

PSYCHOLOGY

Psychology is the science of behavior and mental processes, encompassing an array of specialty areas. The Wabash Psychology Department strives to equip psychology majors with an understanding of the scientific method.

Our curriculum scaffolds students' mastery of scientific inquiry through three levels. The first level includes Introduction to Psychology and two semesters of Research Methods and Statistics. The intermediary level includes two sequences of courses that engage students in concepts and research methods in specific areas of psychology. The final level allows students to use their knowledge to pursue their own questions in a junior-level writing course in which students review the scientific literature on a topic of interest, and a senior year empirical capstone research project guided by a faculty advisor. The Psychology Department also usually offers summer research internships that allow students to gain hands-on research experience beyond their coursework. Psychology majors considering graduate school in any field are strongly encouraged to pursue internships or other hands-on research experiences.

Student Learning Goals

Knowledge Base: to acquire a degree of mastery of fundamental knowledge and comprehension of the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, historical trends, and empirical findings in psychology and how psychological principles apply to behavior.

Critical Thinking: to become habitually inquisitive, trustful of reason, and honest in facing personal biases; to actively evaluate knowledge and ideas.

Scientific Inquiry: to develop an understanding of scientific methodology; to develop skills in using scientific reasoning to interpret psychological phenomena; to develop skills in conducting psychological research with appropriate research methods.

Communication: to become competent and confident in the oral and written skills needed to speak and write with facility and sophistication about psychological issues and research.

Psychology and Responsible, Ethical Citizenship: to become aware of how psychological inquiry informs one's personal and professional conduct and of the relevance of psychology in developing effective social institutions; to understand how the results of psychological inquiry can inform one's actions as an ethical, responsible citizen in a diverse world in order to enhance human flourishing.

Requirements for the Major

| Code | Title | Credits |
|---|---|---------|
| Introductory | | |
| PSY-101 | Introduction to Psychology | 1 |
| Research | | |
| PSY-201 & PSY-202 | Research Methods & Stats I and Research Methods & Stats II ¹ | 2 |
| Writing | | |
| PSY-301 | Literature Review | 1 |
| Intermediate-Advanced Course Sequences | | |
| Select two from the following: | | 3 |

| | | |
|-------------------|---|--|
| PSY-220 & PSY-320 | Child Development and Research in Developmental Psychology | |
| PSY-222 & PSY-322 | Social Psychology and Research in Social Psychology | |
| PSY-231 & PSY-331 | Cognition and Research in Cognitive Psychology | |
| PSY-232 & PSY-332 | Sensation and Perception and Research in Sensation and Perception | |
| PSY-233 & PSY-333 | Behavioral Neuroscience and Research in Behavioral Neuroscience | |

| Senior Project | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|----------|
| PSY-495 & PSY-496 | Senior Project and Senior Project | 1 |
| Elective | | |
| One elective credit in Psychology | | 1 |
| Total Credits | | 9 |
| Code | Title | Credits |
| Collateral Requirement ¹ | | |
| PSY-204 | Principles of Neuroscience | |
| NSC-204 | Principles of Neuroscience | |
| BIO-101 | Human Biology | |
| BIO-111 | General Biology I | |
| Total Credits | | 1 |

¹ Psychology majors completing PSY-204 Principles of Neuroscience can apply this credit as both the required elective credit in Psychology and the required collateral credit.

Students planning to apply to graduate school are strongly urged to take the maximum of 11 course credits.

If considering a semester abroad, keep in mind that most of these courses cannot be transferred in from another school.

Written Senior Comprehensive Examinations in Psychology require majors to:

1. organize and synthesize information to support their thoughts on questions of broad interest to psychologists
2. to demonstrate knowledge across major content areas of Psychology
3. to demonstrate competence with the scientific method and statistics

Faculty Advisors

Majors are strongly urged to select an advisor from the Psychology Department when they declare their major.

