Department of Psychology

The Department of Psychology offers a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degree in Psychology and a Minor in Psychology. The Bachelor of Arts degree emphasizes the empirical study of human behavior and is structured around a comprehensive core curriculum that can lead to additional training in biological psychology, clinical psychology, cognitive psychology, cross-cultural psychology, developmental psychology, health psychology, industrial-organizational psychology, and social psychology. It also provides excellent preparation for post-graduate study in a wide range of health professions and for careers in business and industry.

Department Honors

The Department of Psychology awards Honors in Psychology to certain of its outstanding students and provides the opportunity for advanced study under close faculty supervision.

Selection of students for honors designation is based on a student’s academic performance and recommendation by the faculty in the student’s major discipline. To be eligible for the program, students must have a minimum overall grade point average of 3.0 at UTSA and a minimum grade point average of 3.5 in Psychology at UTSA. The minimum grade point averages must be maintained for students to receive the approval of the department faculty. Students applying for Honors in Psychology are expected to enroll in the appropriate honors thesis course during their final two semesters. The completed thesis must be approved by the supervising faculty sponsor and another departmental faculty member.

Students interested in this program should contact their faculty advisors for additional information.

Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology

The Department of Psychology offers a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology. Students interested in studying human behavior with a humanities and social science-oriented supporting curriculum would pursue a B.A. degree. The B.A. can successfully prepare students interested in graduate and professional programs that stress a humanities and social science framework (e.g., counseling, social work, educational psychology, school psychology, business, law) as well as students interested in employment in business, social services, or applied psychology.

The minimum number of semester credit hours required for this degree, including the Core Curriculum requirements, is 120. Thirty-nine of the total semester credit hours required for the degree must be at the upper-division level.

All candidates for this degree must fulfill the Core Curriculum requirements and the degree requirements, which are listed below.

The Psychology Department encourages students’ participation in the College of Liberal and Fine Arts Signature Experience by offering students a variety of opportunities to apply their ideas and knowledge to real-world settings. All Psychology majors enroll in Experimental Psychology and the accompanying laboratory. Experimental Psychology offers students the opportunity to learn the fundamentals of research design and use these fundamentals to design an original research project which addresses many questions of applied interest. In addition, students can enroll in internships and independent study or Honors thesis projects as part of their program of study. Internships are arranged through the Department of Psychology Internship Coordinator and are designed to provide students with experiences at a wide variety of organizations and institutions in the San Antonio area. Independent study and Honors thesis projects are arranged through consultation with individual members of the Psychology faculty and are designed to provide students with an opportunity to further develop their research skills. These projects are conducted under the supervision of a faculty member and usually involve work associated with the faculty member’s primary line of research.

Core Curriculum Requirements (42 semester credit hours)

Students seeking the B.A. degree in Psychology must fulfill University Core Curriculum requirements in the same manner as other students. The courses listed below satisfy both degree requirements and Core Curriculum requirements; however, if these courses are taken to satisfy both requirements, then students will need to take additional courses in order to meet the minimum number of semester credit hours required for this degree.

MAT 1023, MAT 1073, or STA 1053 is recommended to satisfy the core requirement in Mathematics. PSY 1013 should be used to satisfy the core requirement in Social and Behavioral Sciences.

Core Curriculum Component Area Requirements (http://catalog.utsa.edu/undergraduate/bachelorsdegereegulations/degereerequirements/corecurriculumcomponentarearequirements/)

- First Year Experience Requirement
- Communication
- Mathematics
- Life and Physical Sciences
- Language, Philosophy and Culture
- Creative Arts
- American History
- Government-Political Science
- Social and Behavioral Sciences
- Component Area Option

Total Credit Hours

Gateway Courses

Students pursuing the B.A. degree in Psychology must successfully complete each of the following Gateway Courses with a grade of "C" or better in no more than two attempts. A student who is unable to successfully complete these courses within two attempts, including dropping a course with a grade of "W" or taking an equivalent course at another institution, will be required to change his or her major.

PSY 1013 Introduction to Psychology
PSY 2073 Statistics for Psychology

Degree Requirements

A. Psychology major courses

1. Lower-division courses
   a. Introduction to Psychology
   b. Select three of the following courses:
      | Course | Title               |
      |--------|---------------------|
      | PSY 1013| Introduction to Psychology |
      | PSY 2503| Developmental Psychology |
      | PSY 2513| Abnormal Psychology |

2. Upper division courses

3. Thesis course in Psychology

4. Integrative capstone course (e.g., Independent Study, Honors Project, Internship, Directed Research, Internship with Research Component)

5. Core Curriculum Component Area Option

6. Additional courses as needed to meet the 120 semester credit hour requirement.
Course Sequence Guide for B.A. Degree in Psychology

This course sequence guide is designed to assist students in completing their UTSA undergraduate Psychology degree requirements. **This is merely a guide and students must satisfy other requirements of this catalog and meet with their academic advisor for individualized degree plans.** Progress within this guide depends upon such factors as course availability, individual student academic preparation, student time management, work obligations, and individual financial considerations. Students may choose to take courses during Summer terms to reduce course loads during long semesters.

**B.A. in Psychology – Four-Year Academic Plan**

### First Year

#### Fall

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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
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<th>Credit Hours</th>
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<tr>
<td>AIS 1203</td>
<td>Academic Inquiry and Scholarship (core)</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIS 1043</td>
<td>United States History: Pre-Columbus to Civil War Era (core) or United States History: Civil War Era to Present or Texas History</td>
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<td>MAT 1023 or MAT 1073 or STA 1053</td>
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#### Fall

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<td>PSY 3413</td>
<td>Experimental Projects and Laboratory</td>
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<tr>
<td>POL 1013</td>
<td>Introduction to American Politics (core)</td>
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<td>Abnormal Psychology or Developmental Psychology or Social Psychology or Cognitive Psychology</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSY 3403</td>
<td>Experimental Psychology</td>
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<td>Experimental Projects and Laboratory</td>
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<td>Upper-division PSY elective</td>
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<td>Upper-division free elective</td>
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Total Credit Hours 78
To declare a Minor in Psychology, obtain advice, or seek approval of substitutions for course requirements, students should consult their academic advisor.
PSY 2563. Cognitive Psychology. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: PSY 1013. A survey of scientific theories and research in cognitive psychology. Topics include attention, memory, and problem-solving. (Credit cannot be earned for both PSY 2563 and PSY 3103.) Course Fees: DL01 $75; LRHC $10; STHC $18.

PSY 2583. Biological Psychology. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: PSY 1013. An introduction to the biological bases of behavior. Topics include evolution, genetics, research methods in behavioral neuroscience, motivation and emotion, sensation and perception, learning and memory, lifespan development, cognition, psychological disorders, and other complex behaviors. Course Fees: LRHC $10; STHC $18.

PSY 3023. Social Psychology of Small Groups. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisites: PSY 2533 and PSY 3413; or consent of instructor. Theory and modern research in the social psychology of small groups. Particular attention will be given to group formation, the nature of small group processes, and the influence of groups on behavior. Course Fees: LRHC $10; STHC $18.

PSY 3053. Cross-Cultural Psychology. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisites: ANT 1013, ANT 2053, or PSY 1013; and PSY 3413 or the equivalent; or consent of instructor. An examination of the role of culture in the development and validation of psychological theories. Critical discussion of the application of theories of human behavior developed in the United States and Western Europe to other cultural groups, including ethnic minority subgroups. Topics may include identity formation, cognitive and personality development, social and organizational behavior, intergroup relations, psychological assessment, and mental health. Course Fees: LRHC $10; STHC $18.

PSY 3073. Personality and Behavior. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: PSY 3403 completed with a minimum grade of "C-". Examination of the relationship of personality to behavior, behavioral tendencies, including thoughts and feelings. Topics include the theoretical foundation of personality psychology, an examination of research regarding personality's influence on behavior, and the application of what psychologists know about personality. Course Fees: LRHC $10; STHC $18.

