take upper-division enrichment 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.

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 (for PSYC 491 and 491A), 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 research (PSYC 497 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 for the major.

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 regard 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 497: Research, 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.

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

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. **Students must have completed PSYC 204 and be in their last year of study before they will be allowed to register for a capstone experience.**

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.**

For all Capstone and non-capstone Experiences, a contract must be completed by the student and supervising faculty member. **The contracts for each Capstone Experience are located in the Student Records Office (LSB 1120) or may be obtained through one's major advisor. Forms for PSYC 491/491A Professional Field Experience are all online:** <https://psychology.wvu.edu/students/current-undergraduate-students/field-experience>

Once the contract has been completed, signed, and sent to Ms. Vee Lewis (vee.lewis@mail.wvu.edu), 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.**

Experiential Course Options: Course numbers with "A" designate capstone courses and are taken for 3 credits; capstone courses earn a letter grade. Course numbers without an "A" designate non-capstone experiential courses; these courses are taken for variable credit (1 credit hour = 45 hour time commitment) and are graded on a pass/fail basis.

PSYC 490 /490A (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 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. Typically, supervising instructors have GPA requirements for students seeking to qualify for a Teaching Practicum.

PSYC 491/491A (Professional Field Experience) – PSYC 491, Professional Field Experience in Psychology, involves on- or off-campus placement. This capstone is available Fall, Spring, and Summer terms. This program works best for students interested in applied careers in counseling psychology, school psychology, social work, mental health counselors, and business. 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. More information and relevant deadlines are found on the Department of Psychology website: <https://psychology.wvu.edu/students/current-undergraduate-students/field-experience>

Each semester, the department holds a **PSYC 491/491A Info Night** where information is provided about setting up a Professional Field Experience, what application materials are required, and when applications materials are due. **Make sure that you are aware of the deadlines for all the applications.** This Info Night occurs very early in the semester, so please check announcements and emails from the Advising Team for important dates and events, and for application deadlines. The PSYC 491A Capstone set at 3 credits and will result in a letter grade. If a capstone student plans to take additional field placement credits, they need to complete an additional application for PSYC 491 non-Capstone credit, which are pass/fail credits.

As a requirement of their Capstone Experience, students must report on their activities during their field experience, such as what they did and what they learned. Students participate in the Psychology Capstone Poster Session, often creating an infographic of their placement or treatment.

PSYC 497 (Research) and PSYC 495A (Independent Study Capstone) – PSYC 497 and PSYC 495A are for students participating in faculty research labs. These courses are best suited for students interested in research-oriented graduate programs or careers in the health professions. 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.

PSYC 497 (Research) is a *non-capstone enrichment course*, worth between 1-6 credits, and graded as pass/fail. Faculty may require students to have completed specific classes or have a certain GPA before joining the lab. Interested students should approach the faculty member(s) whose research interests them. Information about faculty members' research is available on Departmental websites under "faculty member directory." **Please note that faculty typically require that students interested in a PSYC 495A Capstone first complete at least one semester of non-capstone PSYC 497 in their lab.**

PSYC 495A is capstone course, worth 3 credits, for students who have established a research project in a faculty lab. *As a requirement of their Capstone Experience*, students must present their research as a poster at the Capstone Poster session and complete a research paper, in addition to other research activities.

Enrollment in PSYC 497 and 495A require instructor consent and the completion of a contract (forms available in the Student Records Office, LSB 1120A or from advisor).

PSYC 498/498A (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) or from the student's advisor. 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 1120).

Completing a PSYC 498 experience generally requires 2 semesters. During the first semester, students typically register for the non-capstone section of PSYC 498. Then during the second semester, students will register for the Capstone section of PSYC 498A. Faculty often require that the student work in their lab for PSYC 497 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 498A 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 the "Faculty Member" directory.

Certificate in Applied Behavior Analysis

Students interested in working in applied settings, such as Special Education, Addiction and Recovery, Health Promotion, Human Behavior, or Animal Training may want to complete the Undergraduate Certificate in Behavior Analysis. The Psychology Department provides a series of courses that allow students to work on becoming a Certified Applied Behavior Analyst. The courses are PSYC 101, PSYC 203 & 204, PSYC 302, PSYC 368, PSYC 402 or 531, PSYC 424, PSYC 474 or 533, PSYC 497 or 491. All of these courses can be used toward the psychology major, but early planning is needed. It is recommended that students contact Dr. Claire St. Peter to learn more (Claire.StPeter@mail.wvu.edu).

Graduation

When students have completed 90 credits, they will have a 90-cr check completed by their advisor. This review is completed to highlight the requirements that are still needed to meet all degree requirements. Students should make sure to monitor all notes placed in their Degree Works.

The semester that students plan to complete their degree, they will need to apply to graduate. The application form can be accessed by clicking the link found in their Degree Works Student Block, "Apply to Graduate." Students will need to apply before the deadline, often before midterms.

Students RSVP to participate in graduation ceremonies separately. The link to RSVP for graduation ceremonies is provided by the College. This is done in the weeks before graduation.

Students earning GPAs that allow for honors cords will pick these up from the Eberly College the weeks before graduation.

Students who will be finishing their degrees at the end of the summer term may request permission to participate in May ceremonies or can participate in December convocation, after

their degree has been awarded. Students will need to RSVP using the same link described above. Students progressing towards graduation and wishing to participate in ceremonies should read emails from the College and University carefully.

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/>