Advanced Placement Credit

Students who earned a score of 4 or above on the Psychology Advanced Placement exam or 6 or above on the Psychology International Baccalaureate Higher Level exam may earn credit for PSY-101 Introduction to Psychology by taking any 200-level Psychology course and completing it with a grade of B- or better. The department recommends against taking PSY-201 Research Methods & Stats I as a first course in Psychology; students wishing to earn this credit should consult the chair of the Psychology Department for assistance in selecting an appropriate course. **Such PSY-101 Introduction to Psychology credit does not count toward a major or minor in Psychology.**

Off-Campus Study

Psychology majors and minors considering taking courses at other campuses, or abroad, should be aware that it is difficult to meet our PSY-201 Research Methods & Stats I and PSY-202 Research Methods & Stats II requirements at other schools. Because both courses combine research methods and statistics, most off-campus statistics courses do not substitute for either requirement. This means you should plan to take PSY-201 Research Methods & Stats I and PSY-202 Research Methods & Stats II at Wabash. Permission to spend the junior year abroad requires completion of PSY-201 Research Methods & Stats I and PSY-202 Research Methods & Stats II prior to going off campus.

Recommended Sequence of Courses

If not starting the psychology major until sophomore year or later, please consult with a member of the psychology faculty to determine an appropriate path.

| Course | Title | Credits |
|--|--------------------------------------|----------|
| Freshman | | |
| PSY-101 | Introduction to Psychology | 1 |
| Neuro/Bio Co-Requisite | | |
| PSY-204 | Principles of Neuroscience | |
| NSC-204 | Principles of Neuroscience | |
| BIO-101 | Human Biology | |
| BIO-111 | General Biology I | |
| Credits | | 1 |
| Sophomore | | |
| PSY-201 | Research Methods & Stats I | 1 |
| PSY-202 | Research Methods & Stats II | 1 |
| Start a sequence | | |
| PSY-220 | Child Development | |
| PSY-222 | Social Psychology | |
| PSY-231 | Cognition | |
| PSY-232 | Sensation and Perception | |
| PSY-233 | Behavioral Neuroscience | |
| The PSY-220 & PSY-320, PSY-231 & PSY-331, PSY-232 & PSY-332 sequences can be completed within one school year. | | |
| The PSY-222 & PSY-322 and PSY-233 & PSY-333 sequences will start in spring, and end in fall. | | |
| Complete Neuro/Bio Co-Requisite | | |
| Credits | | 3 |
| Junior | | |
| Complete first sequence (if not completed sophomore year) | | |
| PSY-320 | Research in Developmental Psychology | 0.5 |
| PSY-322 | Research in Social Psychology | |
| PSY-331 | Research in Cognitive Psychology | |
| PSY-332 | Research in Sensation and Perception | |
| PSY-333 | Research in Behavioral Neuroscience | |
| Start/finish second sequence | | |
| PSY-301 | Literature Review | 1 |
| Credits | | 3 |
| Senior | | |
| PSY-495 | Senior Project | 0.5 |
| PSY-496 | Senior Project | 0.5 |

Finish second sequence

| | |
|----------------------|----------|
| Elective | 1 |
| Credits | 2 |
| Total Credits | 9 |

Requirements for the Minor

| Code | Title | Credits |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|----------|
| Introductory | | |
| PSY-101 | Introduction to Psychology | 1 |
| Research & Methods | | |
| PSY-201 | Research Methods & Stats I | 1 |
| Select one from the following: | | |
| PSY-220 | Child Development | |
| PSY-222 | Social Psychology | |
| PSY-231 | Cognition | |
| PSY-232 | Sensation and Perception | |
| PSY-233 | Behavioral Neuroscience | |
| Psychology Electives | | 2 |
| Total Credits | | 5 |

PSY-101 Introduction to Psychology

A survey of concepts, principles, and theories of an empirical science of behavior. Topics include behavioral biology, learning, memory, sensation, perception, cognition, motivation, emotion, social behavior, personality, and psychopathology.

