Psychology

Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in Psychology

Minor in Psychology

Master of Arts degree in Psychology — with concentrations in:
Academic Research Counseling (MFT)
School Psychology

Department Chair
Tasha R. Howe, Ph.D.

Department of Psychology
Behavioral & Social Sciences 410
707-826-3755
humboldt.edu/psychology

The BA Program

There are two pathways for the BA in Psychology. The Graduate Study Preparation Pathway is for students who desire an advanced degree in psychology or related discipline or seek a greater understanding of research methods. The General Psychology Pathway is for students who plan on obtaining a bachelor’s degree in Psychology and then either entering the workforce or obtaining a graduate degree in another field.

Students will demonstrate:
- knowledge of the major concepts, theories, and empirical findings in the core content areas of psychology.
- knowledge of methodological, analytical, and research skills appropriate to the field of psychology.
- knowledge of the sociocultural and contextual nature of psychology.
- knowledge of ethics involved in conducting research and working in the field of psychology.
- skills needed for postbaccalaureate employment, graduate, or professional school.

The Department of Psychology at HSU offers an undergraduate major leading to the BA degree, a minor program, course options for general education requirements and electives, service courses for other majors, and three graduate programs leading to the MA degree, including preparation for the California School Psychology credential, preparation for licensure as a Marriage-Family Therapist (MFT), and an MA program with content emphases in Neuroscience, Social and Environmental Psychology, Developmental Psychology, and Behavior Analysis.

Students have access to neuroscience laboratories, research and computer labs, a library of psychological tests and measurements, and other resources for psychological research and applications.

The BA degree with a major in psychology is excellent preparation for graduate school and careers. Many of our students have been accepted into prestigious nationally recognized Ph.D. programs and many have gone on to master’s degree programs.

The psychology major (graduate study preparation pathway) provides the background needed for graduate programs in most areas of psychology. Typically, those professions require a Ph.D. or MA degree.

Executives, lawyers, and business leaders often have a bachelor’s degree in psychology and advanced degrees in other areas. If you are not planning on graduate school, psychology graduates (on both paths) still leave with a number of highly marketable skills such as the ability to collect, organize, analyze, and interpret data; write reports and proposals clearly and objectively; communicate effectively and sensitively in both individual and group situations; obtain information about problems through library research and personal contacts; and identify and resolve problems and suggest solutions critical thinking and interpersonal skills.

A BA degree in psychology is helpful in health and social service professions, such as nursing and social work, as well as, in other career areas such counseling, media, management, survey research, assessment or program evaluation, and law enforcement.

The master’s degree in psychology, combined with an appropriate credential or license, may lead to careers such as school psychologist, counselor in a social service agency, marriage and family therapist, or board certified behavior analyst.

Traineeships and internships with local public and private agencies are arranged for graduate students in counseling, behavior analysis, and school psychology. The department’s counseling clinic provides additional supervised opportunities for counseling graduate students. The School Psychology practicum provides graduate students assessment practice regarding learning and other cognitive disabilities in college students.

Preparation

High school algebra is required and courses in biology are recommended.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR (Bachelor of Arts)

For a description of degree requirements to be fulfilled in addition to those listed below for the major, please see “The Bachelor’s Degree” section of the catalog, pp. 67-82.

Unit Requirements

Total units in the major: 39-46
Total units required for the degree: 120

Lower Division

Select one pathway.

General Psychology Pathway
PSYC 104 (3) Introduction to Psychology
PSYC 240 (3) Understanding Research in Psychology

Graduate Study Preparation Pathway
PSYC 104 (3) Introduction to Psychology
PSYC 241 (4) Introduction to Psychological Statistics
PSYC 242 (4) Introduction to Psychological Research Design & Methodology

Additional Upper Division Requirement (1-2 units). Complete at least one of the core content corequisite “D” discussion or breadth courses listed below. The total for the core content will increase to 20 units or the breadth will increase to 13 units, depending on the course selected.

