

# PSYCHOLOGY BA

The Bachelor of Arts in Psychology is a rich liberal arts program, giving students a solid foundation in the scientific study of mind and behavior. The knowledge objectives of our major include the biological bases of human behavior, cognitive and perceptual mechanisms, learning and memory processes, social and cultural influences on behavior, the psychological aspects of human development, analysis and treatment of abnormal behavior, and determinants of personality and health. We also want students to learn about the role of methodology and statistics in psychology by critically evaluating research, designing studies, and statistically analyzing data. The major offers many opportunities to practice and develop professional communication skills by writing professional reports and making oral presentations.

We value studying human behavior from a scientific perspective. We also emphasize the importance of ethical and social responsibility and cultural influences on human behavior in a diverse world. The psychology program is interested in using psychology to help others, emphasizing tolerance for ambiguity, the development of critical thinking skills, and promoting ethical responsibility for professional conduct.

To accomplish these learning goals, the psychology major is a diverse program offering a variety of learning experiences. It requires the completion of two laboratory courses that emphasize student-centered and active learning. All students are required to complete a senior seminar—either in the regular or honors program. We also encourage students to participate in internships and in research with faculty. The major consists of 42 to 44 units, leaving room for majors to add a minor, choose a number of electives, or work on prerequisites for postgraduate plans, giving flexibility for a multitude of career plans.

## Advising Requirement

Advising is mandatory for this program. Consult your department advisor or program coordinator for information.

## E-advising Tools

Use the interactive e-advising tools designed to help students graduate within four years. These tools can be accessed through the Student Center in the Portal (<https://portal.csuchico.edu>).

## Grading Requirement

All courses taken to fulfill program course requirements must be taken for a letter grade except those courses specified by the department as credit/no credit grading only.

## Course Requirements for the Major: 42-44 units

Completion of the following courses, or their approved transfer equivalents, is required of all candidates for this degree. Courses in this program may complete more than one graduation requirement.

Course	Title	Units
<b>Foundation</b>		
PSYC 101	Principles of Psychology	3
PSYC 261	Research Methods in Psychology	3
PSYC 301W	Navigating Psychology: The Major and Beyond (W)	3
PSYC 324	Biological Psychology	4

PSYC 334	Cognition	3
PSYC 364	Statistical Methods in Psychology	4
PSYC 466	Elements of Learning and Behavior	3
Select one of the following:		3

PSYC 401W	Capstone Seminar in Psychology (W)	
PSYC 499H	Honors Seminar in Psychology II	

<b>Psychology Breadth Selection Areas</b>		
Select one course in four of the following areas:		12

<i>Development</i>		
PSYC 353	Learning in the Young Child	
PSYC 354	Psychology of Adulthood and Aging	
PSYC 355	Survey of Child and Adolescent Psychology	

<i>Individual Processes/Wellness</i>		
PSYC 323	Health Psychology	
PSYC 381	Abnormal Psychology	
PSYC 382	Psychology of Personality	

<i>Social Processes</i>		
PSYC 315	Environmental Psychology	
PSYC 393	Psychology of Romantic Relationships	
PSYC 395	Social Psychology	

<i>Diversity</i>		
PSYC 341	Cross-Cultural Psychology	
PSYC 345	Psychology of Women	
PSYC 391	Psychology of Prejudice, Hate, and Violence	

<i>Brain/Mind/History</i>		
PSYC 321	Brain, Mind, and Behavior	
PSYC 333	Human Perception	
PSYC 425	Neuropsychology	
PSYC 463	History and Systems of Psychology	

<b>Psychology Free Elective Courses</b>		
Select any two Psychology (PSYC) courses or approved substitutions. One course must be a letter graded three unit (or more) course. The other course may be a letter graded or credit/no credit one unit (or more) internship, independent study, special topic, or traditional course.		4-6

<b>Total Units</b>	<b>42-44</b>
--------------------	--------------

## Electives Requirement

To complete the total units required for the bachelor's degree, select additional elective courses from the total University offerings. You should consult with an advisor regarding the selection of courses which will provide breadth to your University experience and possibly apply to a supportive second major or minor.

## Honors in the Major

Honors in the Major is a program of independent work in your major. It requires six units of honors coursework completed over two semesters.

