PSYCHOLOGY

The Department of Psychology offers the Bachelor of Arts and the Bachelor of Science degrees. The psychology course requirements are identical in these two degree programs, emphasizing training and hands-on experience in the research process centered on a four-course sequence capped by a laboratory in one of six areas of psychology: learning, cognition, development, sensation and perception, behavioral neuroscience, or animal behavior. The B.A. and B.S. degree programs differ in additional course requirements, as described below. Both programs prepare the student for graduate study in psychology.

Psychology majors may declare a concentration in any one of the following seven areas: cognitive science, developmental psychology, forensic psychology, industrial/organizational psychology, mental health, neuroscience and behavior, and school psychology. Each concentration is a minimum of 12 credit hours. A concentration is optional, and only one concentration may be declared.

Other Information

All coursework taken for the psychology major or minor must be completed with a grade of "C-" or better.

For the psychology minor, 9 credits must be taken in residence at UNO.

Permission of the Department must be obtained to substitute another course for one in which a grade of less than "C-" is earned.

Students who come from community colleges with psychology courses that are taught at the upper division level here: The courses will count toward the psychology major, but will not count toward the 27-credit upper division psychology requirement.

One of the required non-psychology courses for the B.S. degree may be taken CR/NC.

For psychology courses that are cross-listed with another discipline, (biology, sociology, gerontology) only one course per discipline may count toward the cross-listed discipline and the psychology major or minor.

Note for Double Majors in Neuroscience and Psychology:

Beyond the neuroscience fundamentals courses, students cannot use a 3000/4000 level course to count toward both majors. Students may overlap 3000/4000 level PSYC courses between the PSYC Neuroscience and Behavior Concentration and the Neuroscience major.

Note for Students Completing a Neuroscience Major and Psychology Minor:

No psychology coursework beyond PSYC 1010 will be allowed to count toward both programs.

Student Groups


Nu Rho Psi – National Honor Society in Neuroscience (https://nurhopsi.org/

Psychology Student Interest Group – Canvas Page where students can learn about events, activities, meetings, or opportunities related to psychology happening on campus or in the Omaha community! Psychology students will automatically receive an invitation to join the canvas page near the start of the semester from the Canvas portal. Students can also request to be added to this group by submitting their email address here (https://unomaha.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_15UVaqJkEDZGfYId/).

Contact

347 Arts and Sciences Hall
402.554.2592

Website (http://www.unomaha.edu/college-of-arts-and-sciences/psychology/)

Degrees Offered

- Psychology, Bachelor of Arts (http://catalog.unomaha.edu/undergraduate/college-arts-sciences/psychology/psychology-ba/)
- Psychology, Bachelor of Science (http://catalog.unomaha.edu/undergraduate/college-arts-sciences/psychology/psychology-bs/)

Writing in the Discipline

PSYC 3140 fulfills the requirement for a writing in the discipline course within the Psychology major.

Minors Offered

- Psychology Minor (http://catalog.unomaha.edu/undergraduate/college-arts-sciences/psychology/psychology-minor/)

As most people know, a primary focus in psychology is in the diagnosis and treatment of mental health issues. But that’s just one of many specialties within the field. In addition to Clinical and Counseling Psychology, other popular subdisciplines include Industrial-Organizational Psychology, School psychology, Applied Behavior Analysis, Behavioral Neuroscience, Developmental Psychology, Social Psychology, and Cognitive Psychology. Because Psychology is so diverse in its focus and research, a Bachelor’s degree in Psychology prepares students for a wide variety of careers. This major helps students develop universally useful skills like communication, critical-thinking, an understanding of the scientific process, and a proficiency with statistics and data. A Bachelor’s degree in Psychology is also a great choice for those interested in pursuing a graduate degree in Psychology, Counseling, Law and Criminal Justice, Social Work, or Medicine and Health Sciences. So if you’re curious about why we do the things that we do and ready for a rewarding career, join us in Psychology.

Psychology majors who have completed a Bachelor’s degree often pursue careers in the following fields:

- Mental health services
- Social services
- Human resources
- Case management
- Physical Health and wellness
- Crisis work
- Rehabilitation services
- Testing and assessment
- Business administration
- Research and data analysis
- Nonprofit and charitable organizations

PSYC 1010 INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY I (3 credits)

An overview of scientific understanding of the human mind and behavior. Theories and empirical tests of explanations for how we think, feel, and act. This course is a prerequisite to all subsequent, more specialized courses in Psychology.