PSY 3103. Cognition. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisites: PSY 2543 or PSY 2573; and PSY 3403 completed with a minimum grade of "C-". Examination of current information-processing models of human cognition. Emphasis will be placed on the processes by which stimuli are identified, by which past information is retrieved and used, and by which one's knowledge is modified. (Credit cannot be earned for both PSY 3103 and PSY 2563.) Generally offered: Fall, Spring, Summer. Course Fees: LRHC $10; STHC $18.

PSY 3113. Motivation and Emotion. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: PSY 3403 completed with a minimum grade of "C-", or the equivalent. Topics may include examination of biological, physiological, learning, psychodynamic, cognitive, and purposive factors in the motivation of human behavior. Includes an examination of the nature and roles of emotion in explaining motivational processes. Generally offered: Fall. Course Fees: LRHC $10; STHC $18.

PSY 3153. Sensation and Perception. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: PSY 3403 completed with a minimum grade of "C-". Survey of the processes by which the information available in the physical world is encoded and transformed to produce our perception of the world. Emphasis on the interaction between data-driven and conceptually-driven processes. Topics may include elementary sensory physiology, pattern recognition, illusions, physiological bases of perceptual dysfunction, and perceptual development. (Formerly PSY 2553. Credit cannot be earned for both PSY 3153 and PSY 2553.) Generally offered: Fall, Spring. Course Fees: DL01 $75; LRHC $10; STHC $18.

PSY 3203. Industrial and Organizational Psychology. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: PSY 3413 or the equivalent, or consent of instructor. The role of psychology in industry. Applications of psychological knowledge to industrial problems such as personnel selection, employee motivation and satisfaction, and the influence of organizations on behavior. Course Fees: LRHC $10; STHC $18.

PSY 3303. Psychological Perspectives on Gender. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: PSY 1013. Consideration of physiological and social-learning origins of sex differences and psychological theories of sex-stereotyped and sexual behavior. Topics may include gender differences and similarities in aggression, sexual behavior, personality, intellectual activity, psychopathology, the development of gender and gender roles, sexism and discrimination, gender stereotypes, sexual orientation and sexuality, and intersex conditions. Generally offered: Fall, Spring. Course Fees: LRHC $10; STHC $18.

PSY 3403. Experimental Psychology. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisites: Two courses from PSY 2503, PSY 2513, PSY 2533, or PSY 2563; and PSY 2073 completed with a minimum grade of "C-" or consent of instructor. This course is designed to offer students the opportunity to familiarize themselves with representative experimental designs employed in psychological research, to provide instruction in the choice of appropriate designs, to provide the opportunity to develop skills in the analysis of published research, and to offer an introduction to techniques for collecting and analyzing data. Generally offered: Fall, Spring, Summer. Course Fees: LRHC $10; STHC $18.

PSY 3413. Experimental Projects and Laboratory. (2-2) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: Completion of or concurrent enrollment in PSY 3403 (completed with a minimum grade of "C-".). Application of observational and experimental procedures to selected problems in the collection of psychological data and the evaluation of psychological theories. (Formerly titled "Experimental Psychology Laboratory") Generally offered: Fall, Spring, Summer. Course Fees: LRHC $10; STHC $18.

PSY 3523. Psychology of Adulthood and Aging. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: PSY 2503 or consent of instructor. Descriptive and theoretical accounts of psychological developments from emerging adulthood through old age. Relevant research is reviewed in the areas of memory, intellect, mental and physical health, social development, personality, meaning, stress and coping, bereavement, and dying. Course Fees: DL01 $75; LRHC $10; STHC $18.

