

## DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

Undergraduate Handbook  
2016-2017  
University of Oregon, Straub Hall  
(541) 346-4921

### MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Department of Psychology undergraduate program is to educate students about the major research findings and theories in the field of psychology and to train them to use an empirical approach for understanding human behavior. Specifically, the program endeavors to provide students with

- Broad exposure to the basic concepts, theories, findings and ethical issues of psychology;
- Education in the scientific method, including hands-on research opportunities;
- Strong critical thinking and written communication skills, including the ability to evaluate and convey the evidence for claims regarding human behavior; and
- Applied experience through internship and practicum opportunities at partnering community organizations.

All students participate in and collaborate on research as part of the academic course sequence. Interested students are encouraged to gain additional research experience through research assistant positions in faculty labs and the undergraduate honors thesis program. The psychology major gives students great flexibility in selecting upper-division courses to fit individual goals and interests. Numerous faculty research programs that range in levels of analysis and intellectual focus enrich classroom and hands-on opportunities. An undergraduate degree in psychology provides the background for a broad range of careers, including social services, education, law, business, or graduate programs in psychology.

### CURRICULUM

Students are expected to get a good background in writing and math for the major. This is followed by our statistics and research methods classes, which lay the groundwork for higher level work. The 300-level core courses cover broad areas of investigation: cognitive psychology, biological psychology, social psychology, developmental psychology, personality, and psychopathology. All majors are required to take a selection of core courses from these areas. The 400-level specialty courses train students in important skills such as critical thinking about research, report writing, experimentation, and oral presentation, as well as providing exposure to state-of-the-art knowledge in central aspects of psychological science. We also offer 300-level courses of general interest.

Students who complete the methods training (PSY 301, 302, and 303) and some core courses early in their program maximize their opportunities for research projects, honors theses, etc. Our advanced curriculum provides extensive opportunities for students who have developed strong skills in their regular course work.

The following pages further describe our undergraduate program in psychology. *Please note that the material in this handbook is to be used as a supplement to, not a substitute for, discussions with advisers.* There are many opportunities for undergraduate psychology majors to receive advising.

1. Jagdeep Bala PhD, head undergraduate adviser, Nicole Dudukovic, PhD and their assistants are available for all academic advising: evaluating transfer work, setting up practicum opportunities, and general trouble-shooting.

2. Psychology's peer advisers are available most days during the academic year and provide assistance and support for a variety of issues, from how to sign up for a practicum to course scheduling to advice on the GRE and getting into graduate school. They are located in 229 Straub Hall.

Academic Advising Policy: All advising offered in the psychology department is meant to assist students in planning their program to complete their degree in the most efficient way. It is important to remember that *students are ultimately responsible for knowing and interpreting their degree audit*. Psychology advisers are available to assist students in that endeavor by answering questions, providing resources, and giving general assistance and tips. Please see the head adviser if you have questions about this policy.

### ENTRY INTO THE PROGRAM

New students applying to the University of Oregon will need to indicate psychology as their major in the UO's application materials. To change a major to psychology or to add psychology as an additional major or a minor, students need to meet with a psychology advisor to fill out the required paper work.

All required courses or their equivalents must be taken for letter grades and passed with grades of C- or higher. **Exception:** PSY 201 and 202 must be passed with a C or higher. Introductory and methods/foundations courses should be completed by the end of the sophomore year and core courses by the end of the junior year, although many students will complete these requirements earlier. Delays in completion of these courses may postpone graduation.

#### Introductory/Prerequisite Courses (Each course equals 4 credits)

Mind and Brain (PSY 201); Mind and Society (PSY 202); Introduction to Methods of Statistics and Probability (Math 243); Writing 121 (WR 121); Writing 122 (WR 122) or Writing 123 (WR 123)\*\*

\*\*WR 123 is recommended for psychology majors

#### 300-Level Core Courses (Choose at least 3 and must include PSY 304 or 305)

Biopsychology (PSY 304); Cognition (PSY 305); Social Psychology (PSY 306); Personality (PSY 307)  
Developmental Psychology (PSY 308); Psychopathology (PSY 309)

#### Methods/Foundations Courses (Each course equals 4 credits)

Scientific Thinking (PSY 301); Statistical Methods in Psychology (PSY 302) or equivalent\*

Research Methods [Topic]\*\* (PSY 303) (PSY 302 is a pre-req for PSY 303)

\*Equivalents are Math 343, 425, 461, or 462 only; maximum of two attempts in PSY 302

\*\*Repeatable once when topic changes

After completing the above-mentioned requirements, students can then take our 400-level specialty courses in further preparation for graduation.

### PSYCHOLOGY MAJOR OPTIONS

Students who plan graduate study in psychology should serve as research assistants and explore the psychology honors program. Other students who plan to work in counseling, industrial psychology, government, or business administration should think more about applied experience in practicum placements and other skills that make the student a more attractive job candidate or candidate for training.

## Five Areas of Investigation in Psychology

COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGY - Study of human functions involved in processing, storing, transforming, and responding to information.

Specialty Courses - 433 Learning and Memory, 436 Human Performance, 438 Perception, 440 Psycholinguistics.

BIOLOGICAL PSYCHOLOGY (NEUROSCIENCE) - Study of the neural and biological mechanisms of behavior. May be relevant to clinical psychology and human experimental psychology, in addition to biological psychology.

Specialty Courses - 410 Evolutionary Psychology, 445 Brain Mechanisms of Behavior, 449 Human Neuropsychology, 450 Hormones and Behavior.  
*PSY 304 is an additional prerequisite for PSY 445 and 449.*

SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY - Study of individual attitudes, small group processes, organizations, interpersonal behavior, person perception, personality and cultural influences on behavior.

Specialty Courses - 420 Psychology and Law, 457 Group Dynamics, 458 Decision Making, 459 Cultural Psychology.

CLINICAL, PERSONALITY, AND PSYCHOPATHOLOGY - Study of normal human personality, deviant behavior and its remediation.

Specialty Courses - 468 Motivation and Emotion, 472 Psychology of Trauma, 473 Marital and Family Therapies, 480 Development and Psychopathology.

DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY - Study of developmental processes. Students who have an interest in developmental psychology, but do not wish to take a more specialized course, are advised to take Psychology 308 (Developmental Psychology). This course should also help you decide if you want to pursue a developmental specialization.

Specialty Courses - 475 Cognitive Development, 476 Language Acquisition, 478 Social Development, 479 Infancy, 480 Development and Psychopathology.

## MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

1. A minimum of 56 credits in psychology, 48 of these upper-division, and at least 16 upper-division credits taken at the University of Oregon; minimum GPA of 2.0 in psychology coursework.
2. **ALL REQUIRED COURSES MUST BE TAKEN GRADED AND PASSED WITH A C- OR HIGHER.**  
**Exception: PSY 201 and 202 must be passed with a C or higher.** A course in which a student receives a grade of D+ or lower cannot be counted toward the major requirements. Any elective psychology course may be taken Pass/No pass and must be passed (grade of "P") to count.
3. PSY 201 Mind and Brain **and** PSY 202 Mind and Society must be taken graded and passed with a C or higher.
4. Introduction to Methods of Statistics and Probability (Math 243). This course must be taken graded and passed with a C- or higher prior to PSY 302. Math 243 is recommended, and we accept Math 241 or higher.

5. Two writing courses, WR 121 (must be taken before PSY 302) and either WR 122 or WR 123 must be taken graded and passed with a C- or better prior to PSY 303. WR 123 is recommended.
6. At least three 300-level core area survey courses in psychology numbered 304-309. Either 304 or 305 must be taken in addition to two other courses.
7. PSY 301 (Scientific Thinking), PSY 302 (Statistical Methods) and PSY 303 (Research Methods - Topic). PSY 301 must be passed with a C- or higher before taking PSY 302, and PSY 302 must be passed with a C- or higher prior to taking PSY 303. Passing both PSY 302 and 303 with a C- or higher is a prerequisite for psychology courses numbered 420-480. PSY 304 is an additional prerequisite for PSY 445 and PSY 449. Students cannot take 400-level courses without PSY 303. Because they are tightly integrated, PSY 302 and 303 are strongly preferred. However, the following courses may be substituted:  
Substitutions:  
MATH 343, 425, 461 or 462 may be taken in lieu of PSY 302. The credits earned through a course equivalent will apply toward the minimum of 56 psychology credits.
8. At least three 400-level psychology courses numbered 410 (Evolutionary Psychology only) 420 – 480. **Please note: PSY 410 courses, except for Evolutionary Psychology, count as elective credits only.**
9. Minimum of 12 upper division additional credits in psychology. At least eight of the 12 credits must be from additional 300-400 level coursework. Electives can be taken graded or P/N. . HPHY 333 or LING 396 can also be counted toward these credits. A maximum of 4 credits of PSY 401 (Research) and/or PSY 409 (Practicum) can be used toward the 48 upper-division psychology credit hour requirement.

## Department of Psychology Grading Standards

**A+** signifies a rare level of achievement above and beyond the excellent performance that merits an A grade. In many courses no student performs at this unusual level, and some instructors in psychology do not use this grade.

**A** signifies an exceptional level of achievement. The student demonstrates an excellent grasp of the material and very strong performance across the board, or exceptional performance on most aspects of the course and good performance in others.

**B** signifies a good level of achievement. The student demonstrates consistently good grasp of material and good performance, or very strong performance on some aspects of the course and satisfactory performance on others.

**C** signifies an adequate level of achievement. The student demonstrates a satisfactory grasp of course material and adequate performance, or good performance on many aspects of the course paired with some notable deficiencies.

**D** signifies a minimal level of achievement. The student demonstrates the bare minimum level of understanding and/or performance to pass the course and does not fully meet the course requirements.

**F** signifies achievement below the minimum needed to pass the course. Evidence of student understanding of course material and/or performance is insufficient to merit credit for the course.

Instructors in the Department of Psychology put considerable effort into their grading criteria. If you believe there has been an error in how your grade was calculated please contact your instructor. Correcting an error or changing an I or Y grade (see below) are legitimate reasons for a grade change. Student lobbying is not.

Other grades: I and Y

**I** may be used when the quality of work is satisfactory, but some minor yet essential requirement has not been completed, for reasons acceptable to the instructor. Faculty and students should discuss and agree on the requirements and specific deadlines for making up the incomplete.

**Y** may be used when suspected student academic misconduct is being investigated and has not yet been resolved.

If an instructor suspects academic misconduct, such as cheating, plagiarism, or unauthorized collaboration on assignments and/or tests, the student will be contacted. If this does not clear up all suspicion, the incident will also be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards as required by State of Oregon administrative rules. Sanctions for confirmed academic misconduct may include an F in the course.

## PREPARING FOR GRADUATE SCHOOL

Prospective graduate students must recognize that psychology is an empirical science, with strong ties to the other sciences and social sciences. A substantial background in the supporting sciences, statistics, and computer skills is advised. In addition, PSY 412 (Applied Data Analysis) is helpful. Students who plan to apply for graduate training in psychology should become involved in research assistant activities by their sophomore or early junior year. Often this work can lead to an individual honors project and a degree with Honors in Psychology (see below). Students should discuss the possibility of a future honors project with their proposed faculty sponsors. For students applying to counseling or clinical programs, it is also important to have had practicum experience in human service activities. Students planning graduate studies should have strong preparation in psychology and supporting areas (biology, computer science, math, social science, etc.) good grades, and an aptitude for empirical research and academic coursework.

Peer advising has some information about graduate programs. By the junior year, students should have written for information from programs they are considering. These programs typically require excellent grades, a strong research and/or applied background, good faculty recommendations, and high scores on the Graduate Record Examinations (GREs.) Preparation for the latter is available in courses and in book form. Students usually take the GREs in the summer or fall of the year preceding the beginning of the graduate program.

## HONORS IN PSYCHOLOGY CURRICULUM

Lou Moses, honors director for 2016-2017; [moses@uoregon.edu](mailto:moses@uoregon.edu)

Students who plan to pursue a degree with honors are advised to follow a curriculum similar to that described as preparation for graduate study. Students with high GPAs who do well in PSY 303, Research Methods, are eligible to apply to the honors program, but the program is not limited to this group. If you enjoy research and would like to obtain first-hand experience in carrying out an honors research project, you may consider applying to the departmental honors program. Honors students work closely with faculty and graduate students to obtain valuable experience in designing, carrying out, and writing up a substantial project. Completing an honors project also makes possible stronger faculty recommendations for future training.

To carry out an honors project, it is necessary to apply to the program and find a faculty member or a graduate student in the psychology doctoral program who will be your honors adviser. (If you choose a graduate student as an adviser, your second reader must be a faculty member). Finding an adviser can be done in several ways; the best way is to become involved early in your career at the university as a research assistant with an ongoing project. (See information under research assistant experience and field experiences). It is usually necessary to become involved in this kind of work as early as possible (late in your sophomore year or at the beginning of your junior year) in order to have time to qualify for an individual honors project. Be sure to discuss with your proposed faculty or graduate student adviser whether an honors project will be a possibility in your senior year. Note: It is strongly recommended that students begin their honors project four terms before the planned completion date. Applications for the honors program, which are available on our website, should be submitted as soon as eligibility is determined as the program fills quickly.

In order to graduate with honors in psychology, students admitted to the program will be required to register for a three-term, one-credit-per-term honors seminar (PSY 490-492) and Intermediate Data Analysis (PSY 412) which is offered fall term only. Typically, students would begin the seminar cycle fall term of the academic year in which they plan to graduate. In addition, honors students need to complete

an honors project with final approval by the student's adviser, a second reader, and the honors program director.

