

PSYCHOLOGY MAJOR AND MINOR

Note: Courses designated by an underscore are offered on the Imperial Valley Campus. All courses are available at the San Diego campus.

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.

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 50 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.

General Requirements for the Major

Preparation for the Major. Psychology 101, 201, 211, 230, 260, 270, 271, and Biology 100 (20 units). With the exception of Psychology 201, these prerequisite courses may not be taken Cr/NC. The minimum grade in each class is C or higher. 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.

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

Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement. Passing the Writing Proficiency Assessment with a score of 10 or above or completing one of the approved upper division writing courses (W) with a grade of C (2.0) or better. See page 26 in "Graduation Requirements" section for a complete listing of requirements.

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, including at least three units from each of the following groups. The remaining three units are selected from Group II or Group III.

Group I. One of the following:

Psychology [340](#) or 344.

Group II. At least one of the following:

Psychology [319](#);

Psychology [331](#) or [332](#);

Psychology 333 or [350](#).

Group III. At least one of the following:

Psychology 360 or 361 or 362;

Psychology [380](#);

Psychology 388.

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 become involved as early as possible in faculty-sponsored research.

Psychology Minor

The minor in psychology consists of 21 units to include Psychology [101](#), [230](#), and [211](#) or [260](#); 12 units of upper division psychology of which nine must be selected from Psychology [331](#) or [332](#), [340](#), [350](#), and [351](#).

Courses in the minor may not be counted toward the major, but may be used to satisfy preparation for the major and general education requirements, if applicable. A minimum of six upper division units must be completed in residence at San Diego State University.

Courses (PSY)

Refer to Curricula and Courses and University Policies sections of this bulletin for explanation of the course numbering system, unit or credit hour, prerequisites, and related information.

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 "WU," 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.

LOWER DIVISION COURSES

PSY 101. Introductory Psychology (3) [GE]

Facts, principles, and concepts which are basic to understanding human behavior.

PSY 201. Academic and Career Opportunities in Psychology (1) Cr/NC

Prerequisites: Psychology 101 and completion of 30 units.

Information about careers in psychology. Includes identification of career-related strengths and interests and information on postbaccalaureate options in psychology and related fields. Introduction to resources in Psychology Undergraduate Advising and Career Services.

PSY 211. Learning (3)

Prerequisite: Psychology 101.

Basic principles and research in animal and human learning.

PSY 230. Developmental Psychology (3)

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

Psychological development of normal individual from conception through childhood, adolescence, and maturity. Emphasis on interdependence of various periods of the individual's life. Not open to students with credit in Child and Family Development 270 or General Studies 130.

PSY 260. Introduction to Physiological Psychology (3)

Prerequisites: Psychology 101 and Biology 100. **Proof of completion of prerequisites required:** Copy of transcript.

Elementary physiology of the nervous system. Physiological mechanisms underlying the psychological phenomena of sensation, perception, emotion, arousal, motivation, learning and memory, and cortical specialization.

PSY 270. Statistical Methods in Psychology (3) [GE] I, II

Prerequisites: Psychology 101; concurrent registration in Psychology 271; satisfaction of the Entry-Level Mathematics requirement. **Proof of completion of prerequisites required:** Copy of ELM score or verification of exemption, and verification of registration in Psychology 271.

Quantitative methods in psychology for producing, analyzing, and interpreting data. Sampling, basic research designs, describing distributions through graphs and quantitative indices, linear correlation and regression, applications of normal probability curve, confidence intervals, and tests of significance. Students with credit or concurrent registration in the following lower division statistics courses will be awarded a total of four units for the two (or more) courses: Psychology 270; Administration, Rehabilitation and Postsecondary Education 201; Biology 215; Civil Engineering 160; Economics 201; Political Science 201; Sociology 201; Statistics 119 and 250.

PSY 271. Data Analysis in Psychology (1)

Two hours of activity in computer laboratory.

Prerequisite: Satisfaction of the Entry-Level Mathematics requirement and credit or concurrent registration in Psychology 270. **Proof of completion of prerequisite required:** Verification of registration in Psychology 270 or copy of transcript.

Statistical and graphic analysis and interpretation of psychological data using computer technology. Activities involve statistical software such as SPSS for Macintosh (Windows) as well as standard spreadsheets.

**UPPER DIVISION COURSES
(Intended for Undergraduates)**

NOTE: *To declare the psychology major, students must report in person to the Psychology Undergraduate Advising Office and provide the Undergraduate Adviser with evidence of having completed the requirements. Informal transcripts may be used by the Psychology Undergraduate Office 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 visit the Psychology Undergraduate Office and develop a plan for declaring the major during the semester prior to enrolling.*

PSY 301. Introduction to Research Methods in Psychology (4)

Three lectures and two hours of activity.

Prerequisites: Completion of the Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement or the eligibility to enroll in an upper division writing course. 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.

**PSY 316. Behavior Modification (3)
(Offered only at IVC)**

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.

PSY 319. Industrial and Organizational Psychology (3)

Prerequisites: Psychology 101 and 270. **Proof of completion of prerequisites required:** Copy of transcript.

Broad-based survey of various content areas of industrial (e.g. selection, appraisal) and organizational (e.g. motivation, leadership) psychology. Underlying psychological principles that influence human behavior in the workplace. Not open to students with credit in Psychology 320 or 321.

PSY 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.

PSY 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.

PSY 340. Social Psychology (3) [GE] I

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.

PSY 350. Abnormal Psychology (3) II

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.

PSY 351. Psychology of Personality (3) [GE] II

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.

PSY 370. Psychological Testing and Measurement (3) I

Prerequisite: Grade of B or better in Psychology 270 or equivalent statistics course; grade of B or better in Psychology 301. **Proof of completion of prerequisite required:** Copy of transcript. Note: Students electing to take Psychology 410 for the methods requirement may petition waiver of the Psychology 301 prerequisite by permission of the undergraduate adviser.

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

PSY 380. Cognitive Psychology (3) I, II

Prerequisite: Psychology 101. Recommended: Psychology 211.

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

PSY 410. Laboratory in Experimental Psychology (5)

Two lectures and six hours of activity.

Prerequisites: Completion of the Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement or the eligibility to enroll in an upper division writing course. 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.

**PSY 412. Advanced Laboratory in Social Psychology (5)
(Offered only at IVC)**

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.

PSY 452. Introduction to Counseling and Therapy (3) I

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 Counseling and School Psychology 660.

PSY 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 acquisition of counseling and communication skills. May be repeated with approval of psychology undergraduate coordinator. Maximum credit six units. No more than 12 units of courses numbered Psychology 491, 494, 495, 497, 499 may be counted toward the major.

PSY 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.

Work with troubled or potentially troubled clients from selected community agencies. May be repeated with approval of psychology undergraduate coordinator. Maximum credit six units. No more than 12 units of courses numbered Psychology 491, 494, 495, 497, 499 may be counted toward the major.

PSY 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.

PSY 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, 494, 495, 497, 499 may be counted toward the major.