Distribution: Social Science General Education course

PSYC 1020 INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY II (4 credits)

Provides students who have completed a course in introductory psychology with an opportunity for in-depth study of selected areas of psychology along with related laboratory experiences. Research methodology is emphasized.

Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): PSYC 1010. The proposed course is designed to build upon the content knowledge gained in a first introductory psychology course.
PSYC 2000 CAREER PATHS IN PSYCHOLOGY (1 credit)
A course that introduces the student to the different career paths available to psychology majors, both within and outside of the psychology field and those including graduate or professional school as well as career paths for those with bachelor's degrees. Required of psychology majors. This is a one (1) hour credit course.
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): PSYC 1010.
PSYC 2100 LEARNING ASSISTANT SEMINAR (0 credits)
This course focuses on effective methods of college teaching and instructional strategies. Students participate in activities designed to increase their understanding of the role of a Learning Assistant.
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): PSYC 1010 and permission of instructor. Not open to non-degree graduate students.
PSYC 2500 LIFESPAN PSYCHOLOGY (3 credits)
A life span approach to development focusing on the biological, cognitive, and social emotional changes in development occurring from infancy through old age. The impact of these changes on the individual's behavior and interactions with society will be emphasized.
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): PSYC 1010.
PSYC 3130 STATISTICS FOR THE BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES (3 credits)
An introduction to statistics with particular emphasis on models and hypothesis testing covering analysis of variance, chi-square, F and t-tests, first-order regression and correlation.
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): MATH 1120, MATH 1530, MATH 1310 or MATH 1220
PSYC 3140 RESEARCH METHODS IN PSYCHOLOGY (4 credits)
An introduction to the methods by which psychologists attempt to create, disseminate and integrate knowledge about behavior. PSYC 3140 fulfills the Writing in the Discipline Requirement for Psychology and Neuroscience majors.
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): Psychology majors require PSYC 2000, PSYC 3130 and ENGL 1160. Neuroscience majors require PSYC 3130 and ENGL 1160
Distribution: Writing in the Discipline Single Course
PSYC 3410 CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY (3 credits)
A broad survey of problems and practices in the diagnosis and treatment of emotional and behavioral disorders.
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): PSYC 1010.
PSYC 3430 PERSONALITY AND ADJUSTMENT (3 credits)
The study of persons in a social context and their resultant effective and ineffective behavior, with emphasis on types of adjustment.
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): PSYC 1010.
PSYC 3450 SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY (3 credits)
Social interaction studied in situations of (1) social influences on individuals, (2) dyads or face-to-face groups, and (3) larger social systems. The concepts, theories, data, research methods and applications of varied substantive topics are examined. (Cross-listed with SOC 3450).
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): SOC 1010 or PSYC 1010
PSYC 3510 EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY (3 credits)
A study of the capacities and interests of children and their individual differences. Factors that influence learning and an evaluation of learning and classroom procedures are included.
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): PSYC 1010.
PSYC 3520 CHILD PSYCHOLOGY (3 credits)
A study of the biological, social, emotional and cognitive development of the child emphasizing infancy and childhood.
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): PSYC 1010.
PSYC 3540 ADOLESCENT PSYCHOLOGY (3 credits)
A review of theory and available evidence useful in understanding changes and problems in the physical, intellectual, social and emotional adjustment of individuals in adolescence.
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): PSYC 1010.
PSYC 4010 HISTORY OF PSYCHOLOGY (3 credits)
A study of the origins, development and nature of psychology and its relation to external events; emphasis on the period since 1875. (Cross-listed with PSYC 8016)
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): at least 15 hours of Psychology credits including PSYC 1010 or approval of instructor. Not open to non-degree students or students in other departments or programs.
PSYC 4020 LEARNING (3 credits)
A comprehensive coverage of the experimental literature and theories on human and animal learning.
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): PSYC 1020.
PSYC 4024 LABORATORY IN PSYCHOLOGY: LEARNING (3 credits)
Classical experiments and a service-learning research project designed to apply general learning principles. Systematic techniques used to assess behavior changes associated with the learning process, research design, and scientific report writing will be emphasized.
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): PSYC 3140 and PSYC 4020. Not open to nondegree students.
PSYC 4070 COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGY (3 credits)
An exploration of historical and contemporary research and theory concerned with cognitive processes including attention, memory, problem solving and concept formation.
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): PSYC 1020.
PSYC 4074 LABORATORY IN PSYCHOLOGY: COGNITION (3 credits)
Laboratory work coordinated with PSYC 4070, emphasizing a presentation of methods of research assessing human attention, memory and problem-solving processes. Research design, data analysis and research report writing are also emphasized.
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): PSYC 3140 and PSYC 4070 or PSYC 4090 or PSYC 4210.
PSYC 4090 COGNITIVE NEUROSCIENCE (3 credits)
This course is concerned with the relationship between cognition and the brain. Special attention will be devoted to the techniques used to study specific relationships and the theoretical perspectives that have guided research in the area. Topics for the course include history, neural mechanisms, methods, lateralization of function, sensation and perception, memory, language, action and movement, executive processes, computer models, and the social brain.
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): PSYC 1020. Not open to non-degree graduate students.
PSYC 4110 POLITICAL PSYCHOLOGY (3 credits)
This course introduces students to the role of human thought, emotion, and behavior in politics through examination of the psychological factors that motivate political elites and the mass public. (Cross-listed with PSCI 4110, PSCI 8116, PSCI 8116)
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): PSCI 1100 or junior standing or permission of instructor.
PSYC 4150 AFRICAN AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGY (3 credits)
African American Psychology traces the psychological history of Africans and African Americans from self-attributes and identity, through race and racism, to cognition, learning, and language. This course will review concepts relevant to understanding the psychology of African Americans, methodological and research issues, and best practices. (Cross-listed with PSYC 8156, BLST 4150, BLST 8156).
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): PSYC 1010 and Junior standing or Instructor permission
PSYC 4210 SENSATION AND PERCEPTION (3 credits)
Reading and discussion concerning psychophysical methods, sensory physiology, phenomenology of various sensory systems and theories of the perceptual process.
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): PSYC 1020.
PSYC 4214 LABORATORY IN PSYCHOLOGY: SENSATION AND PERCEPTION (3 credits)
Laboratory work coordinated with PSYC 4210 which is designed to increase comprehension of psychology as a laboratory science in general and the experimental study of the perceptual process in particular. Emphasis will be placed on the development of skills involved in the design of experiments, data collection, data analysis, reasoning about experimental results and scientific report writing. 
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): PSYC 3140 and PSYC 4210 or PSYC 4070 or PSYC 4090.