### PSI CHI

Psi Chi is the National Honor Society in Psychology founded in 1929 for the purpose of encouraging and advancing the science of psychology. Potential members must have at least 14 credits in psychology, must be declared as a psychology major or minor, and must have a cumulative UO and psychology GPA of 3.25 or higher depending on class standing. Qualified candidates may apply for membership twice each year. Please contact peer advising for more information.

### RESEARCH ASSISTANT EXPERIENCE

Psychology majors have the opportunity to work on ongoing research projects within the department. This experience is especially helpful for students considering graduate school or other training programs that value skills in analysis and strong work habits. The research experience lets students know whether doing research is something they really enjoy. In addition, the faculty sponsor of a research project can provide the student a letter of recommendation for application to graduate schools, other training programs, or employment. The usual entry to research assistant work is completion of all prerequisite courses, and at least a B or B+ average in psychology courses is typically expected. Students pursuing research assistant experience should be prepared for responsible work that requires extreme care and considerable commitment. Extended training for a position may require that student research assistants plan a two or three quarter commitment to their work. A list of research assistant opportunities is available on Psychology's Canvas page. You may also ask individual faculty whether they have research assistant positions available. You can browse faculty research interests online at <http://psychweb.uoregon.edu/research>.

### FIELD EXPERIENCES IN APPLIED PSYCHOLOGY (Practicum)

Students interested in careers in the human services (e.g., mental health, education, social services) should consider participating in some sort of applied work as a part of their education. Supervised experience in applied settings can be a valuable adjunct to the academic curriculum. Such opportunities permit students to apply some of the concepts learned in class and to gain first-hand knowledge about career possibilities. Listed below are several possibilities for applied work, which may carry academic credit. Interested students will need to meet with the current practicum coordinator to finalize participation details.

1. Participation in applied projects within the Department of Psychology: Several faculty members direct projects in which undergraduates can obtain supervised experience in applied work (PSY 401). Advanced students who have considerable prior course work in psychology may be eligible for such opportunities, which often combine research and applied skills training. A list of available opportunities can be found on the department's Canvas page. Students must make arrangements with the faculty member who directs the project.
2. Practicum opportunities on campus or in the community: A list of such practica (PSY 409) and the procedures for participating in them can be found on Psychology's Canvas page. Students must meet with the practicum coordinator for approval of PSY 409 credits.

## PEER ADVISING

Psychology majors are invited to apply to become psychology peer advisers. Peer advisers work with their fellow psychology majors to perform a variety of academic advising services such as providing degree analyses and help with schedule planning. They also offer information about university and major requirements and resources, careers in psychology, and graduate school opportunities, as well as practica and research opportunities. For more information and applications, stop by the Office of Peer Advising in 229 Straub, or call 346-4936.

## A MINOR IN PSYCHOLOGY

The Department of Psychology offers a psychology minor. **All required courses for the minor must be taken graded and passed with a C- or higher.** The psychology minor requires 28 total psychology credit hours, including 20 upper-division psychology credit hours (16 at the UO), and a minimum psychology GPA of 2.0.

### Psychology Minor Requirements

28 credits (each course equals 4 credits)

### Introductory/Prerequisite Courses

Mind and Brain (PSY 201)

Mind and Society (PSY 202)

Introduction to Methods of Statistics and Probability (Math 243).

*(PSY 201 and 202 are prerequisites for PSY 302 and 300-level classes listed below)*

### Methods/Foundations Courses

Scientific Thinking (PSY 301)

Statistical Methods in Psychology (PSY 302) or equivalent\*

*\*Equivalents are Math 343, 425, 461, or 462 only; maximum of two attempts in PSY 302*

### Upper-Division Core Courses (Choose at least 3 and must include PSY 304 or 305)

Biopsychology (PSY 304)

Cognition (PSY 305)

Social Psychology (PSY 306)

Personality (PSY 307)

Developmental Psychology (PSY 308)

Psychopathology (PSY 309)

## GRADUATING IN PSYCHOLOGY

Check the academic calendars (accessible from the web page of the Office of the Registrar – <http://registrar.uoregon.edu/>) for each term's degree application deadline. It's a good idea for students to submit their degree application, which is found in DuckWeb, the term before they plan on graduating so that they don't miss the application deadline. Participation in Psychology's graduation ceremony in June requires signing up on our website to do so. Students whose credits may not be finished until summer or fall are welcome to walk in Psychology's spring ceremony.