STUDENT GUIDE TO THE PSYCHOLOGY MAJOR

WESTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY
2023-2024

THIS GUIDE CONTAINS:
- PSYCHOLOGY MAJOR PROGRAM SHEET
- MINOR IN PSYCHOLOGY
- SUBSTANCE ABUSE COUNSELING COURSES
- GET INVOLVED! PSYCHOLOGY STUDENT ASSOCIATION & PSI CHI
- POTENTIAL CAREERS IN PSYCHOLOGY
PSYCHOLOGY MAJOR PROGRAM SHEET

A minimum of 30 credits must be taken at WCSU.
A minimum cumulative GPA of 2.3 is required.

Complete a foreign language at an elementary II level or above. Students who have completed three years of language in high school with at least a 'C' average have satisfied this requirement. Consult your advisor. (IC)

Part 1: General Education Competency Requirements
Students must complete each of the competencies listed below. In addition, students must complete 3 of the competencies a second time excluding First Year (FY), WRT 101 (WI), Writing Intensive Tier II (W2) and Writing Intensive Tier III (W3).

Creative Process (CP)  
Critical Thinking (CT)  
Oral Communication (OC)  
Health and Wellness (HW)  
Scientific Inquiry (SI)  
Intercultural Competence (IC)  
Information Literacy (IL)  
First Year Experience (FY)  
Culminating Experience (CE)  
Writing Course (WRT 101)  
Writing Intensive II (W2)  
Writing Intensive III (W3)  
Quantitative Reasoning (QR)  

Part 2: General Education Exploration
40 credits are required.

WRT 101 Composition I: Habits of Writing  
Scientific Inquiry course outside of Psychology  
Quantitative Reasoning course outside of Psychology  
30 to 31 Credits in courses outside of Psychology major  

Part 3: Major in Psychology
39-45 credits are required.

Minimum 2.0 major GPA  
A minimum of 20 major credits must be taken at WCSU.

PSYCHOLOGY CORE - COMPLETE IN ORDER!
A student who enrolls twice in a course in the research sequence (PSY 204, 324) and does not pass that course shall not continue in the major. A student can appeal to the chair to be reinstated by the department.

PSY 100 Introduction to Psychology BREADTH REQUIREMENTS
PSY 110 Orientation to the Psychology Area A: Cognitive: PSY 220 or 251  
Major (FY) Area B: Biological: PSY 230, 349 or 352  
PSY 204 Psychological Statistics (C- or Area C: Developmental: PSY 210, 211 or 222/322 better) (QR) Area D: Social-Personality: PSY 205 or 215  
PSY 324 Experimental Psychology (SI) Area E: Clinical-Counseling: PSY 202, 203 or 260  
PSY 412, 415, 425, 426, 439 or 450 Two 300-400 Level Psychology Electives  
Advanced SeminarOne Psychology Elective - Any Level (Except PSY 991)

It is recommended that students seeking a career in applied, clinical or counseling psychology, or graduate school in those areas, take PSY 306-Internship in Psychology. Students seeking an academic or research career and planning on applying to graduate school Part 4: 42 Free Elective Credits should complete research with a faculty member via PSY 299, 450, 460, or the Honors track (PSY 475 & 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.

**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).
GET INVOLVED!

ABOUT PSYCHALLIANCE

Psychalliance is the combination of the WCSU's chapter of the Psi Chi International Honor Society and the Psychology Student Association (PSA). The two organizations operate together to form one student-led club in psychology; providing a mix of educational, social, and wellness events to the WCSU community.

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 attend the Psychalliance business meetings to find out about upcoming events and provide input on event planning.

EXAMPLE EVENTS:

- Alumni Panel
- Student-led Discussions
- Pumpkin Smash De-stress Event
- Graduate School Workshop
- Resume Workshop
- Heart of Art
- Pie a Professor Fundraiser
- Self-Care Packages
- Movie Nights

BENEFITS OF JOINING

- Network with alumni and other professionals in the field
- Learn about updated research and new trends in psychology
- Develop leadership skills through leading discussions, planning events, or serving as an officer
- Have fun and connect with fellow psychology students!
# Potential Careers in Psychology

## Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor
- Provide counseling and support to individuals dealing with substance abuse issues. This may involve counseling individuals, families, or groups, as well as participating in prevention initiatives.
- Masters degree required
- Average salary in CT: $62,380

## Marriage & Family Therapist
- Evaluate and address cognitive, mental, or behavioral disorders in the context of marriage and family dynamics. Use psychotherapeutic and family systems approaches to treat individuals, couples, and families.
- Masters degree required
- Average salary in CT: $59,360

## School Psychologist
- Diagnose and apply interventions for educational, behavioral, or developmental challenges affecting students’ learning. Counsel students and families, create performance plans, assess progress, and collaborate with other school staff.
- Masters degree required
- Average salary in CT: $92,300

## Clinical/Counseling Psychologist
- Evaluate mental and emotional disorders in individuals through observation, interviews, and psychological assessments. Design behavior modification plans, offer counseling, and work on treatment strategies.
- Doctoral degree required
- Average salary in CT: $102,000

## Board Certified Behavior Analyst
- Aplied behavior analysis therapists use behavior modification techniques to help individuals, often children with autism or developmental disorders, learn and improve their social, communication, and daily living skills.
- Masters degree required
- Average salary in CT: $70,000

## Industrial-Organizational Psychologist
- Apply psychological principles to human resources, administration, and management issues. Tasks involve policy planning, employee testing, training, organizational development, and collaborating with management to enhance workplace productivity.
- Masters degree required
- Average salary in CT: $132,280

For more information: