Psychology

What is psychology?
Psychology is the empirical and theoretical study of behavior and mental life. It is a science that investigates the causes and dynamics of behavior patterns, and it is a profession that applies knowledge, skills, and techniques to the solutions of individual and social problems.

What do psychologists do?
A psychologist may be either a scientist, a practitioner, or both, who specializes in the study of behavior and the treatment of behavior-related problems. Educational and professional experiences help the psychologist to understand normal human developmental patterns and how people normally perceive, think, and behave in a wide variety of environments and under many different conditions. The scientist conducts research to add to the ever-expanding fund of knowledge available to colleagues and the general public. The practitioner is trained to provide professional assistance to children, adolescents, and adults, as well as to couples, families, and groups. He or she may also provide services to schools, agencies, organizations, industries, and institutions.

Our goal
The major goal of the department of psychology is to provide students with an education which will help prepare them for life. While psychology is the study of human behavior, it is not meant to provide quick and easy answers to the “why?” of our behavior or the behavior of others. It will, we hope, provide you with information that will assist you in your search for those answers.

Why major in psychology?
Students major in psychology for a variety of reasons:
1. As preparation for graduate work in psychology
2. As a liberal arts preparation for employment in a wide variety of semiprofessional or psychology-related fields including management and personnel work, sales and services, and social service work
3. As a second major in support of a more vocationally-oriented major—many psychology majors also major in criminal justice, business, and other related fields

In addition, there are a significant number of students who major in psychology as pre-professional undergraduates in preparation for law, clergy, or medicine, or to complete a bachelor’s degree for nursing. Others have no more specific goal in mind than to obtain a quality liberal arts education.

In cooperation with the department of criminal justice and the counselor education graduate program, undergraduate psychology majors may obtain social worker certification.

Faculty
The psychology faculty consists of seven full-time doctoral level faculty and several part-time instructors. By keeping the number of our offerings at a manageable level (35 courses), we can offer 70 to 80 percent of our courses every semester. Thus, students majoring in psychology can be assured that every required course and most elective courses will be scheduled regularly.

Facilities
The department is proud of its state-of-the-art computer/experimental lab and its observation/videotaping lab.

Requirements for major
36 credits

All majors will complete the required sequence of courses. Majors are advised to select either the human services emphasis or the substance abuse counseling emphasis or to pursue a career-related minor or second major.

Core Courses
PSYC 1130 General Psychology 3
PSYC 2230 Intro to Experimental Psychology 3
PSYC 3960 Behavioral Research I 2
PSYC 3970 Behavioral Research II 3
PSYC 4330 History and Systems of Psychology 3
MATH 1830* Elementary Statistics 3
ENG 3000** Technical Writing 3

*MATH 1830 Elementary Statistics is required but does not count toward the 36 credits in the major. It meets the university’s general requirements in math.

**ENG 3000 is required but does not count toward the 36 credits in the major.

The University of Wisconsin-Platteville does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, creed, color, handicap, sex, sexual orientation, developmental disability, national origin, ancestry, marital status, arrest record, or conviction record.
**Suggested Course of Study**

**First Year**

**First Semester**
- PSYC 1130 General Psychology 3
- ENGL 1130 Freshman Composition I 3
- General Education Requirements 9 (remedial math or English if necessary)

**Second Semester**
- ENGL 1230 Freshman Composition II 3
- PSYC 2010 or 2030 or 2530 3
- General Education Requirements 9 (remedial math if necessary)

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**Second Year**

**First Semester**
- PSYC 2230 Intro to Experimental 3
- MATH 1830 Elementary Statistics 3
- PSYC 3130 OR 3230 3
- General Education Requirements 6

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**Second Semester**
- PSYC 3000, 3030, 3430 OR 3530 3
- ENG 3000 Technical Writing 3
- General Education Requirements 9

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**Third Year**

**First Semester**
- PSYC 3960 Behavioral Research I 2
- PSYC 4030 or PSYC 4430 3
- General Ed Requirements or Electives 9

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**Second Semester**
- PSYC 3970 Behavioral Research II 3
- PSYC 3000, 3030, 3130, 3230, 3430, 3530, 3630, 3990, 4830 6
- General Ed Requirements or Electives 6

15

**Fourth Year**

**First Semester**
- PSYC 4840 or 4930 3
- PSYC 4660 Cooperative Field Experience 6
- Electives 9

15

**Second Semester**
- PSYC 4330 History and Systems 3
- Electives 12

15

Note: If remedial courses are required, students must take Winterim, summer, or extra credits during the semester to graduate in four years.

*This is a sample schedule that is not intended to substitute for academic advising.

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**Human Services Emphasis**

The coursework in this emphasis is recommended by the psychology department to students interested in pursuing a career in the human service professions.

**Required courses:**
- PSYC 4430 Abnormal Psychology
- PSYC/CJ 4840 Substance Abuse I: Theory and Assessment
- PSYC 4930 Techniques of Counseling
- PSYC 4940 Advanced Techniques of Counseling and Psychotherapy
- PSYC 4950 Social Work Practice with Groups and Families
- PSYC 4660 Cooperative Field Experience (minimum 3 credits)

**Plus at least six (6) credits in applied coursework:**
- CJ 2930 Interviewing
- CJ 4530 Social Welfare Policy
- COUNSED 4250 Group Counseling
- COUNSED 4600 Measurement for Counselors and Educators
- COUNSED 4630 Introduction to Professional Counseling
- PSYC 4020 Contemp Issues (Child Abuse and Neglect)
- PSYC 4020 Contemp Issues (Child and Family Therapy)
- PSYC 4020 Contemp Issues (Psych. of Info. Technology)
- PSYC/CJ 4850 Substance Abuse II: Intervention and Spec. Pop.
- PSYC 4940 Advanced Techniques of Counseling*
- PSYC 4950 Social Work Practice with Groups and Families*

*if not taken to satisfy core requirements above

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**Substance Abuse Counseling Emphasis**

Psychology majors may pursue a substance abuse counseling emphasis which would allow them to work as entry-level substance abuse counselors post graduation.

**Required courses:**
- PSYC 3430 Physiological Psychology
- PSYC 4430 Abnormal Psychology
- PSYC 4660 Cooperative Field Experience (3 cr.)
- PSYC/CJ 4840 Substance Abuse I
- PSYC/CJ 4850 Substance Abuse II
- PSYC 4930 Techniques of Counseling
- PSYC 4940 Advanced Techniques

**Electives (choose TWO):**
- PSYC 2030 Personal Adjustment
- CJ 2930 Interviewing
- PSYC 3030 Learning and Behavior
- PSYC 3630 Psychology of Human Sexuality
- PSYC 4020 Contemporary Issues in Psychology: Child and Family Systems Therapy
- PSYC 4950 Social Work Practice with Groups and Families