PSYC 311D (2) Human Development Discussion
PSYC 320 (4) Behavior Analysis
PSYC 324D (2) Cognitive Psychology Discussion
PSYC 325 (4) Advanced Behavioral Neuroscience
PSYC 335D (2) Social Psychology Discussion
PSYC 337D (2) Personality Theory & Research Discussion

NOTE: The Psychology Department requires that all psychology students adhere strictly to the Ethical Standards of Psychologists, published by the American Psychological Association, and to all department procedures and policies concerning use of humans and nonhumans as experimental participants. Failure to comply will result in immediate expulsion from the department’s programs, courses, and facilities.
### Upper Division Coursework

The following upper division coursework is required for all undergraduate psychology majors [either pathway).

### Core Content Areas in Psychology (18 units)

Complete six of the following seven courses.

- PSYC 311 (3) Human Development
- PSYC 321 (3) Intro Behavioral Neuroscience
- PSYC 322 (3) Learning & Motivation
- PSYC 324 (3) Cognitive Psychology
- PSYC 335 (3) Social Psychology
- PSYC 337 (3) Personality Theory & Research
- PSYC 438 (3) Dynamics of Abnormal Behavior

### Breadth Requirements (12 units)

Complete 12 units from the following:

- PSYC 300 (3) Psychology of Gender [DCG-d]
- PSYC 302 (3) Psychology of Prejudice [DCG-d]
- PSYC 303 (3) Family Relations in Contemporary Society
- PSYC 304 (3) Business Psychology
- PSYC 320 (4) Behavior Analysis
- PSYC 323 (3) Sensation & Perception
- PSYC 325 (3) Advanced Behavioral Neuroscience
- PSYC 336 (3) Social Influence & Persuasion
- PSYC 345L (4) Psychological Tests & Measurement
- PSYC 400 (3) Health Psychology
- PSYC 411 (3) Social Neuroscience
- PSYC 414 (3) Psychology of Adolescence & Young Adulthood
- PSYC 415 (3) Psychology of Aging & Older Adulthood
- PSYC 418 (3) Developmental Psychopathology
- PSYC 419 (3) Family Violence
- PSYC 436 (3) Human Sexuality
- PSYC 437 (3) Sexual Diversity [DCG-d]
- PSYC 454 (3) Interviewing & Counseling Techniques
- PSYC 473 (3) Substance Use & Addiction
- PSYC 478 (4) Analysis of Variance
- PSYC 488 (4) Regression/Multivariate Topics

### PSYC 489S (3) Community Psychology

No more than 3 units from the following section may be applied to the breadth requirement.

- PSYC 480 (5-3) Selected Topics in Psychology
- PSYC 482 (1-4) Field Study
- PSYC 495 (1-4) Research in Psychology
- PSYC 496 (3) Psychology Research Seminar
- PSYC 497 (1-3) Mentoring
- PSYC 499 (1-3) Independent Study

### Capstone Experience (3 units)

Complete one of the following:

- PSYC 485 (3) Senior Seminar
- PSYC 486 (3) History & Systems of Psychology
- PSYC 487 (3) Evolutionary Psychology
- PSYC 490 (3) Senior Honors Thesis
- PSYC 600 series Advanced Seminars [IA]

### REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MINOR

Total units required for the minor: 18

Complete at least 18 units, 9 of which must be upper division. At least 3 units must be completed at Humboldt State.

### Introductory Phase (6 units)

- PSYC 104 (3) Introduction to Psychology
- PSYC 240 (3) Understanding Research in Psychology

### Core Content Areas (6 units)

Complete two courses from the Core Content Areas in Psychology course list [see requirements for the major.

### Upper Division Breadth (6 units)

Complete two courses from the breadth requirements approved course list. [see requirements for the major]

### THE MASTER OF ARTS DEGREE IN PSYCHOLOGY PROGRAM

Humboldt offers three concentrations, Academic Research, Counseling (MFT), and School Psychology, within the Master of Arts degree in Psychology.

### Program Admission Procedures

The following admission procedures are required for all concentrations.

- A California State University application form. All applicants apply to the university through calstate.edu/apply.
- Official transcripts of all college-level work [from every institution attended]. Current HSU students need not request transcripts.

### REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE MASTER OF ARTS

For a description of degree requirements to be fulfilled in addition to those listed below see, “The Master’s Degree” section of the catalog, pp. 83-84.

All three concentrations require recommendation by the department for advancement to candidacy and a minimum GPA of 3.00 in all work toward the degree, with no grade lower than a B-. In School Psychology, one grade of C or below in a required course results in probation; two grades of C or below result in dismissal from the program.

Each concentration requires a separate program of coursework. Contact the Department of Psychology for further information.

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1 Course requires a prerequisite that is not required in the general pathway. See course description for prerequisites.
Master of Arts degree in Psychology: Academic Research Concentration

This Academic Research Program offers a master's degree with a focus of study in one of four emphasis areas: Social/Cognitive, Neuroscience, Developmental, and Behavior Analysis. Each area provides a background in methodology and statistics that is paired with courses relevant to the area.

Program Coordinator
Chris Aberson, Ph.D.
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Program Admission Requirements (Academic Research Concentration)

In addition to Humboldt State University requirements, the Department of Psychology requires the following criteria be met for admission to the program as a classified graduate student:

- A bachelor's degree from an accredited institution or equivalent
- Statement of purpose
- Selection of a specialization area and desired thesis advisor
- A minimum undergraduate grade-point average (GPA) of 3.25 in psychology courses.

Program Prerequisites

- Completion of 24 units of undergraduate coursework in psychology including PSYC 104 (Introduction to Psychology), PSYC 241 (Introduction to Psychological Statistics), and PSYC 242 (Introduction to Research Design & Methodology) or equivalent course(s).
- Neuroscience Emphasis
  BIOL 105 (Principles of Biology), CHEM 107 (Fundamentals of Chemistry), PSYC 321 (Intro Behavioral Neuroscience), and PSYC 325 (Advanced Behavioral Neuroscience) or equivalent.
- Social & Cognitive Emphasis
  PSYC 302 (Psychology of Prejudice) and PSYC 335 (Social Psychology) or equivalent.
- Developmental Emphasis
  PSYC 311 (Human Development) or CD 350 (Perspectives: Life-Span Development), PSYC 438 (Dynamics of Abnormal Behavior), and CD 464 (Atypical Child Development) or PSYC 418 (Developmental Psychopathology) or equivalent.
- Behavior Analysis Emphasis
  PSYC 320 (Behavior Analysis) and PSYC 322 (Learning and Motivation) or equivalent.

Admission will also be based on a match between student and faculty interests and the willingness of a faculty member to supervise the student's thesis or project research. We strongly recommend that students contact faculty in their area of specialization.

A student may be conditionally admitted to the program if the undergraduate degree lacks one or more prerequisite courses within their area of specialization.

Master of Arts degree in Psychology: Academic Research Concentration

Total units required for the degree: 30

At least 30 units in psychology or supporting courses as defined by emphases or approved by graduate committee. At least half of these must be at the graduate (500-600) level.

Required Courses

Complete the following three courses during the first year:

- PSYC 641 (3) Research Methods: Philosophy & Design
- PSYC 642 (2) Research Methods: Evaluation
- PSYC 647 (3) Academic Research Proseminar

Complete one of the following:

- PSYC 578 (4) Analysis of Variance
- PSYC 588 (4) Regression/Multivariate Topics

Continuous enrollment in:

- PSYC 690 (1-6) Thesis, or
- PSYC 692 (1-3) School Psychology Portfolio Project

Completion of either a thesis or project as a culminating experience.

Emphases

Complete additional courses outlined in one of the following emphases.

Neuroscience Emphasis

Neuroscience is the study of the physiological bases of behavior; particularly how the brain affects behavior. The Neuroscience Emphasis provides an extensive background in biological bases of behavior and numerous research opportunities. Our program prepares students for application to Ph.D. programs in the field of biological psychology and neuroscience. Students with degrees in biology (or closely related fields) may apply for conditional admission to the neuroscience emphasis without 24 units of psychology courses, if they have completed PSYC 104, PSYC 241, and PSYC 242 (or equivalents). These students would complete prerequisite undergraduate courses, in addition to the required program coursework, after admission to the program to bring their total undergraduate psychology coursework to 24 units.

