



Student Guide to the Psychology Major

Western Connecticut State University
2015-2016

This Guide Contains:

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Degrees Offered:

WCSU offers two undergraduate degree programs in Psychology:

Bachelor of Arts in Psychology

Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education with a Major in Psychology

(requirements for the psychology portion of this degree must be completed before the professional semester and the student teaching semester which constitute the senior year)

Core Requirements for the Degrees for students matriculating 2006-07 or later:

Note: these are psychology department only listings: general education and other requirements are described in the program sheet (see attached).

Bachelor of Arts in Psychology (B.A.) or Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education with a Major in Psychology (B.S.)

These four are required and must be taken in order and cannot be taken at the same time.	
PSY 100	Introduction to Psychology
PSY 201	Principles of Research in Psychology
PSY 204	Psychological Statistics
PSY 324	Experimental Psychology
Psychology Breadth Requirement: Take at least one course from each area:	
Area A: Cognitive	
PSY 220	Psychology of Learning
PSY 251	Psychology of Cognition
Area B: Biological	
PSY 230	Introduction to Brain and Behavior
PSY 349	Psychology of Perception (previously PSY 250)
PSY 352	Cognitive Neuroscience
Area C: Developmental	
PSY 210	Child Psychology
PSY 211	Adolescent Psychology
PSY 222	The Adult Years
EPY 203	Child Development in School
EPY 204	Adolescent Development in School
Area D: Social-Personality	
PSY 205	Social Psychology
PSY 208	Environmental Psychology
PSY 215	Personality Psychology
Area E: Clinical-Counseling	
PSY 203	Clinical Psychology
PSY 202	Abnormal Psychology
PSY 260	Health Psychology
Advanced Seminar or Research Course (complete at least one)	
PSY 412	Advanced Developmental Psychology
PSY 415	Advanced Personality-Social Psychology
PSY 425	Advanced Cognitive Psychology

PSY 426	Advanced Applied Psychology
PSY 439	Community Psychology
PSY 450	Research Seminar in Psychology
Psychology Electives (nine credits required: choose from among psychology offerings, with at least one course at the 300 or 400 level)	
Students must have at least 39 credits in psychology that meet the above requirements to earn their degree.	

Prerequisites for Psychology Courses:

PSY 100: Introduction to Psychology	None
Each of the following courses requires only PSY 202, PSY 203, PSY 205, PSY 206, PSY 208, PSY 210, PSY 211, PSY 215, PSY 217, PSY 218, PSY 219, PSY 220, PSY 222, PSY 230, PSY 236, PSY 245, PSY 251, PSY 260, PSY 262, PSY 290, PSY 291	PSY 100
PSY 201: Principles of Research in Psychology	PSY 100 and MAT 100 or appropriate score on the WCSU math placement test; must be a psychology major or instructor permission
PSY 204: Psychological Statistics	PSY 100 and PSY 201 (with a minimum grade of C-)
PSY 305: Psychology of Persuasion	PSY 205 or instructor permission
PSY 306: Internship in Applied Psych	PSY 100 and PSY 201 (with a minimum grade of C-), PSY 202 OR PSY 203, Junior standing, instructor permission
PSY 309: Social Psychology and the Law	PSY 100 and PSY 205
PSY 313: Cross-Cultural Psychology	PSY 100 and PSY 205
PSY 324: Experimental Psychology	PSY 100, PSY 201, PSY 204 (with a minimum grade of C-)
PSY 332: History of Psychology	PSY 100 plus nine credits in psychology or instructor permission
PSY 334: Psychological Assessment	PSY 100 and PSY 201
PSY 341: Child and Adolescent Abnormal Behavior	PSY 100 plus one of the following: PSY 202, PSY 203, PSY 210, PSY 211
PSY 346: Moral Development	PSY 100 plus one of the following: PSY 210, PSY 211, EPY 203, EPY 204
PSY 349: Psychology of Perception	PSY 100 plus six additional psych credits
PSY 352: Cognitive Neuroscience	PSY 100 plus one of the following: PSY 230, PSY 250, PSY 251, PSY 349
PSY 392: Substance Abuse Counseling: Assessment and Counseling	PSY 100 and PSY 202
PSY 393: Substance Abuse Counseling: Drugs and Behavior	PSY 100 and PSY 202
PSY 394: Substance Abuse Counseling: Counseling Techniques	PSY 100 and PSY 202
PSY 395: Substance Abuse Counseling:	PSY 100 and PSY 202

