

Psychology Major

Most students will complete the psychology major without a concentration. If students wish to complete the psychology major with a forensic psychology concentration, they should follow that course worksheet.

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Psychology is defined as the science of mental processes and behavior. The Department of Psychology offers both a major and a minor in psychology and a certificate in Human Development and Family Studies. The courses that comprise the psychology major are designed to acquaint the student with the systematic and quantitative demands of scientific thought, as well as to ensure that students will be able to comprehend human behavior from cognitive, environmental, and biological perspectives.

The Psychology Department's learning goals are for students to:

1. Develop a conceptual framework that includes important psychological facts, principles, and theories.
2. Analyze human behavior using critical thinking.
3. Apply quantitative reasoning skills to a level enabling organization and analysis of data from survey, field, or laboratory research.
4. Summarize and present psychological findings in oral and written format that incorporate APA style elements
5. Write a synthesis paper and presentation, demonstrating mastery of information gathering and integration, in which knowledge from several subfields in psychology is synthesized to address a major question.
6. Create and execute a plan for a meaningful professional direction after graduation
7. Develop, practice, & demonstrate interpersonal, intercultural, and ethical skills for working with people.

Beyond the pedagogical goals cited above, the curriculum is designed to provide introductory courses for the College's general education requirements, and courses supplementing other major programs.

In order to graduate with Honors in Psychology, the student must fulfill the following requirements:

1. Graduate with minimum 3.50 GPA in psychology courses
2. Be a member of Psi Chi, the national honor society in psychology
3. Complete satisfactorily a senior thesis
4. Present at least one paper at an off-campus regional or national conference or have a publication in a refereed journal.

Majors are strongly urged to take a biology course, such as NSC 110. MAT 114 Elementary Statistics is a required pre-requisite for the required PSY 270 course. No more than six credit hours of PSY 398 Independent Study may be counted towards meeting major requirements and only three credit hours from 200 level electives may be counted toward the major. Majors must earn a grade of C- or better in all psychology courses needed to satisfy major requirements. PSY 422 or PSY 431 must be taken while enrolled at Westminster. Graduation with a psychology major at Westminster will require that a student complete at least 20 hours of Westminster psychology courses with grades of C- or higher.

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS SUMMARY SHEET

ACADEMIC YEAR 2024-2025

Major: PSYCHOLOGY

Student's Last Name	First Name	Middle Initial
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Advisor	Date Major Declared
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Course Code	Title	Hours	Semester	Grade
Required Courses (12 hours)				
PSY 112	Psychology as a Natural Science	3		
PSY 113	Psychology as a Social Science	3		
PSY 270	Research Tools	3		
PSY 274	Methods in Experimental Psychology	3		
Four of the Following, with AT LEAST ONE from each list (12 hours):				
<i>List One:</i>				
PSY 310	Social Psychology	3		
PSY 312	Developmental Psychology	3		
PSY 315	Psychology of Personality	3		
PSY 390	Abnormal Psychology	3		
<i>List Two:</i>				
PSY 290	Biological Psychology	3		
PSY 320	Memory and Cognition	3		
Two of the following Laboratories (2 hours):				
PSY 311	Social Psychology Laboratory	1		
PSY 313	Developmental Laboratory	1		
PSY 316	Personality Laboratory	1		
PSY 321	Memory and Cognition Laboratory	1		
PSY 391	Abnormal Psychology Laboratory	1		
A Senior Capstone Course or Courses (3-6 hours):				
PSY 422	Senior Seminar	3		
<i>or both of the following courses</i>				
PSY 430	Pre-Thesis and	3		
PSY 431	Senior Thesis	3		
Three Psychology electives- 9 hours. (6 hours must be upper level)				

Course Code	Title	Hours	Semester	Grade
PSY 1xx/2xx				
PSY 3xx/4xx				
PSY 3xx/4xx				
	Total Hours For Major	38-41		

If any substitutions or waivers of requirements are allowed, please list below and initial.

Advisor Signature

Department Chair Signature