PSYC 4230 BEHAVIORAL NEUROSCIENCE (3 credits)
A comprehensive study of the relationship of the nervous and other organ systems to behavior. Research on both human and other animal species is considered.
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): PSYC 1010.

PSYC 4234 LABORATORY IN PSYCHOLOGY: BEHAVIORAL NEUROSCIENCE (3 credits)
Laboratory course designed to introduce the students to the techniques and procedures of physiological psychology. Scientific report writing, problems of research design and data analysis also will be emphasized.
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): PSYC 3140 and PSYC 4230.

PSYC 4250 LIMITS OF CONSCIOUSNESS (3 credits)
A course focusing on the scientific study of the psychology, neurology and philosophy of mind. This course is designed for students who are interested in thinking about consciousness. (Cross-listed with PSYC 8256, PHIL 3250)
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): PSYC 1010 or 6 hours in Philosophy.

PSYC 4270 ANIMAL BEHAVIOR (3 credits)
Behavior of diverse animals for the understanding of the relationships between nervous integration and the behavior manifested by the organism, as well as the evolution and adaptive significance of behavior as a functional unit. Lecture only. (Cross-listed with PSYC 8276, BIOL 4270, BIOL 8276)
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): BIOL 1750 and PSYC 1010 or permission of instructor, junior-senior.

PSYC 4280 ANIMAL BEHAVIOR LABORATORY (3 credits)
Laboratory and field studies of animal behavior with an ethological emphasis. Classical laboratory experiences and independent study will be conducted. (Cross-listed with PSYC 8286, BIOL 4280, BIOL 8286)
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): PSYC 4270 or BIOL 4270 or PSYC 8276 or BIOL 8273

PSYC 4310 PSYCHOLOGICAL AND EDUCATIONAL TESTING (3 credits)
The use of standardized tests in psychology and education is considered with special regard to their construction, reliability and validity. (Cross-listed with PSYC 8316)
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): PSYC 1010 and junior/senior.