Applied Counseling	
PSY 412: Advanced Developmental Psychology	PSY 324 plus two of the following: PSY 210, PSY 211, EPY 201, EPY 203; plus three additional hours of psych courses
PSY 415: Advanced Personality-Social Psychology	PSY 324, PSY 205, PSY 215, plus three additional hours of psychology courses
PSY 425: Advanced Cognitive Psychology	PSY 324 plus two of the following courses: PSY 220, PSY 230, PSY 236, PSY 245, PSY 250, PSY 251, PSY 252, PSY 349; plus three additional hours in psychology
PSY 426: Advanced Applied Psychology	PSY 324 and two of: PSY 202, PSY 203, PSY 206, PSY 207, PSY 218, PSY 260, PSY 309, PSY 334, PSY 341 or instructor's permission
PSY 439: Community Psychology	PSY 324 plus one of the following: PSY 202, PSY 203, PSY 205
PSY 450: Research Seminar in Psychology	PSY 324 plus three additional courses in psychology
PSY 460: Independent Study in Psychology	PSY 324, plus at least nine additional hours of psychology courses; minimum GPA of 3.0 and grade no lower than a "C" in PSY 201, PSY 204, and PSY 324.
PSY 475: Honors Guided Readings	PSY 324 and the psychology advanced seminar (PSY 412, PSY 415, PSY 425, PSY 439 or PSY 450) must be completed prior to PSY 475. Instructor approval. Junior standing; minimum Psych GPA of 3.5 and a minimum overall GPA of 3.3.
PSY 476: Honors Thesis	PSY 475; the psychology advanced seminar (PSY 412, PSY 415, PSY 425, PSY 439 OR PSY 450); students must receive the permission of the department prior to registering for this course; Junior standing; minimum Psychology GPA of 3.5 and a minimum overall GPA of 3.3.

BA: Psychology (122 S.H. required to complete the degree)

Four-Year Plan This is a sample sequence of courses. Other combinations are possible.



Pre-requisites are in parentheses; see catalog for details.

Class standing by credit: Freshman: 0-29 credits; Sophomore: 30-59 credits; Junior: 60-89 credits; Senior: 90+ credits

FIRST YEAR (30 S.H.)	SEMESTER 1 (15 S.H.)			SEMESTER 2 (15 S.H.)		
	MAT 100 Intermediate Mathematics or Gen Ed: Math (above MAT 100)	3		Gen Ed: Math (above MAT 100) or Gen Ed: Computer Science	3	
	WRT 101 Composition I: Habit of Writing or Writing Intensive	3		Gen Ed: Writing Intensive (Humanities)	3	
	PSY100 Introduction to Psychology (ALL PSY courses require this as a pre-req)	3		Gen Ed: Communication Skills	3	
	Gen Ed: Social & Behavioral Sciences (not psychology)	3		PSY 201 Principles of Research in Psychology (PSY100 and MAT 100 or appropriate placement)	3	
	Gen Ed: Humanities	3		Gen Ed: Humanities	3	

SECOND YEAR (31 S.H.)	SEMESTER 3 (16 S.H.)			SEMESTER 4 (15 S.H.)		
	PSY 204 Psychological Statistics (PSY 100 and PSY 201, minimum grade of C-)	3		PSY 324 Experimental Psychology (PSY 100 and PSY 204, minimum grade of C-)	3	
	Area A Psychology (See list below)	3		Area B Psychology (see list below)	3	
	Gen Ed. Lab Science	4		Gen Ed: Non-Western Cultures	3	
	Gen Ed. Humanities (Foreign Language if required)	3		Gen Ed: Humanities (Foreign Language if required)	3	
	Free Elective	3		Free Elective	3	