PSY 3543. Introduction to Clinical Psychology. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisites: PSY 2513 and PSY 3403 completed with a minimum grade of "C-"; or consent of instructor. An introduction to the scientist-practitioner viewpoint of clinical psychology. The basic tools of psychological assessment, psychodiagnosis, and psychotherapy will be addressed. Generally offered: Fall, Spring, Summer. Course Fees: LRHC $10; STHC $18.
PSY 3553. Behavior Analysis and Learning. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisites: PSY 1013 or equivalent; and PSY 3403 completed with a minimum grade of "C-" or equivalent. An introduction to and survey of the principles, methods, theories, and applications of the experimental analysis of behavior. Emphasis on the implications of behavior theory and the experimental analysis of behavior in contemporary society. Course Fees: LRHC $10; STHC $18.

PSY 3563. Couple and Family Psychology. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisites: PSY 1013 and PSY 3403 completed with a minimum grade of "C-". This course will focus on psychological research on relationships, processes and factors within couples and families. Demographic status and changes in American couples and families and how these changes relate to changes in racial/ethnic changes and diversity are considered. Psychological models of couples and families will be discussed. Understanding family structure, relationship processes and factors that are related to health and well-being of individual couple and family members that are related to successful and healthy couples and family relationships are discussed. Course Fees: LRHC $10; STHC $18.

PSY 4003. History of Psychology. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: PSY 3403 completed with a minimum grade of "C-" or consent of instructor. The development of major theoretical positions and research strategies in psychology from the ancient Greeks to the present, with emphasis on the development of scientific psychology since the late 19th century. Course Fees: LRHC $10; STHC $18.

PSY 4013. Social Psychology of the Self. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisites: PSY 2533 and PSY 3403 completed with a minimum grade of "C-"; and completion of or concurrent enrollment in PSY 3413; or consent of instructor. A social psychological examination of current research on the self in social interaction. Topics may include the structure of the self-concept and strategies for the preservation of self-esteem; the evaluation of the self through social comparison; the search for meaning and processes involved in understanding the self; and individual differences in self-knowledge and self-presentational styles. Course Fees: LRHC $10; STHC $18.

PSY 4103. Social Psychology of Prejudice. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisites: PSY 2533 and PSY 3403 completed with a minimum grade of "C-". Consideration of social, psychological, and personality factors in prejudice and stereotyping, and their interaction with cultural factors in producing racism and other prejudices. Course Fees: LRHC $10; STHC $18.

PSY 4133. Social and Personality Development. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisites: PSY 2503 or PSY 2533; and PSY 3403 completed with a minimum grade of "C-", or the equivalent; or consent of instructor. Social and personality development across the life span. Topics may include sex-role development, child rearing, achievement, and the influence of peers. Socialization into different social roles may also be considered. Course Fees: LRHC $10; STHC $18.

PSY 4143. Memory. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisites: PSY 2563, PSY 3403 completed with a minimum grade of "C-", and PSY 3413 or the equivalent; or consent of instructor. Models for the coding, storage, and retrieval of information in memory. Organization and structure of short-term, long-term, and semantic memory, and the role of verbalization and images in memory. Generally offered: Fall, Spring. Course Fees: LRHC $10; STHC $18.

PSY 4183. Physiological Psychology. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisites: BIO 1404 or PSY 2583; and PSY 3403 completed with a minimum grade of "C-". Topics may include the biological and particularly neurophysiological bases of human behavior and cognition, the structure and organization of the nervous system, and the effect of the latter on perception, memory, learning, motivation, and emotion. (Credit cannot be earned for both BIO 4183 and PSY 4183.) Generally offered: Fall, Spring, Summer. Course Fees: LRHC $10; STHC $18.

PSY 4193. Relationships. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisites: PSY 2533 and PSY 3403 completed with a minimum grade of "C-". A consideration of the psychological processes that underlie the development and maintenance of social relationships. Emphasis on motivational and cognitive factors that mediate social interaction and communication. Special attention may be given to friendships, romantic relationships, successful marriages, and distressed relationships. Course Fees: LRHC $10; STHC $18.

