PSYCHOLOGY (BA)

Chair: Susan K. Putnam, PhD

Introduction

For a more detailed description of the program, faculty, facilities, academic and co-curricular opportunities please go to the Psychology website (https://www.canisius.edu/academics/programs/psychology).

Qualifications

Students must maintain a 2.0 GPA in the major and a 2.0 overall average to graduate with a degree in Psychology.

Advisement

All students should have an advisor in the major and should contact the department directly to have an advisor assigned if they do not already have one. Meetings with academic advisors are required prior to students receiving their PIN for course registration each semester. All majors should work closely with their advisor in discussing career expectations, choosing their major electives, developing their entire academic program and planning their co-curricular or supplemental academic experiences.

Double Majors

Students who wish to expand their educational opportunities may decide to declare a double major. The decision may be based on career goals or planned graduate studies. Before a student declares a double major, it is important to meet with the appropriate academic departments for advisement. Some double major combinations can be completed within the minimum 120 credit hour degree requirement, but in some cases additional coursework may be required. In order to declare a double major, the student must complete the appropriate double major request form and get the signature of each department chairperson and the appropriate associate dean. Please note that students will receive only one degree, regardless of the number of majors they complete.

Minors in other dISCIPLINES

Minors provide students the opportunity to pursue additional interests but generally do not require as many courses as a major. Minors generally range from five to eight required courses. The minors page (http://catalog.canisius.edu/undergraduate/minors) provides a complete list of minors and provides links to each minor. Some majors and minors can be completed within the minimum 120 credit hour degree requirement, but in some cases additional coursework may be required. Students must complete the appropriate minor request form.

BA Curriculum

An Ignatian Foundation

All undergraduate students must complete either the Canisius Core Curriculum (http://catalog.canisius.edu/undergraduate/academics/core-curriculum) or the All-College Honors Curriculum (http://catalog.canisius.edu/undergraduate/academics/core-curriculum). Many schools refer to their college-wide undergraduate requirements as "general education" requirements. We believe that the core curriculum and the honors curriculum are more than a series of required classes, they provide the basis for a Jesuit education both with content and with required knowledge and skills attributes that are central to our mission.

Free Electives

Students may graduate with more but not less than 120 credit hours. Free electives are courses in addition to the Core Curriculum or Honors Curriculum and major requirements sufficient to reach the minimum of 120 credit hours required for graduation.

Major Requirements

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Core I: Neuroscience & Cognition

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Core II: Developmental & Psychosocial

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Core III: Outcomes & Applications

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Total Credits 21

Major Electives

Psychology Electives: any three psychology courses listed in the catalog or substitutions approved by the department chairperson

BS Curriculum

An Ignatian Foundation

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<td>Research Methods in Psychology</td>
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<td>PSY 401</td>
<td>Advanced Statistics Seminar</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY 402 (Applying Research Methods in Psychology)</td>
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Application of Psychology
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<tr>
<td>PSY 495</td>
<td>Guided Research in Psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY 498</td>
<td>Psychology Practicum</td>
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Psychology Electives

Students may take any three psychology courses listed in the catalog. Substitutions of other courses may be possible but require approval by the department chairperson.

Total Credits: 39

Roadmap
Recommended Semester Schedule for Major Course

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Course</th>
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<tr>
<td>Freshman</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>PSY 101</td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
<td>PSY 102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>PSY 201</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>PSY 202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sophomore</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Psychology core</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>PSY 201</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Psychology core</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>PSY 202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Psychology elective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>PSY 203</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Psychology elective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>PSY 302</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Psychology elective</td>
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Learning Goals & Objectives

Student Learning Goal 1
Students will demonstrate knowledge in selected discipline-specific content areas of psychology.

Students will:
- Objective A: demonstrate knowledge in learning theory, cognition, and memory;
- Objective B: demonstrate knowledge of sensation and perception, and physiological psychology;
- Objective C: demonstrate knowledge in the areas of clinical and abnormal psychology as well as personality theory;
- Objective D: demonstrate knowledge of social and developmental psychology

Student Learning Goal 2
Students will demonstrate abilities related to scientific inquiry in psychology.