Required Courses (6 units)

- PSYC 625 (3) Advanced Psychobiology
- PSYC 672 (3) Psychopharmacology

Elective Courses (9-19 units)

- PSYC 487 (3) Evolutionary Psychology
- PSYC 578 (4) Analysis of Variance, or
- PSYC 588 (4) Regression/Multivariate Topics
- PSYC 683 (1-3) Graduate Teaching Assistantship
- PSYC 684 (1-3) Graduate Teaching Internship
- PSYC 480, 680 or other courses relevant to the concentration as approved by advisor and AR coordinator. Students may count 578/588 toward one elective if they complete both courses (see Requirements for Degree)

Social & Cognitive Emphasis

The Social and Cognitive emphasis focuses on how thoughts, feelings, and behaviors are influenced by others and the mental processes underlying these influences. Our program prepares students for application to Ph.D. programs in either Social or Cognitive Psychology.

Required Courses (7 units)

- PSYC 345L (4) Psychological Tests & Measurement
- PSYC 405 (3) Environmental Psychology

Elective Courses (8-19 units)

- PSYC 336 (3) Social Influence & Persuasion
- PSYC 487 (3) Evolutionary Psychology
- PSYC 578 (4) Analysis of Variance, or
- PSYC 588 (4) Regression/Multivariate Topics
- PSYC 635 (3) Advanced Social Psychology
- PSYC 683 (1-3) Graduate Teaching Assistantship
- PSYC 684 (1-3) Graduate Teaching Internship
- PSYC 480, 680 or other courses relevant to the concentration as approved by advisor and graduate coordinator. Students may count PSYC 578: Analysis of Variance/PSYC 588: Regression/Multivariate Topics toward one elective if they complete both courses (see Requirements for Degree)
Developmental Emphasis

Developmental psychology is the study of human development from both normal and atypical development. The Developmental Emphasis prepares students to work with a wide variety of children and their families or pursue Ph.D. study.

Required Courses (13 units)
PSYC 345L (4) Psychological Tests & Measurement
PSYC 419 (3) Family Violence
PSYC 518 (3) Advanced Developmental Psychopathology
PSYC 638 (3) Adv. Psychopathology: Diagnosis of Mental Disorder

Elective Courses (2-19 units)
PSYC 303 (3) Family Relations in Contemporary Society
PSYC 414 (3) Psychology of Adolescence & Young Adulthood
PSYC 578 (4) Analysis of Variance, or
PSYC 588 (4) Regression/Multivariate Topics
PSYC 632 (3) Advanced Developmental Psychology
PSYC 683 (1-3) Graduate Teaching Assistantship
PSYC 684 (1-3) Graduate Teaching Internship
PSYC 480/680 or other courses relevant to the concentration as approved by advisor and AR coordinator.

Students may count PSYC 578: Analysis of Variance/ PSYC 588: Regression/Multivariate Topics toward one elective if they complete both courses (see Requirements for Degree)

Behavior Analysis Emphasis

Behavior analysis is the design, implementation, and evaluation of instructional and environmental modifications to produce improvements in human behavior through skill acquisition and the reduction of problem behavior. The Behavior Analysis Emphasis develops students’ skills in conducting behavioral research and providing applied behavioral intervention services for children and adults in areas including education, developmental disabilities, and behavioral consulting. This program is designed to provide the coursework that constitutes part of the requirements for becoming a Board Certified Behavior Analyst.

Required Courses (21 units)
PSYC 622 (3) Advanced Learning and Behavior
PSYC 655 (3) Social-Behavioral Evaluation
PSYC 680 (1) Professional Ethics in Behavior Analysis
PSYC 682 (6) Fieldwork (6 units total over two semesters)
PSYC 683 (3) Teaching Assistantship (for PSYC 320)
EDUC 680 (2) Single-Subject Research Methods
SPED 654 (3) Advanced Behavioral, Emotional, and Environmental Supports

5th Year (Blended Pathway)

Students may also apply while in undergraduate status to begin graduate coursework, allowing for the completion of the B.A. and M.A. in five years total. We strongly encourage HSU students who satisfy the admission requirements below to apply for the program in their junior year. Students applying for this program should discuss applying with their desired thesis chair.