Prerequisites: none

Credit: 1

Distribution: Behavioral Science

PSY-102 Human Sexual Behavior

An overview of human sexual anatomy, development, function, and diversity. Emphasis is on the psychological aspects of sexuality including the study of attitudes towards sexuality, sexual preference, love and marriage, contraception, and commercial sex. Particular attention is paid to the development and enactment of sex roles, the construction of gender, and sex differences.

Prerequisites: none

Credits: 0.5-1

PSY-105 Fatherhood

An introduction to the psychological research into issues surrounding fatherhood. Topics to be covered include the role of fathers in children's development, the effect of being a father on adult development, men's views on fatherhood, the effect of fatherhood on romantic relationships, and balancing work and home life.

Prerequisites: none

Credit: 1

Distribution: Behavioral Science

Equated Courses: GEN-105

PSY-107 Health Psychology

In this course we will discuss the ways in which our thought processes and behaviors affect our health. Some behaviors promote or impair health. Other behaviors influence our willingness to seek medical help. We will discuss topics such as stress, sleep, exercise, diet, smoking, and drinking. We will also discuss health psychology from diverse perspectives, such as culture, race, and gender. The course will consist of lectures, discussion, and reading of primary literature. Health Psychology will be beneficial to pre-health students, and others who want to know more about how to improve and maintain their own health. This course counts for the Psychology major and minor, and for the Global Health minor.

Prerequisites: none

Credit: 1

Distribution: Behavioral Science

Equated Courses: GHL-107

PSY-110 Special Topics

Topics vary with each scheduled offering. Refer to Student Planning's section information for descriptions of individual offerings, and applicability to distribution requirements.

Prerequisites: none

Credits: 0.5-1

Distribution: Behavioral Science

PSY-201 Research Methods & Stats I

An introduction to the principles and techniques involved in the design and analysis of psychological research. Development of abilities in quantitative analysis and reasoning, decision-making, and hypothesis testing are aided by conducting behavioral research projects. Not recommended for first-semester freshmen.

Prerequisites: PSY-101

Credit: 1

Distribution: Behavioral Science, Quantitative Literacy

PSY-202 Research Methods & Stats II

A continuation of Research Methods and Statistics I, with a focus on more advanced research designs and statistical procedures. Students will conduct behavioral research projects. Prerequisite: PSY-201. Note: PSY-202 assumes mastery of the content from PSY-201; we strongly recommend that students take PSY-202 only if they received a grade of "C" or better in PSY-201.

Prerequisites: PSY-201

Credit: 1

Distribution: Behavioral Science, Quantitative Literacy

PSY-204 Principles of Neuroscience

An introduction to the study of the nervous system, with a focus on basic anatomy and physiology. Students will learn about the basic organization of the nervous system, neurophysiology, sensory processing, movement, development, and neuroplasticity through a systems approach to brain function. Several laboratory experiences will be built into the course to reinforce the principles discussed in class. This course counts toward distribution credit in Natural Science and Mathematics. This course is offered in the spring semester.

Prerequisites: none

Credit: 1

Equated Courses: PSY-104NSC-104

PSY-210 Intermediate Special Topics

Various topics at the intermediate level may be offered from time to time. Refer to the Course Descriptions document on the Registrar's webpage for topics and descriptions of current offerings.

Prerequisites: none

Credit: 1

Distribution: Behavioral Science

PSY-211 Cross Cultural Psychology

This course explores the ethnic and cultural sources of psychological diversity and unity through cross-cultural investigation. Topics include human development, perceptual & cognitive processes, intelligence, motives, beliefs & values, and gender relations.

Prerequisites: PSY-101

Credit: 1

PSY-213 Language Development

This course investigates the processes by which language develops. In this discussion-based class, we will explore theoretical explanations concerning the mechanisms by which language develops and empirical data on the development of phonological, semantic, syntactic, and pragmatic competence in both typically developing and atypical populations. We will also explore forms of communication other than spoken language, such as sign language and communicative systems in nonhuman animals. This course often includes visits to research laboratories at other universities and to other sites that allow students to observe and learn about variability in language development.

Prerequisites: PSY-201 (may be taken concurrently)

Credit: 1

PSY-214 Psychology and Law

An overview of the sometimes-cooperative, sometimes-adversarial relationship between psychological science and the justice system. Major topics include eyewitness memory, interviewing suspects, forensic analysis, jury composition and decision making, punishment severity and fairness, the use of psychological experts, and popular depictions of forensic psychology. Readings will include not only scientific findings in social, cognitive, and clinical psychology, but also U.S. Supreme Court opinions relevant to course concepts.

Prerequisites: none

Credit: 1

Distribution: Behavioral Science

PSY-220 Child Development

This course explores the process of child development with particular emphases on cognitive and social development from infancy through early adolescence. We will discuss the development of observable behaviors such as language and aggression, the underlying mechanisms that guide and shape development, and empirically-grounded practical recommendations for fostering healthy development. Additional topics include the roles of nature and nurture in development, the formation of parent/child attachment, social cognition, autism, and peer relationships and their effect on social development. The methodologies used by researchers, and the appropriate interpretation of research findings, will be an emphasis throughout the course. Through weekly observations and naturalistic laboratory assignments in local preschools, students will learn and practice several of these research methodologies. This course is offered in the fall semester

Prerequisites: Prerequisite: PSY-101 or PSY-105

Credit: 1

Distribution: Behavioral Science

PSY-222 Social Psychology

A survey of research findings and methodologies of social psychology. Topic coverage deals with social perception, attitude formation, attitude change, and the psychology of group processes and interactions. Students are encouraged to develop their own research ideas. This course is offered in the spring semester.

Prerequisites: Prerequisite: PSY-201 (may be taken concurrently).

Credit: 1

PSY-223 Abnormal Psychology

An examination of the major disorders of human behavior, including their forms, origins, and determinants. Treatment strategies and issues are explored in depth. Emphasis on empirical studies and current research developments in psychopathology.

Prerequisites: Prerequisite: PSY-101.

Credit: 1

Distribution: Behavioral Science

PSY-231 Cognition

An overview of the major information-processing feats of the human mind, such as problem solving, reasoning, memory, language, visual perception, and the development of expertise. Students will explore the scientific techniques used to understand these invisible mental processes, and our current knowledge of how these processes are implemented in the brain. This course is offered in the fall semester.

Prerequisites: Prerequisite: PSY-201.

Credit: 1

Distribution: Behavioral Science

PSY-232 Sensation and Perception

This course explores our sensory systems: vision, hearing, touch, taste, smell, and perhaps other systems such as balance. We will study both the anatomy underlying these systems as well as perceptual phenomena. Mini-labs are interspersed throughout the course to experience these phenomena. We will also read and discuss primary research articles related to the topics covered in class. This course is offered in the fall semester.

Prerequisites: Prerequisite: NSC-204, PSY-204, BIO-101 or BIO-111

Credit: 1

Distribution: Behavioral Science, Global Citizenship, Justice, and Diversity

PSY-233 Behavioral Neuroscience

An introduction to the biological bases of behavior. Examination of nervous system structure and function is followed by an examination of the neurophysiological foundations of motor ability, sexual behavior, ingestive behavior, sleep and arousal, learning and memory, reinforcement, and language. This course is offered in the spring semester.

Prerequisites: Prerequisite: PSY-204, NSC-204, BIO-101, or BIO-111.

Credit: 1

Distribution: Behavioral Science

PSY-235 Cognitive Neuropsychology

This course examines deficits in human cognitive function resulting from brain damage. It draws on principles of neuroscience, psychology, and neurology for insights into how the brain mediates the ability to use and integrate capacities such as perception, language, actions, memory, and thought.