Students will:
- Objective A: demonstrate knowledge of basic research methods;
- Objective B: use basic statistics to test hypotheses and correctly interpret the results of their analyses;
- Objective C: think critically about psychological phenomena and research;
- Objective D: demonstrate the communication skills, information literacy, and technology literacy necessary for conducting and interpreting scientific psychological research.

Student Learning Goal 3
Students will demonstrate knowledge of psychological ethics and social responsibility.

Students will:
- Objective A: demonstrate knowledge of the APA code of Ethics in the treatment of human and nonhuman research participants;
- **Objective B**: demonstrate knowledge of ethical guidelines within the context of academic and professional psychology.

## Minors

The Psychology Department offers several psychology minors:

- **Child, Family and Community Studies** ([link](http://catalog.canisius.edu/undergraduate/college-arts-sciences/sociology/social-sciences-minor-child-family-community-studies))
- **Industrial/Organizational Psychology Minor** ([link](http://catalog.canisius.edu/undergraduate/college-arts-sciences/psychology/Industrial-Organizational-minor))
- **Neuropsychology Minor** ([link](http://catalog.canisius.edu/undergraduate/college-arts-sciences/psychology/neuropsychology-minor))
- **Psychology Minor** ([link](http://catalog.canisius.edu/undergraduate/college-arts-sciences/psychology/psychology-minor))
- **School Psychology** ([link](http://catalog.canisius.edu/undergraduate/college-arts-sciences/psychology/school-psychology))
- **Sports Psychology** ([link](http://catalog.canisius.edu/undergraduate/college-arts-sciences/psychology/sports-psychology-minor))

## Courses

**PSY 101 Introduction to Psychology I**

- **3 Credits**
- The study of behavior from a psychological perspective. Topics include methods of psychological inquiry, motivation and emotion, thinking and language, learning, memory and physiological basis of behavior. Students taking PSY 101 are expected to be available for participation in research studies or equivalent activity.
- **Offered**: every fall.

**PSY 102 Introduction to Psychology II**

- **3 Credits**
- The study of behavior from a psychological perspective. Topics include methods of psychological inquiry, human development, social behavior, psychological testing, personality, psychopathology and psychotherapy. May be taken before PSY 101. Students taking PSY 102 are expected to be available for participation in research studies or equivalent activity.
- **Offered**: spring.

**PSY 201 Basic Statistics for Behavioral Sciences**

- **3 Credits**
- Descriptive statistics, probability, sampling distributions, hypothesis testing and inferential statistics. SPSS for Windows.
- **Offered**: fall & spring.

**PSY 202 Research Methods in Psychology**

- **3 Credits**
- Philosophical measurement and statistical concepts of common methods of experimental and non-experimental research. Design and execution of project required.
- **Prerequisite**: PSY 201 or equivalent.
- **Offered**: fall & spring.

**PSY 203 Lifespan Developmental Psychology**

- **3 Credits**
- Psychology progresses through the lifespan starting with neonatal development and ending with older adulthood considering physical, cognitive, and psychosocial development at each period in the lifespan.
- **Offered**: fall & spring.

**PSY 209 Social Psychology**

- **3 Credits**
- Group dynamics and related gender issues. This course also counts for WST credit.
- **Offered**: spring.

**PSY 210 Abnormal Psychology**

- **3 Credits**
- Focuses on time frame from pre-puberty to emerging adulthood. Extension of theoretical orientation to adolescent problems. Emphasis on real world problems and solutions. Spring Descriptive statistics, probability, sampling distributions, hypothesis testing and inferential statistics. SPSS for Windows.
- **Offered**: fall & spring.

**PSY 229 Industrial/Organizational Psychology**

- **3 Credits**
- Selection, evaluation and training of personnel, facilitation of group dynamics on the job, leadership, worker motivation and effects of workplace environment on performance and morale. Emphasis on student career development.
- **Offered**: fall.

**PSY 230 Psychology of Religion and Spirituality**

- **3 Credits**
- Psychology of Religion and Spirituality covers the measurement, biological processes, triggers, development, and behavioral correlates of religion and spirituality broadly defined.
- **Prerequisite**: Minimum grade of C- in RST 101. Fulfills College Core: Field 1 (Religious Studies and Theology).
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**PSY 235 Health Psychology**

- **3 Credits**
- Psychology of health-related behaviors, including coping with stress and ill health, physician-patient relationships, compliance with medication and psychological influences on specific disorders. Students conduct personal stress assessments and design interventions.
- **Offered**: spring.