THIRD YEAR (31-32 S.H.)	SEMESTER 5 (15 S.H.)			SEMESTER 6 (16-17 S.H.)		
	Area C Psychology (see list below)	3		Area D Psychology (see list below)	3	
	Psychology Elective (300 or 400 level)	3		Psychology Elective (300 or 400 level)	3	
	Gen Ed: Humanities	3		HPX 177 Fitness for Life (Lecture & Activity)	2	
	Area E: Psychology	3		Gen Ed: Math/CS or Free Elective	3	
	Free Elective	3		Free Elective	3	
Complete a degree audit and plan for application for graduation				Free Elective	2 – 3	

FOURTH YEAR (30 S.H.)	SEMESTER 7 (15 S.H.)			SEMESTER 8 (15 S.H.)		
	Psychology Advanced Seminar/Research (check catalog for pre-reqs)	3		Free Elective	3	
	Psychology Elective	3		Free Elective	3	
	(option) PSY 475 Honors Guided Reading* in Psych or Free Elective	3		(option) PSY 476 Honors Thesis* in Psych or Free Elective	3	
	Free Elective	3		Free Elective	3	
	Free Elective	3		Free Elective	3	

*Minimum GPA of 3.5 in the major is required to qualify for the honors track. Students who participate in the honors sequence must identify a faculty member to oversee the course work. It is recommended that students seeking a career in applied, clinical or counseling psychology, or graduate school in those areas, take PSY 306 (new course in Spring 2015), the Internship in Psychology. Students seeking an academic or research career and planning on applying to graduate school should complete research with a faculty member via PSY 299 (student developed study), PSY 450, PSY 460, or the Honors track (PSY 475 and 476). Initial math and writing placements will determine the number of free electives. MAT100 & WRT101 are free electives but may be required as a pre-requisite for a general education math and writing intensive courses.

AREA COURSES: Four-year plans have these in order but they do not have to be completed A-E. Availability and interest should guide your selections.

Area A: Cognitive	Area B: Biological	Area C: Developmental	Area D: Social-Personality	Area E: Clinical Counseling
PSY 220 Psych of Learning	PSY 230 Intro to Brain & Behavior	PSY 210 Child Psych	PSY 205 Social Psych	PSY 202 Abnormal Psych
PSY 251 Psych of Cognition	PSY 349 Psych of Perception	PSY 211 Adolescent Psych	PSY 208 Environmental Psych	PSY 203 Clinical Psych
	PSY 352 Cognitive Neuroscience	PSY 222 The Adult Years	PSY 215 Psych of Personality	PSY 260 Health Psych

PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT PROJECTED COURSE ROTATION THROUGH SPRING, 2019									
COURSE #	COURSE TITLE	[D=day section; N=night section; D/N=day & night section]							
		F15	S16	F16	S17	F17	S18	F18	S19
100	Intro to Psych	D/N	D/N	D/N	D/N	D/N	D/N	D/N	D/N
201	Principles of Research in Psy	D/N	D/N	D/N	D/N	D/N	D/N	D/N	D/N
202	Abnormal Psych	D/N	D/N	D/N	D/N	D/N	D/N	D/N	D/N
203	Clinical Psych	D/N	D/N	D/N	D/N	D/N	D/N	D/N	D/N
204	Psychological Statistics	D/N	D/N	D/N	D/N	D/N	D/N	D/N	D/N
205	Social Psych	D/N	D/N	D/N	D/N	D/N	D/N	D/N	D/N
206	Industrial Psych	D or N		D or N		D or N		D or N	
207	Organizational Psych		D or N		D or N		D or N		D or N
208 (alt S)	Environmental Psych		D				D		
210	Child Psych	D/N	D/N	D/N	D/N	D/N	D/N	D/N	D/N
211	Adolescent Psych	D/N	D/N	D/N	D/N	D/N	D/N	D/N	D/N
215	Psych of Personality	D	D/N	D	D/N	D	D/N	D	D/N
217	Psych of Women	D or N	N	D or N	N	D or N	N	D or N	N
218	Behavior Modification	D/N	D/N	D/N	D/N	D/N	D/N	D/N	D/N
219	Psych of Men		D or N		D or N		D or N		D or N
220	Psych of Learning	D or N		D or N		D or N		D or N	
222	The Adult Years	D or N	D or N	D or N	D or N	D or N	D or N	D or N	D or N
230	Intro to Brain & Behavior	D/N	D/N	D/N	D/N	D/N	D/N	D/N	D/N
236 (alt S)	Anomalistic Psych				D				D
245	Psych of Creativity	D or N		D or N		D or N		D or N	
251	Psych of Cognition	D/N	D/N	D/N	D/N	D/N	D/N	D/N	D/N
260	Health Psych	D/N	D/N	D/N	D/N	D/N	D/N	D/N	D/N
262	Sports Psych	D	N	D	N	D	N	D	N
290	Guided Readings in Psych	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
291	Practicum in Psych	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
305	Psych of Persuasion		D		D		D		D
306	Internship in Applied Psych	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D
309	Social Psych & the Law	D or N		D or N		D or N		D or N	
313	Cross-cultural Psych	D		D		D		D	
324	Experimental Psych	D/N	D/N	D/N	D/N	D/N	D/N	D/N	D/N
332 (alt S)	History of Psych			D			D		
334 (alt S)	Psych Assessment		D or N				D or N		
341	Child & Adol Abnormal Beh		D or N		D or N		D or N		D or N
346	Moral Development	D or N		D or N		D or N		D or N	
349	Psych of Perception	D/N		D/N		D/N		D/N	
352 (alt F)	Cognitive Neuroscience	D or N			D or N			D or N	
392 (alt S)	Substance Abuse: Assessment				N				N
393 (alt F)	Substance Abuse: Drugs & Behavior	N				N			
394 (alt S)	Substance Abuse: Counseling		N				N		
395 (alt F)	Substance Abuse: Applied Counseling			N				N	
412	Adv. Developmental Psych		D or N		D or N		D or N		D or N
415 (alt F)	Adv. Personality-Social Psych	D or N				D or N			
425 (alt S)	Adv. Cognitive Psych			D or N				D or N	
426	Adv. Applied Psychology		D or N		D or N		D or N		D or N
439	Community Psych	D	D or N	D	D or N	D	D or N	D	D or N
450	Research Seminar in Psych	N	D	N	D	N	D	N	D
475**	Honors Guided Readings	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
476**	Honors Thesis	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

*individualized courses requiring faculty sponsor

** 475 and 476 constitute the Distinction in Psychology and must be taken together in consecutive semesters

Psychology With Distinction Option (for psychology majors only)

The psychology department offers a Psychology with Distinction Option to highly motivated psychology majors interested in pursuing a one-year, two-course honors reading and research project in addition to all other requirements for a psychology major. This option provides an opportunity to supplement the Psychology Degree by conducting a substantial, independent empirical project under the supervision of a Psychology faculty member. Completion of this Option requires prior approval from a psychology faculty member, and entails a two-semester sequence of courses: an Honors Guided Reading (PSY 475) and an Honors Thesis (PSY 476).

Requirements for a Minor in Psychology:

Take any 18 credits in Psychology, including PSY 100, at least nine of which must be taken at WCSU, with a minimum GPA of 2.0.

Academic Requirements for Certification of Substance Abuse Counselors (CADC)

We offer four courses in substance abuse counseling (PSY 392, 393, 394 and 395) which together meet the academic requirements for Certification of Substance Abuse Counselors as defined by the Connecticut Certification Board (CRB). Other requirements for certification are 6,000 hours of paid substance abuse counseling experience and a passing score on a written test. Please check the Connecticut Certification Board home page for the most up-to-date certification information.

Recommended Electives:

The psychology program leaves room for many elective choices. The following courses are recommended by the department as generally useful to students pursuing a degree or a career in psychology.

ANT 100:	Introduction to Cultural Anthropology
ANT 110:	Introduction to Physical Anthropology
ANT 301:	Human Evolutionary Theory
BIO 100:	Concepts of Biology
BIO 105 & 106:	Anatomy and Physiology I and II
BIO 208:	Animal Behavior
BIO 312:	Genetics
BIO 325:	Evolutionary Biology
CS 135:	Intro to Problem Solving w/ Computers
CS 140:	Intro to Programming
JLA/SOC 205:	Juvenile Delinquency
MGT/PS 202:	Intro to Public Administration
MGT 250:	Organizational Behavior
MAT 220:	Intermediate Statistics
PHI 102:	Intro to Logic
PHI 103:	Intro to Critical Reasoning
PHI 222:	Philosophy of Science

Recommended electives for Psychology majors pursuing minors or strengthening their major

The following list of courses are recommended to Psychology majors who are interested in pursuing a minor or in strengthening their major with related courses outside of psychology.