PSYC 4320 HORMONES & BEHAVIOR (3 credits)
In this course, students will examine the interaction between hormones, chemical messengers released from endocrine glands, and behavior in both human and animal systems. Methods for studying hormonal issues on behavior will be addressed. This course will provide students in psychology, biology, and related disciplines an understanding of how hormones affect sensory processing, motor activities, and processing of information in the central nervous system. (Cross-listed with PSYC 8326, BIOL 4320, BIOL 8326)
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): PSYC 1010 and either BIOL 1020 or 1750. Not open to non-degree graduate students.

PSYC 4440 ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY (3 credits)
A course designed to examine the aberrant behavior of individuals. Symptoms, dynamics, therapy and prognosis of syndromes are considered. (Cross-listed with PSYC 8446)
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): PSYC 1010.

PSYC 4450 PERSONALITY THEORIES (3 credits)
A comparative approach to the understanding and appreciation of personality theories considering history, assertions, applications, validations and prospects. (Cross-listed with PSYC 8456)
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): PSYC 1010. Not open to non-degree graduate students.

PSYC 4460 PSYCHOLOGY OF ADULT DEVELOPMENT AND AGING (3 credits)
The focus of this course is on the major social and psychological changes that occur as a function of aging. Both normal and abnormal patterns of developmental change are examined, along with their implications for behavior. (Cross-listed with GER 4460, GER 8466)
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): Junior or Senior.

PSYC 4470 MENTAL HEALTH AND AGING (3 credits)
The goal of this course is to survey the mental health needs of older adults. Consideration is given to identifying both positive mental health and pathological conditions. Treatment interventions effective with older adults and their families are also discussed. (Cross-listed with PSYC 8476, GER 4470, GER 8476)
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): Junior or senior

PSYC 4510 PSYCHOLOGY IN THE SCHOOLS (3 credits)
This course introduces students to the academic and mental health needs of children and youth in schools, as well as how these needs are addressed individually and systemically. A service learning experience enables students to work directly with school-age children.
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): PSYC 1010. Not open to non-degree graduate students.

PSYC 4520 PSYCHOLINGUISTICS (3 credits)
A discussion of the literature concerned with how such psychological variables as perception, learning, memory and development relate to the linguistic variables of sentence structure, meaning and speech sounds. (Cross-listed with PSYC 8526)
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): Senior or graduate or permission of instructor.

PSYC 4530 CULTURAL PSYCHOLOGY (3 credits)
This course will provide an overview of the cultural, community and ecological factors that play a role in how people perceive their environments. The goal is to investigate the ways in which culture affects individual behaviors, attitudes and cognitions. It may be easy to tell that two cultures are different, but identifying exactly what is meant - and all that is encompassed - when speaking about ‘culture’ can be much more difficult. Culture can include everything from gender constructs and race/ethnicity to the effects of new technologies. All of these aspects of culture affect individuals’ psychological make-up and behavior. Although psychology has largely developed from a Western tradition, attention to research from non-Western perspectives will also be emphasized. This course supports the Cultural and Global Analysis concentration in the Master of Arts in Critical and Creative Thinking. (Cross-listed with PSYC 8536, CACT 8106)
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): PSYC 1010.

PSYC 4544 LABORATORY IN DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY (3 credits)
Laboratory work coordinated with PSYC 3520 and PSYC 3540 emphasizing the methods of research and statistical analyses used in the study of human development. Emphasis will be placed on the development of skills involved in the design of experiments, data collection, data analysis, reasoning about results, and scientific report writing.
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): PSYC 3140, PSYC 3520, and PSYC 3540 or permission of instructor. Not open to non-degree graduate students.
PSYC 4560 FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY (3 credits)
The roles and functions of forensic psychologists, as participants in the legal system, are studied, with special emphasis on the relevance of theories and principles from social psychology. Psychological concepts, theories, data, research methods and applications to varied substantive topics are examined (e.g., forensic careers, police psychology, violence, criminal profiling, sociopathy and psychopathy, risk assessment, expert testimony, and corrections).
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): PSYC 1010 or SOC 1010 and PSYC 3450 or SOC 3450.

PSYC 4570 BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS AND INTERVENTIONS (3 credits)
Introduction to the experimental methodology, rationale and research literature of changing behavior through behavior modification techniques. Particular attention will be paid to methodological concerns regarding single subject design, ethical considerations and ramifications of behavioral intervention with children and youth. (Cross-listed with PSYC 8576)
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): PSYC 1010, PSYC 4020 and permission of instructor.

PSYC 4590 PSYCHOLOGY OF EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN (3 credits)
A study of exceptional children and adolescents with sensory or motor impairments, intellectual retardations or superiorities, talented or gifted abilities, language or speech discrepancies, emotional or behavioral maladjustments, social or cultural differences, or major specific learning disabilities.
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): PSYC 1010 and junior/senior.

PSYC 4610 HUMAN FACTORS ENGINEERING (3 credits)
Based on knowledge of human strengths and limitations, this course will provide an overview of how basic principles of human factors can be utilized to reduce error, increase productivity, and enhance safety, comfort and health. Applications to real-world equipment design, task design, environmental design, selection and training will be included. (Cross-listed with PSYC 8616)
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): PSYC 1010

PSYC 4630 ORGANIZATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY (3 credits)
This is a survey course which will cover the major concepts, theories and empirical research related to organizational psychology. Specific topics will include: work motivation, leadership, decision making and job satisfaction as well as more recent trends such as cultural diversity, work teams, work-family and quality issues. (Cross-listed with PSYC 8636)
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): PSYC 1010

PSYC 4640 PERSONNEL PSYCHOLOGY (3 credits)
A survey of psychological principles, theories and research related to personnel issues. Course includes discussion of personnel selection, performance appraisal, recruitment, training and health and safety. (Cross-listed with PSYC 8646)
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): PSYC 1010

PSYC 4644 LABORATORY IN PSYCHOLOGY: SOCIAL/INDUSTRIAL-ORGANIZATIONAL (3 credits)
Laboratory work coordinated with PSYC 3450 and PSYC 4630 or PSYC 4640, emphasizing a presentation of methods of research assessing human social behavior and applied psychological processes. Research design, data analysis and research report writing are also emphasized.
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): PSYC 3450 and PSYC 4630 or PSYC 4640.

PSYC 4650 CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION IN ORGANIZATIONS (3 credits)
To provide a discussion of the antecedents of individual and organizational creativity, including measurement, models, characteristics of the individual and the environment that facilitate creativity and innovation in an organizational setting. Students in this course will be able to understand the research literature related to creativity and innovation and apply the findings to improve critical and creative thinking, implementation of creative ideas, and development of creative teams and organizations. This course supports the Organizational Science and Leadership concentration in the Master of Arts in Critical and Creative Thinking. (Cross-listed with PSYC 8656, CACT 8506)

PSYC 4800 LAW & PSYCHOLOGY: ETHICS, RESEARCH & SERVICE (3 credits)
This course presents legal principles relevant to all psychological specialties, with special reference to mental health services. Ethical reasoning and the APA ethics code are considered. (Cross-listed with PSYC 8806)
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): 15 hours of Psychology credits including PSYC 1010 or approval of the instructor. Not open to non-degree graduate students.

PSYC 4920 SPECIAL TOPICS IN PSYCHOLOGY (1-3 credits)
A discussion of specific topics which will be announced whenever the course is offered. May be repeated as topics change, but six hours is the maximum that may be applied toward a psychology major.
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): Variable according to topic.

PSYC 4960 INDEPENDENT STUDY IN PSYCHOLOGY (1-6 credits)
A faculty-supervised special research project and or directed readings involving empirical research and appropriate oral and written reports arranged individually with students on topics not explored in other offerings. If students do not complete the work during the semester they enroll in the course, they must complete all the work within an academic year of their enrollment.
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): A minimum of 10 hours of Psychology including PSYC 1010 & PSYC 1020 and 1 additional course. Completion of the Independent Study Form and permission from the Undergraduate Program Committee (UPC).

PSYC 4990 SENIOR THESIS (3-6 credits)
The course is designed to provide the student with the opportunity to initiate, design, analyze, and write-up an original experimental study in an area of interest to the student. Although the course is intended primarily for students who need to satisfy the requirement of a second experimental/laboratory course in the Bachelor of Science degree program, all students interested in this course will be considered on an individual basis.
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): PSYC 3140 with a 'B' or better, 'B' average in major; signed statement from faculty member of Psychology Department who is willing to serve as adviser; written approval from chair of undergraduate program committee. Must be a 2nd semester junior or later.