**PSY 301 Personality Psychology**

- **3 Credits**
- Covers modern theories on what personality is, different ways of approaching and assessing personality, how personality develops across the lifespan, causes of individual differences in personality, and the many important things personality influences such as physical and psychological health.
- **Offered**: fall.

**PSY 302 Abnormal Psychology**

- **3 Credits**
- **Offered**: fall & spring.

**PSY 303 Abnormal Psychology**

- **3 Credits**
- Focuses on time frame from pre-puberty to emerging adulthood. Extension of theoretical orientation to adolescent problems. Emphasis on real world problems and solutions. Spring Descriptive statistics, probability, sampling distributions, hypothesis testing and inferential statistics. SPSS for Windows.
- **Offered**: fall & spring.

**PSY 307 Adolescent Psychology**

- **3 Credits**
- Physiological, psychological and emotional factors in achieving maturity. Focuses on time frame from pre-puberty to emerging adulthood. Extension of theoretical orientation to adolescent problems. Emphasis on real world problems and solutions. Spring Descriptive statistics, probability, sampling distributions, hypothesis testing and inferential statistics. SPSS for Windows.
- **Offered**: fall & spring.

**PSY 312 Autism Spectrum Disorders and Developmental Disabilities**

- **3 Credits**
- This course provides an overview of the comprehensive needs and characteristics of and treatments for individuals with autism spectrum disorders (ASDs).
- **Prerequisites**: Minimum grade of C in PSY 101 or PSY 102, 201 and 202.
- **Offered**: fall.

**PSY 318 Social Psychology**

- **3 Credits**
- The self in social interaction: social perception and cognition, development and maintenance of relationships, attitudes, prejudice, social influence, group dynamics and related gender issues. This course also counts for WST credit.
- **Offered**: spring.
PSY 320 Cultural Psychology  
Humans learn from our cultures in all aspects of our lives. Choosing a mate, political attitudes, prejudices, and even basic perceptions all depend on cultural learning. In all our actions we rely on ideas, values, strategies, feelings, and goals that have been shaped by our cultures. We cover both the psychological universals and the variations across cultures.  
Fulfills College Core: Core Capstone  
Offered: every fall.

PSY 322 Motivation and Emotion  
Covers behavioral, cognitive and physiological theories of motivation and emotion with special focus on humanistic motivational theories. Through course assignments and assignments, students will apply the theories learned in class to their own behaviors, examine the nature and progress made on their personal goals during the semester and understand the dynamic interplay between goal-directed behavior and emotion.  
Offered: spring.

PSY 324 Cognitive Psychology  
The psychological processes that enable us to acquire, store and use knowledge. Topics include perception, attention, memory, language, thinking, and decision making. Applications in education, psychopathology.  
Prerequisites: Minimum grade of C in PSY 101 or PSY 102.  
Offered: fall.

PSY 326 Psychology of Memory  
Examines the findings from laboratory research to gain a better understanding of the structure and organization of memory. Topics include working memory, encoding and retrieval processes, implicit memory and multiple memory systems, reconstructive processes in memory, eyewitness memory, developmental changes in memory, neuropsychological correlates of memory and memory disorders, source memory, memory improvement, and the repressed/recovered memory controversy.  
Offered: spring.

PSY 329 Leadership and Motivation  
Determinants of leadership effectiveness, factors influencing effectiveness in maintaining leadership position, influencing followers and accomplishing group objectives. Emphasis on communication competencies, group interaction, experiential learning.  
Prerequisite: PSY 101 or PSY 102, & junior or senior standing.  
Offered: spring.

PSY 334 Child, Family and Community Psychology  
Effects of social and non-social environments on emotions, thoughts and behaviors. Psychological reactions and adjustments to the nature of community life. Deals with social problems such as AIDS, alcoholism and child and elder abuse. Also counts for CRJ credit.  
Offered: fall.