Prerequisites: PSY-101

Credit: 1

Distribution: Behavioral Science

PSY-287 Intermediate Research

Individual students will work with a faculty member to design and carry out intermediate level empirical or library research on a topic of their choice. A brief proposal outlining the work to be conducted, and an anticipated timetable for completion, must be approved by the faculty supervisor no later than two weeks following the first day of classes. If the faculty supervisor believes the project will require longer than one semester to complete, the student may be allowed to register for a one-year course (with no additional course credit); this should be determined prior to registration. Offered in the fall (287) and spring (288) semesters.

Prerequisites: PSY-201

Credits: 0.5

PSY-288 Intermediate Research

Individual students will work with a faculty member to design and carry out intermediate level empirical or library research on a topic of their choice. A brief proposal outlining the work to be conducted, and an anticipated timetable for completion, must be approved by the faculty supervisor no later than two weeks following the first day of classes. If the faculty supervisor believes the project will require longer than one semester to complete, the student may be allowed to register for a one-year course (with no additional course credit); this should be determined prior to registration. Offered in the fall (287) and spring (288) semesters.

Prerequisites: PSY-201

Credits: 0.5

PSY-301 Literature Review

An introduction to the principles of searching for and reporting on published literature in psychology. Students will learn strategies for searching databases, identifying credible sources, and developing a theoretical background on a topic. This course features extensive training and practice in writing APA-style manuscripts, and is intended to prepare students for PSY 495/496, Senior Project.

Prerequisites: Prerequisite: PSY-201

Credit: 1

PSY-310 Special Topics

Topics vary with each scheduled offering. Refer to Student Planning's section information for descriptions of individual offerings, and applicability to distribution requirements.

Prerequisites: none

Credit: 1

PSY-320 Research in Developmental Psychology

This course will provide students with in-depth coverage of the methodological tools and statistical analyses used by developmental psychologists. Students will read and discuss contemporary research on a given topic that will vary from year to year. Students will gain experience analyzing complex data sets obtained from prior research or from a research project conducted with the professor. This course is offered in the spring semester.

Prerequisites: Prerequisites: PSY-202 and PSY-220.

Credits: 0.5

PSY-322 Research in Social Psychology

Students will cover a particular area of research in social psychology in more depth than is possible in a survey course. The topics covered will reflect contemporary issues in the field and may differ in different semesters. The course will cover primary research and theoretical works. A research proposal will be constructed, and students may carry out a research project in collaboration with the professor. This course is offered in the fall semester.

Prerequisites: Prerequisite: PSY-202 and PSY-222

Credits: 0.5

PSY-331 Research in Cognitive Psychology

This course is designed for students who have completed Cognitive Psychology (PSY 231) and are interested in conducting research on memory and other cognitive processes. Students will learn research techniques specific to cognitive research. Topics will vary from year to year and will include questions from both classic and contemporary cognitive psychology. This course is offered in the spring semester.

Prerequisites: PSY-202 and 231

Credits: 0.5

PSY-332 Research in Sensation and Perception

In this course, students will conduct experiments involving at least two sensory systems, obtaining experience with psychophysical experimental methods. Students will write complete APA-style scientific papers for each experiment, including a clearly stated hypothesis, a brief literature review, a clear explanation of the methodology, application of the proper statistical techniques, an analysis of how the results supported or failed to support the hypothesis, and an abstract summarizing the experimental findings. This course is offered in the spring semester.

Prerequisites: Prerequisite: PSY-232.

Credits: 0.5

Distribution: Behavioral Science

Equated Courses: NSC-332

PSY-333 Research in Behavioral Neuroscience

Students in this course will become involved with research in an area of behavioral neuroscience. The topic covered will reflect contemporary research issues in the field and may differ in different years. Major course components will be discussion of primary literature in neuroscience and collaboration with the professor in conducting and writing up an experiment that is directed toward possible publication. Recent topics have focused on memory and drug addiction, and how neural recordings are used to understand how information is encoded by the brain. This course is offered in the fall semester.