The Honors in the Major program allows you to work closely with a faculty mentor in your area of interest on an original performance or research project. This year-long collaboration allows you to work in your field at a professional level and culminates in a public presentation of your work. Students sometimes take their projects beyond the University for submission in professional journals, presentation at conferences, or academic competition. Such experience is valuable for graduate

school and professional life. Your honors work will be recognized at your graduation, on your permanent transcripts, and on your diploma. It is often accompanied by letters of commendation from your mentor in the department or the department chair.

Some common features of Honors in the Major program are:

- You must take six units of Honors in the Major coursework. All six units are honors courses (marked by a suffix of H), and at least three of these units are independent study (399H, 499H, 599H) as specified by your department. You must complete each course with a minimum grade of B.
- You must have completed 9 units of upper-division coursework or 21 overall units in your major before you can be admitted to Honors in the Major. Check the requirements for your major carefully, as there may be specific courses that must be included in these units.
- Your cumulative GPA should be at least 3.5 or within the top 5% of majors in your department.
- Your GPA in your major should be at least 3.5 or within the top 5% of majors in your department.
- Most students apply for or are invited to participate in Honors in the Major during the second semester of their junior year. Then they complete the six units of coursework over the two semesters of their senior year.
- Your honors work culminates with a public presentation of your honors project.

Honors in the Major is not part of the Honors Program. Each department administers its own program. Please contact your major department or major advisor to apply.

In addition to the requirements above, specific requirements in the Honors in Psychology program include:

1. You must complete PSYC 101, PSYC 261, PSYC 364, and nine units of other upper-division psychology courses before being considered for admission to the Honors in Psychology program.
2. You must apply in the spring semester preceding your two-semester participation in the program.
3. To complete the Honors in Psychology program, you must complete PSYC 399HW in the fall semester and PSYC 499H in the spring semester with minimum grades of B. You must maintain an overall GPA of at least 3.0 and must make a public presentation of the results of your Honors project.

See Bachelor's Degree Requirements (<https://catalog.csuchico.edu/undergraduate-requirements/bachelors-degree-requirements/>) for complete details on general degree requirements. A minimum of 39 units, including those required for the major, must be upper division.

## General Education Requirements: 43 units

See General Education (<https://catalog.csuchico.edu/colleges-departments/undergraduate-education-academic-success/general-education/#gerequirementstext>) and the Class Schedule (<http://www.csuchico.edu/schedule/>) for the most current information on General Education requirements and course offerings.

## American Institutions Course Requirements: 6 units

The American Institutions graduation requirement, as mandated in Title 5, Section 40404 (<https://govt.westlaw.com/calregs/Document/I56C041434C6911EC93A8000D3A7C4BC3/?viewType=FullText&originationContext=documenttoc&transitionType=CategoryPage>) requires that students satisfactorily complete courses in United States history, the US Constitution, and government and American ideals (including California state and local government). At Chico State, HIST 130 meets the US history requirement (US-1), and POLS 155 meets the US Constitution and government requirement (US-2) and the California state and local government requirement (US-3). POLS 155 also fulfills three units of GE Area 4, Social and Behavioral Sciences. See Bachelor's Degree Requirements (<https://catalog.csuchico.edu/undergraduate-requirements/bachelors-degree-requirements/#amin>) for more information.

## Diversity Course Requirements: 6 units

You must complete a minimum of two courses that focus primarily on cultural diversity. At least one course must be in US Diversity (USD) and at least one in Global Cultures (GC). See Diversity Requirements (<https://catalog.csuchico.edu/undergraduate-requirements/diversity-requirements/>) for a full list of courses. Many courses taken to satisfy these requirements may also apply to General Education (<https://catalog.csuchico.edu/colleges-departments/undergraduate-education-academic-success/general-education/>).

## Upper-Division Writing Requirement

Writing Across the Curriculum (EM 17-009 (<https://www.csuchico.edu/pres/em/2017/17-009.shtml/>)) is a graduation requirement and may be demonstrated through satisfactory completion of four Writing (W) courses, two of which are designated by the major department. See Writing and Math Requirements (<https://catalog.csuchico.edu/undergraduate-requirements/writing-math-requirements/>) for more details on the four courses. The first of the major designated Writing (W) courses is listed below.

- PSYC 301W Navigating Psychology: The Major and Beyond (W)

The second major-designated Writing course is the Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement (GW) (EO 665 (<https://calstate.policystat.com/policy/9585618/latest/>)). Students must earn a C- or higher to receive GW credit. The GE English Composition (1A) (<https://catalog.csuchico.edu/colleges-departments/undergraduate-education-academic-success/general-education/#1A>) requirement must be completed before a student is permitted to register for a GW course.