PSY 335 Psychopathology in Media  
An examination of the manner by which psychopathology is presented in various forms of media (e.g., movies, TV, internet). The validity of the information presented is comparatively analyzed against empirically generated diagnostic criteria, and the resulting impact of misinformation and inaccurate portrayals on societal knowledge/views of individuals with mental illness is discussed.  
Prerequisite: PSY 303.  
Offered: every fall.

PSY 340 Stereotyping and Prejudice  
This course will examine stereotyping, prejudice, and discrimination from a social psychological perspective. This will include a focus on both individual differences and situational influences on stereotyping and prejudice, as well as a consideration of the cognitive and emotional factors that can promote or inhibit these processes.  
Offered: Occasionally.

PSY 360 Psychology and Law  
Examines issues of considerable importance to the criminal justice system using empirical techniques from psychology. Topics include the conviction of the innocent, lie detection, the death penalty, the insanity defense, civil commitment, eyewitness memory, false and repressed memories, children in the courtroom, jury decision-making, and expert testimony.  
Offered: spring.

PSY 365 Psychology of Aging  
This course examines the developmental changes experienced during late life. We begin by examining the demography and science of aging. We then turn to the normative physical, cognitive, and psychosocial changes that come with aging. We also consider variability in normative age-related changes. We examine the fine threshold between function and disability as well as important issues in late life such as long-term care and death & dying. Throughout the semester we engage with these topics with a variety of hands-on learning and lecture experiences to augment our excellent text. In particular, we address the unique challenges of aging for marginalized groups in a series of immersive projects.  
Fulfills College Core: Core Capstone  
PSY 370 Introduction to School Psychology  
An introduction to the field of school psychology including historical foundations, current issues, principles of assessment and service delivery models. This course focuses heavily on applying the scientific method and principles and evidence-based practice to psychology in schools. Issues involving schools as systems, cultural diversity, human exceptionalities, professional standards, legal/ethical considerations, and the interrelationship between general and special education are emphasized.  
Prerequisites: PSY 101, 102, 201, and 202.  
Offered: spring.

PSY 373 Behavior Modification  
The application of conditioning principles to changing human behavior and cognitions, with an emphasis on practical problems.  
Offered: fall.

PSY 380 Science and Pseudoscience in Psychology: Thinking Critically  
This course will provide students with the skills needed to scientifically evaluate fringe-science, paranormal, and otherwise unorthodox claims about human behavior that regularly appear in popular culture and in the popular media. A major focus of the course will be on biases and heuristics in cognition that are typically adaptive but that also lead to predictable errors in reasoning.  
Offered: Every spring.

PSY 384 Child & Adolescent Psychopathology  
This course will introduce students to the signs and symptoms of various psychiatric disorders of childhood and adolescence (e.g., conduct disorder, ADHD).  
Offered: fall & spring.

PSY 391 Biopsychology of Stress  
This course is designed to give students an understanding of the physiological and psychological components and effects of short-term and long-term stress. Material includes effects of stress on cardiovascular, digestive, reproductive, endocrine, and immune systems.
PSY 392 Prosocial Behavior 3 Credits
This course will examine the scientific evidence for what motivates people to behave in ways that benefit others. Topics include altruism, psychopathy, preferences for fairness, and the neuroscientific underpinnings of morality.
Offered: Fall

PSY 395 Assessment in the Behavioral Sciences 3 Credits
Addresses fundamentals of classic test theory, scaling, reliability, and validity and provides an overview of measures of intelligence, achievement, and personality for clinical, educational, and research use.
Prerequisite: PSY 201.
Offered: fall & spring.

PSY 396 Behavior Intervention/Spec Pop 3 Credits
This RBT course has been designed for individuals that meet the eligibility requirements of the Behavior Analyst Certification Board (e.g., the person must possess a high school degree). This course is a hybrid course designed to teach you the basic principles, procedures and the underlying philosophy of ABA delivered in class and online. This training program is based on the Registered Behavior Technician Task List and is designed to meet the 40-hour training requirement for the RBT credential. The program is offered independent of the BACB.
Prerequisite: PSY 373.

PSY 397 Neurobiology of Mental Disorders 3 Credits
Examines the role of the putative biological underpinnings of the symptoms, etiology and treatment of various mental disorders. Includes introduction to neuroanatomy, neurophysiology, and neurotransmitter systems.
Offered: fall.