Recommended courses for a minor in Women's Studies (18 SH)

1. PSY/WS 217: Psychology of Women
2. NUR/WS 250: Women's Health Issues
3. ECO/WS 212: Economics of Gender
4. HIS/WS 320: Women & Leadership
or
HIS/WS 210: Women in American History
5. COM/WS 211: Women, Language & Communication
or
COM/WX 374: Women & Media in the US
6. ANT/WS 236: Culture, Sex & Gender

Recommended courses for a minor in Multi-cultural Studies (18 SH)

1. PSY 313: Cross-Cultural Psychology
2. SOC 200: Concepts of Race & Ethnic Relations (required)
3. NUR 251: Cultural Diversity in Health & Illness
4. SW 220: Cultural Diversity: Theoretical & Participatory Approach
5. AAS 100: Black Experience in America
or
HIS/AAS 219: African-American History & Culture
or
ANT/SOC 213: North American Indians
or
SOC 211: Latinos in the US
6. ANT/SOC 322: Comparative Minority Relations
or
ENG 227: Ethnicity & Identity in Literature
or
SOC 202: Class, Status and Power

Recommended courses for minor in Biology (genetics/evolutionary focus)

1. BIO 103 & 104: General Biology I & II (required) (Satisfies the General Ed Lab Science requirement)
2. BIO 105 & 106: Anatomy & Physiology I & II
3. BIO 312: Genetics
4. BIO 325: Evolutionary Biology

Recommended courses for minor in Biology (animal focus)

1. BIO 103 & 104: General Biology I & II (required) (Satisfies the General Ed Lab Science requirement)
2. BIO 208: Animal Behavior
3. BIO 204: Vertebrate Zoology
4. BIO 205: Animal Physiology
5. PHI 112: Ethics & the Nonhuman

Recommended course cluster for people interested in Human Development with a focus on Legal/Social Issues:

1. JLA/SOC 205: Juvenile Delinquency
2. JLA 250: Family Law
3. SW 245: Child Welfare
4. JLA 316: Juvenile Justice Management
5. JLA 409: Addiction & Crime

Recommended course cluster for people interested in a Human Development focus:

1. BIO 133 (4 credits, Lab course): Human Development Before Birth (Satisfies the General Ed Lab Science requirement)
2. HPX 205: Nutrition & Health
or
BIO 125: Food & Nutrition
3. COM 215: Family Communication
4. HPX 230: Drug Studies
5. HPX 355: Human Sexuality

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Get Involved!
Make your time here more memorable



About the PsychAlliance

The PsychAlliance consists of **Psi Chi** (the International Honor Society in Psychology WCSU chapter), and **PSA** (the Psychology Student Association which is the psychology club at WCSU).

Together, Psi Chi and PSA work together to explore topics in the field of psychology and to create a community for psychology students and all those interested in psychology.

The PsychAlliance meets twice every week and everyone is welcome to attend!

The discussion meetings consist of members discussing modern topics, articles, and empirical findings in psychology!

The business meetings consist of the planning and discussion of events and activities that the PsychAlliance will host!

Who can Join

Anyone with an interest in psychology, including non-psychology majors and minors as well as psychology majors and minors are welcome to join our discussion meetings and learn about modern topics in psychology! There will be opportunities for all attendees to research a topic of interest and communicate recent studies on any topic! Everyone is welcome to attend the PsychAlliance business meetings to find out about upcoming events and provide input on event planning.

Benefits of Joining

Learn about modern topics and empirical studies in psychology!
Join a welcoming community of psychology students who share similar interests to you!
Volunteer opportunities!
Leadership opportunities!
Conference attendance opportunities!
Fun activities!

Check out our website: <http://wcuppsychalliance.wix.com/wcuppsychalliance>



WCSUPsychAlliance