PSY 4213. Social Cognition. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisites: PSY 2533 or PSY 2563; and PSY 3403 completed with a minimum grade of "C-", or the equivalent; or consent of instructor. The study of how people perceive and construe social events, social situations, and the behavior of other people. Some emphasis is also placed on how social and cultural forces affect personal perception processes. Course Fees: LRHC $10; STHC $18.

PSY 4253. Psychology of Health. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisites: PSY 2533 and PSY 3403 completed with a minimum grade of "C-" or consent of instructor. An examination of the interaction of psychological, social, and biological factors in physical illness. The symptoms/conditions covered may include stress, pain, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, HIV/AIDS, and obesity. The course is research-based but also likely to include prevention and/or treatment strategies for health promotion. Generally offered: Fall, Spring, Summer. Course Fees: LRHC $10; STHC $18.

PSY 4343. Cognitive Neuroscience. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: PSY 2563. Examines issues in cognitive psychology, neuroscience, and the relations between cognitive psychology and neuroscience. Topics include the neural basis of perception, attention, memory, language, and executive function skills. Students will also study how these processes change during normal development and in various neurological disorders. Critical thinking, problem solving skills, and use of the scientific method will be emphasized. Course Fees: LRHC $10; STHC $18.

PSY 4911. Independent Study. (0-0) 1 Credit Hour.
Prerequisites: Permission in writing (form available) of the instructor, the Department Chair, and Dean of the College in which the course is offered. Independent reading, research, discussion, and/or writing under the direction of a faculty member. May be repeated for credit, but not more than 6 semester credit hours of independent study, regardless of discipline, will apply to a bachelor's degree. Does not count toward upper-division course requirements for the major but may be taken as an elective. Recommended for students planning to pursue a research focused graduate degree. Course Fees: LRHC $10; STHC $6.
PSY 4913. Independent Study. (0-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisites: Permission in writing (form available) of the instructor, the Department Chair, and Dean of the College in which the course is offered. Independent reading, research, discussion, and/or writing under the direction of a faculty member. May be repeated for credit, but not more than 6 semester credit hours of independent study, regardless of discipline, will apply to a bachelor's degree. Does not count toward upper-division course requirements for the major but may be taken as an elective. Recommended for students planning to pursue a research focused graduate degree. Course Fees: LRHC $10; STHC $18.

PSY 4933. Internship in Psychology. (0-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: Consent of internship coordinator before registration. Supervised experience relevant to psychology within selected community organizations. A maximum of 6 semester credit hours may be earned through Internship in Psychology. Does not count toward course requirements for the major but may be taken as an elective. Recommended for students who wish to gain experience in applied settings. Must be taken on a credit/no-credit basis. Generally offered: Fall, Spring. Course Fees: LRHC $10; STHC $18.

PSY 4936. Internship in Psychology. (0-0) 6 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: Consent of internship coordinator before registration. Supervised experience relevant to psychology within selected community organizations. A maximum of 6 semester credit hours may be earned through Internship in Psychology. Does not count toward course requirements for the major but may be taken as an elective. Recommended for students who wish to gain experience in applied settings. Must be taken on a credit/no-credit basis. Course Fees: LRHC $10; STHC $36.

PSY 4953. Special Studies in Psychology. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: Consent of instructor. An organized course offering the opportunity for specialized study not normally or not often available as part of the regular course offerings. Special Studies may be repeated for credit when the topics vary, but not more than 6 semester credit hours, regardless of discipline, will apply to a bachelor's degree. Course Fees: LRHC $10; STHC $18.

PSY 4993. Honors Thesis. (0-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: Enrollment limited to candidates for Honors in Psychology. Requirements for candidacy include the sponsorship of a faculty member and Psychology faculty approval of the student's project proposal. Supervised research and preparation of an honors thesis. May be repeated once for credit with advisor's approval. Does not count toward upper-division course requirements for the major but may be taken as an elective. Recommended for students planning to pursue a research focused graduate degree. Generally offered: Fall, Spring. Course Fees: LRHC $10; STHC $18.