PSY 398 Neurobiology of Childhood Mental Disorders 3 Credits
This course is a sequel to Neurobiology of Mental Disorders and focuses on the neurobiological underpinnings of several developmental and other mental disorders affecting children today.
Prerequisite: Minimum grade of C in PSY 397 or BIO 114 or BIO 345 or Permission of Instructor.
Offered: spring.

PSY 401 Advanced Statistics Seminar 3 Credits
Topics include bivariate and multiple regression, least-squares estimation, model-building techniques, assumptions and diagnostics, mediation and moderation, the logistic model and exploratory factor analytic techniques. SPSS will be used throughout. Students will conduct a final research project through secondary analysis of a large national data set.
Prerequisite: Minimum grade of B- in PSY 201.
Offered: spring.

PSY 402 Fundamentals of Human Neuropsychology 3 Credits
An advanced course that provides students with a perspective on the neural mechanisms underlying behavior. Material covered in the course will include (but not be limited to) structure and function of the brain from the cellular to the structural levels, brain imaging techniques, and brain development, plasticity and neurological disorders.
Prerequisite: Minimum grade of C in PSY 101 or 102 or BIO 111 or BIO 114 or BIO 345 or Permission of Instructor.
Offered: spring.

PSY 431 Sensation and Perception 3 Credits
This course is an introduction to sensory systems and perceptual processes. Course focuses on each of the major sensory systems, beginning with the anatomy and physiology of the sense organ, and builds up to how we represent that information in the mind.
Prerequisite: Minimum grade of C in PSY 101 or PSY 102.
Offered: spring.

PSY 452 Techniques of Counseling 3 Credits
Foundations of counseling and psychotherapy with an emphasis on the mastery of technique and practical applications. Assessment and treatment planning to facilitate cognitive, emotional and behavioral change for a variety of patient populations.
Offered: fall.

PSY 453 Theories of Counseling 3 Credits
The theoretical background of selected counseling techniques. (Psychodynamic, behavioral, family systems) Students will form their own personal theories.
Offered: spring.

PSY 470 Controversial Issues 3 Credits
This course will address some of psychology’s controversial topics in order to illustrate how psychologists address and debate the core issues. As is the case in complex human affairs, there are no easy answers, simple solutions or quick resolutions. You will use critical thinking and information literacy skills to arrive at answers to some of the most interesting and perplexing issues in psychology today. Come prepared to read, research, write, discuss and debate. Registration is restricted to Psychology Seniors. Others can request permission of instructor.
Prerequisite: PSY 101 or 102.
Fulfills College Core: Core Capstone

PSY 495 Guided Research in Psychology 1-6 Credits
Opportunity for students interested in designing and conducting empirical research to collaborate with faculty in research activities leading to undergraduate or professional conference presentations and possible publication.
Prerequisite: PSY 101, PSY 102, PSY 201, PSY 202, junior or senior status, & permission of instructor.
Offered: fall, spring, & summer.

PSY 497 Advanced Experimental Psychology 3 Credits
Intended for advanced students with the interest, prerequisites and commitment to experimental research. Involves students in hands-on data collection and statistical analysis.
Prerequisite: PSY 101, PSY 102, PSY 201, PSY 202, PSY 401, junior or senior status, & permission of instructor.
Offered: fall.

PSY 498 Psychology Practicum 6 Credits
Internships are available in clinical counseling psychology, forensic psychology, industrial/organizational psychology, school psychology, and sports psychology. Joint supervision by staff members and agency personnel. Registration requirements vary; six credit maximum. Please click on this link to find out how to register for a practicum http://canisiuspsychology.net/psychwiki/PracticumRequirements.
Prerequisite: permission of chair or supervising faculty member.
Offered: fall, spring, & summer.

PSY 499 Independent Study 3 Credits
Independent studies allow in-depth study of a specific topic and are most often reserved for seniors who cannot otherwise fulfill a graduation requirement. Independent studies require an application and approval by the associate dean.
Prerequisite: permission of the instructor, department chair, & associate dean.
Offered: fall, spring, & summer.