
Psychology

Faculty

Professor: Dunn

Associate Professor: Castañeda

The Major

What is psychology? Psychology is the scientific discipline that studies human behavior and mental processes: how human beings develop, learn, think and feel. Psychologists study the relative influences of heredity and experience throughout the life span in a wide variety of environments, including the laboratory, home, school, workplace, jury room, hospital and hospice.

What do psychology graduates do? The majority of students who graduate with a B.A. in psychology enter the job market and find employment in a broad range of settings, including business, state and local government agencies, and health-care services. Because the B.A. in psychology provides a liberal arts education as opposed to technical training, psychology majors will need to acquire job-specific experience or expect additional on-the-job training.

Does the B.A. in psychology prepare students for graduate work in applied areas? Students who have maintained strong academic records in psychology often enter masters degree programs in counseling: Clinical Social Work; Marriage, Family and Child Counseling; and School Psychology. Others pursue graduate work in a number of related fields including Program Evaluation, Industrial and Organizational Psychology, Public Health, Social Ecology, Education, Program Development, Criminal Justice, Law, Administrative Social Work, Human Resource Development, and Medicine.

Advising

All psychology majors are urged to make an appointment with an academic adviser during their first semester of residence at SDSU. Students who plan to transfer as psychology majors should make an appointment before registering.

Declaration of the Psychology Major

To declare the psychology major, students must consult with the psychology adviser and provide evidence of having completed the following requirements: Mathematics and writing competencies, and 12 of the 19 units under

Preparation for the Major to include Biology 100, Psychology 101, and 270. Informal transcripts may be used by the psychology adviser to determine declaration of the major. Students should declare the major as soon as they have completed the necessary requirements and should complete no more than 12 units of upper division psychology courses prior to declaring the major. Students who are planning to transfer to SDSU should see the psychology adviser and declare the major or develop a plan for doing so during the semester prior to enrolling.

Psychology Major

With the B.A. Degree in Liberal Arts and Sciences (Major Code: 20011)

All candidates for a degree in liberal arts and sciences must complete the graduation requirements listed in the section of this bulletin on "Graduation Requirements." No more than 48 units in psychology courses can apply to the degree.

A minor is not required for this major. However, depending on career goals, students may wish to consider minors in areas such as biology, business, public administration, recreation, social work, statistics, and others. See pages 60-61 for minors offered at the Imperial Valley Campus.

General Requirements for the Major

Preparation for the Major. Psychology 101, 211, 230, 260, 270, 271, and Biology 100 (19 units). Students planning to major in psychology are advised to take these courses for a letter grade and to complete them before progressing to upper division courses in the major. NOTE: Psychology majors may use Psychology 270 to satisfy Mathematics/Quantitative Reasoning General Education requirement. *NOTE ALSO:* A college level statistics course will be accepted from another department in lieu of Psychology 270.

Satisfaction of the SDSU Mathematics and Writing Requirements is a prerequisite for all upper division courses in psychology. Refer to the Graduation Requirements section of the bulletin for specific mathematics and writing requirements that need to be satisfied. Competencies will be enforced by RegLine for many upper division psychology classes. For exceptions contact the psychology adviser. Students who crash classes after RegLine will be required to show proof of competencies.

Foreign Language Requirement. Competency (successfully completing the third college semester or fifth college quarter) is required in one foreign language as part of the preparation for the major. Refer to section of bulletin on "Graduation Requirements." Psychology majors are urged to discuss scheduling the foreign language requirement with an academic adviser.

Upper Division Writing Requirement. Passing the University Writing Examination or completing one of the approved writing courses with a grade of C (2.0) or better.

The Major. Methods. All majors must complete Psychology [301](#) or [410](#) or both. Psychology [301](#) is suitable for most psychology majors, including those planning to enter the job market after graduation, those undecided about career plans, and those planning to pursue graduate work in related fields such as counseling.

Students planning to pursue graduate work in psychology should take Psychology [370](#) and [410](#) as early as possible. **Note:** Students enrolling in these courses must have earned a B or better in Psychology 270 or its equivalent. Students unsure of their statistical or computer competence may wish to take Psychology [301](#) before enrolling in Psychology [370](#) or [410](#).

Breadth. All majors must complete 12 units selected from a list of content courses covering areas of biological, developmental, abnormal, social, personality, cognitive, and sensation/perception.

Requirements for the Major. A minimum of 31 upper division units in psychology to include Psychology [301](#) or [410](#) and 12 units selected from Psychology [331](#) or [332](#) or [333](#), [340](#), [350](#), [351](#), 360 or 361, [380](#), 388. The remaining 15 elective units may be selected from any psychology courses numbered 300 or above.

Recommendations for Electives

Employment with the B.A. Electives should be selected in accord with general career goals. Students interested in health and human services may take courses that focus on psychological health and well-being or issues related to child development. Those interested in business may take courses that focus on industrial, organizational and consumer issues or that emphasize computer skills, measurement, data analysis, or some combination of these.

Masters programs in counseling. At SDSU, a Master of Science degree in Counseling is offered by the College of Education and a Master of Social Work degree is offered by the College of Health and Human Services. For these programs students have considerable latitude in the selection of psychology electives, but it is important to develop an appropriate profile of volunteer or work experience.

Graduate programs in psychology. Most masters or doctoral programs in psychology require students to have strong research profiles. SDSU psychology majors can accomplish this by completing Psychology [370](#), [410](#), and an advanced laboratory (Psychology [412-419](#)). In addition, students should become involved as early as possible in faculty-sponsored research.

Courses (PSY)

UPPER DIVISION COURSES (Intended for Undergraduates)

Note: *Many psychology courses have enforced prerequisites, meaning the student must provide proof of having completed the prerequisite to the instructor in order to remain enrolled. Students who have not completed an enforced prerequisite and who fail to drop the class officially will be assigned the grade of "U," which is equivalent to an "F." Before enrolling in psychology courses, students should consult the bulletin to determine that they have completed any enforced prerequisites.*

Satisfaction of the SDSU Writing Requirement is a prerequisite for all upper division courses in psychology. Refer to the Graduation Requirements section of the bulletin for specific writing requirement (freshmen/transfer students) that needs to be satisfied. Competency will be enforced by RegLine for most upper division psychology classes. For exceptions contact the Psychology Undergraduate Advising Office. Students who crash classes after RegLine will be required to show proof of competency.

301. Introduction to Research Methods in Psychology (4)

Three lectures and two hours of activity.

Prerequisites: Psychology 101, 270, and 271. **Proof of completion of prerequisites required:** Copy of transcript. Open only to psychology majors.

Methods used to answer questions in psychology, including case study, observation, survey, experimental, and field study procedures. Class projects using these methods, interpreting results and report writing; critically evaluating research findings.

316. Behavior Modification (3)

Prerequisite: Psychology 101. Recommended: Psychology 211.

Contingencies of reinforcement, stimulus control, response shaping, aversive control, and other basic principles of operant behavior applied to understanding and modification of human behavior.

321. Organizational Psychology (3)

Prerequisite: Psychology 101.

Human behavior in the context of organizational life. Factors related to effectiveness of individuals and groups within organizations, including organization design, leadership and control, motivation, cooperation and conflict. Not open to students with credit in Public Administration 340.

331. Psychology of Infant and Child Development (3)

Prerequisite: Psychology 101 and 230. **Proof of completion of prerequisite required for Psychology 230:** Copy of transcript.

Psychological development of normal child from infancy through childhood focusing on physical, social, cognitive, and linguistic aspects of development. Not open to students with credit in Psychology 432 covering this topic.

332. Psychology of Adolescent and Early Adult Development (3)

Prerequisites: Psychology 101 and 230. **Proof of completion of prerequisite required for Psychology 230:** Copy of transcript.

Psychological development of normal individual from adolescence through early adulthood focusing on physical, social, and cognitive aspects of development.

340. Social Psychology (3)

Prerequisites: Psychology 101; completion of the General Education requirement in Foundations II.B., Social and Behavioral Sciences required.

The major problems and findings concerning group behavior and group membership, the socialization of the individual, and processes of social interaction.

350. Abnormal Psychology (3)

Prerequisites: Psychology 101; completion of the General Education requirement in Foundations II.B., Social and Behavioral Sciences required.

Causes and treatment of abnormal behavior with emphasis on major behavior disorders.

351. Psychology of Personality (3)

Prerequisites: Psychology 101; completion of the General Education requirement in Foundations II.B., Social and Behavioral Sciences required.

Major theoretical approaches to individual differences and the study of the person. Techniques of personality assessment. Selected research findings.

365. Drugs and Behavior (3)

Prerequisite: Psychology 260.

Fundamentals of regulation, administration, tolerance, dependence, and physiological activity of drugs. Effects of stimulants, depressants, opiates, psychedelics, and psychotherapeutic drugs on the nervous system and on cognitive, personality, and behavioral functioning.

370. Psychological Testing and Measurement (3)

Prerequisite: Grade of C or better in Psychology 270 or equivalent statistics course. **Proof of completion of prerequisite required:** Copy of transcript.

Measurement theory and the basic principles of testing. Selection, construction and critical evaluation of group tests of intelligence, personality, aptitude, interest and achievement.

380. Cognitive Psychology (3)

Prerequisite: Psychology 101. Recommended: Psychology 211.

Theory and research on attention, learning, memory, thinking, understanding, and language.

388. Sensation and Perception (3)

Prerequisites: Psychology 101 and 260.

Theory and research in sensory and perceptual processes.

407. Health Psychology (3)

Prerequisites: Psychology 211 and 270. **Proof of completion of prerequisites required:** Copy of transcript.

Behavioral components of major illnesses and causes of death and disability. Primary prevention of health problems through behavior change and psychological features of the health care system.

410. Laboratory in Experimental Psychology (5)

Two lectures and six hours of activity.

Prerequisites: Psychology 211, a grade of B or better in Psychology 270 or equivalent statistics course, and Psychology 271. **Proof of completion of prerequisites required:** Copy of transcript.

Understanding of experimental design, quantitative methods, and experimental reports as they are applied to all areas of psychology.

412. Advanced Laboratory in Social Psychology (5)

Two lectures and six hours of activity.

Prerequisite: Psychology 410. **Proof of completion of prerequisite required:** Copy of transcript.

Experimental literature, assigned and original laboratory projects in the field of social psychology.

432. Advanced Topics in Developmental Psychology (3)

Prerequisite: Psychology 230. **Proof of completion of prerequisite required:** Copy of transcript.

Selected areas in developmental psychology. May be repeated with new content. See Class Schedule for specific content. Maximum credit six units.

446. Advanced Topics in Social Psychology (3)

Prerequisite: Psychology 340. **Proof of completion of prerequisite required:** Copy of transcript.

Selected areas in social psychology. May be repeated with new content. See Class Schedule for specific content. Maximum credit six units.

452. Introduction to Counseling and Therapy (3)

Prerequisite: Psychology 350 or 351. **Proof of completion of prerequisite required:** Copy of transcript.

Theory, methods, and research in psychological approaches to personality and behavior change. Not open to students with credit in Psychology 650 or Counseling and School Psychology 660.

491. Academic or Psychological Counseling Experiences (3) Cr/NC

Prerequisites: Upper division psychology major with a 3.0 minimum grade point average and consent of the psychology undergraduate coordinator.

Individual supervision of academic or psychological counseling experiences, geared to the acquisition of counseling and communication skills. May be repeated with the approval

of the psychology undergraduate coordinator. Maximum credit six units. No more than 12 units of courses numbered Psychology 491, 495, 497, 499 may be counted toward the major.

495. Readings and Practice in Companionship Therapy (3) Cr/NC

Prerequisites: Psychology 350 and three units from Psychology 230, 340, or 351. **Proof of completion of prerequisites required:** Copy of transcript.

Students are paired with troubled or potentially troubled clients from selected community agencies, supervised by both the instructor and the agency. Assigned readings, small group meetings, written reports required. May be repeated with new client and agency. Maximum credit six units. No more than 12 units of courses numbered Psychology 491, 495, 497, 499 may be counted toward the major.

496. Selected Topics in Psychology (1-4)

Prerequisite: Psychology 101.

Intensive study in specific areas of psychology. See Class Schedule for specific content. Limit of nine units of any combination of 296, 496, 596 courses applicable to a bachelor's degree. Maximum credit six units.

499. Special Study (1-3) Cr/NC I, II

Individual study, including library or laboratory research and a written report. Maximum credit six units. No more than 12 units of courses numbered Psychology 491, 495, 497, 499 may be counted toward the major.