Prerequisites: PSY-233

Credits: 0.5

PSY-387 Advanced Research

Individual students will work with a faculty member to design and carry out empirical or library research on a topic of their choice. This advanced-level project requires that students become well versed with the primary literature of the field. Prior to registering, the student should discuss his research idea with (and obtain the approval of) the faculty member who will supervise the project. A brief proposal outlining the work to be conducted and an anticipated timetable for completion must be approved by the faculty supervisor no later than two weeks following the first day of classes; students not meeting this deadline must drop the course until a later semester. If the faculty supervisor believes the project will require longer than one semester to complete, the student may be allowed to register for a one-year course (with no additional course credits); this should be determined prior to registration. Typically, one-half course credit is granted for a faculty-directed project. If the student is primarily responsible for designing and carrying out an independent project, a full course credit may be given (this must be determined prior to registration). In either case, completion of the course requires submission of an APA-style written report (to the faculty supervisor) and a 15-minute oral presentation of the project to psychology faculty and students prior to final examination week of the semester the grade is awarded. Offered in the fall (387) and spring (388) semesters.

Prerequisites: PSY-202 and 1 of the following groups: 220/320,222/322, 231/331,232/332 or 233/333

Credits: 0.5-1

PSY-388 Advanced Research

Individual students will work with a faculty member to design and carry out empirical or library research on a topic of their choice. This advanced-level project requires that students become well versed with the primary literature of the field. Prior to registering, the student should discuss his research idea with (and obtain the approval of) the faculty member who will supervise the project. A brief proposal outlining the work to be conducted and an anticipated timetable for completion must be approved by the faculty supervisor no later than two weeks following the first day of classes; students not meeting this deadline must drop the course until a later semester. If the faculty supervisor believes the project will require longer than one semester to complete, the student may be allowed to register for a one-year course (with no additional course credits); this should be determined prior to registration. Typically, one-half course credit is granted for a faculty-directed project. If the student is primarily responsible for designing and carrying out an independent project, a full course credit may be given (this must be determined prior to registration). In either case, completion of the course requires submission of an APA-style written report (to the faculty supervisor) and a 15-minute oral presentation of the project to psychology faculty and students prior to final examination week of the semester the grade is awarded. Offered in the fall (387) and spring (388) semesters.

Prerequisites: PSY-202 and one of the following groups: PSY-220 and PSY-320, PSY-222 and PSY-322, PSY-231 and PSY-331, PSY-232 and PSY-332, or PSY-233 and PSY-333

Credits: 0.5-1

PSY-495 Senior Project

Students in this two half-course sequence will complete a year-long capstone project intended to integrate the content and skills they have learned in the major and develop expertise in an area of interest. This project will consist of either an empirical study or a community-based practicum. The empirical study will be one that the student plans and carries out with general guidance from a faculty mentor. For the community-based practicum option, students will work with a professional involved in the delivery of psychological services. All projects will culminate in an APA-style manuscript, poster presentation, and a talk at a regional undergraduate research conference. Students intending to register for PSY 495 must first meet with a faculty member in the Psychology Department to choose which type of project they wish to pursue and to propose an area of specialty.

Prerequisites: Prerequisite: PSY-202, and PSY-301 (may be taken concurrently)

Credits: 0.5

PSY-496 Senior Project

Students in this two half-course sequence will complete a year-long capstone project intended to integrate the content and skills they have learned in the major and develop expertise in an area of interest. This project will consist of either an empirical study or a community-based practicum. The empirical study will be one that the student plans and carries out with general guidance from a faculty mentor. For the community-based practicum option, students will work with a professional involved in the delivery of psychological services. All projects will culminate in an APA-style manuscript, poster presentation, and a talk at a regional undergraduate research conference.

Prerequisites: Prerequisite: PSY-495.

Credits: 0.5

Psychology Faculty

Charles F Blaich, *Leave*

Preston R Bost

Karen L Gunther

Robert S Horton

Eric Olofson (chair)

Neil Schmitzer-Torbert