5th Year Prerequisites and Program Admission Requirements

- All requirements listed in the section above titled Prerequisites and Program Admission Requirements, except completion of B.A.
- Completion of the departmental application (contact department office for form)
- Admission is also based on a match between student and faculty interests and the willingness of a faculty member to supervise the student’s thesis or project research.

5th Year Requirements for Degree

All requirements listed in the section above titled Requirements for Degree (All Specializations) with the following deviations:

- Complete PSYC 647: Academic Research Proseminar during the 5th year.

Master of Arts degree in Psychology: Counseling Concentration

This master’s degree in psychology is accredited by the California Board of Behavioral Sciences and provides most coursework for the Marriage and Family Therapist (MFT) and Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor licenses. Successful completion will allow the candidate to apply for internship status with the Board to accrue the post-degree hours of supervised practice necessary for state licensure.
Courses

First Semester [sample schedule]
PSYC 641 (3) Research Methods: Philosophy & Design
PSYC 654 (3) Interviewing & Counseling Techniques
PSYC 658 (3) Theories of Individual Counseling & Psychotherapy
PSYC 660 (3) Law & Ethics in Psychology
PSYC 662 (1) Practicum Preparation

Second Semester
PSYC 518 (3) Advanced Developmental Psychopathology
PSYC 636 (1) Sexuality Counseling
PSYC 638 (3) Advanced Psychopathology: Diagnosis of Mental Disorders
PSYC 642 (2) Research Methods: Evaluation
PSYC 656 (3) Couples Therapy (includes spousal abuse treatment requirement)
PSYC 682 (1-6) Fieldwork (to include individual supervision)
PSYC 690 (2) Thesis (optional)

Third Semester
PSYC 653 (3) Advanced Psychotherapy with Children & Families
PSYC 663 (1) Licensed Supervision
PSYC 664 (3) Assessment & Testing for Psychotherapists
PSYC 676 (3) Cross Cultural Counseling for Individuals, Children & Families
PSYC 682 (1-6) Fieldwork
PSYC 690 (2) Thesis (optional)

Fourth Semester
PSYC 636 (1) Sexuality Counseling
PSYC 640 (1) Aging & Long-Term Care
PSYC 657 (3) Group Counseling & Group Psychotherapy
PSYC 663 (1) Licensed Supervision
PSYC 672 (3) Psychopharmacology
PSYC 673 (1) Mental Health Addiction & Recovery
PSYC 682 (1-6) Fieldwork
PSYC 690 (2) Thesis (optional)
PSYC 691 (2) Comprehensive Exam for Counselors (optional)

Some 1-unit courses may be offered as a weekend course or on a Friday.

Students who are unable to complete the required number of practicum hours by the end of their fourth semester, must register for an additional semester of PSYC 682 and PSYC 663.

Master of Arts degree in Psychology: School Psychology Concentration

Master’s degree in psychology and a California Credential authorizing service as a school psychologist. At program completion, students are recommended to the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing for a Pupil Personnel Services Credential with an authorization to practice as a school psychologist. Students are eligible to sit for the national licensing exam to become a Nationally Certified School Psychologist (NCSP).

Program Coordinator
Francis De Matteo, Ed. D., NCSP
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The Program

Graduates of this program enter careers as school psychologists in California public schools and assume positions as educational leaders in the area of pupil personnel services. Sequenced coursework and integrated field experience in school and community settings are integral aspects of the program. In addition to all course and fieldwork requirements, each candidate for the MA degree with a concentration in school psychology is required to complete a comprehensive portfolio containing examples of work in all of the California domains of professional practice. Students may also choose to complete a formal thesis as part of their MA degree.

Prerequisites for Admission

Courses in general psychology, research methods, developmental psychology, introductory statistics, personality theory or abnormal psychology, and psychological tests and measurement.

Program Admission Requirements

- Resume
- Statement of intent
- Prerequisite Verification Form
- CBEST Exam Verification (to be completed by the end of the first semester)

First Semester
PSYC 605 (3) Psychological Foundations/ School Psychology
PSYC 616 (3) Cognitive Assessment I: Cognitive/Biological Bases of Behavior
PSYC 641 (3) Research Methods: Philosophy & Design
PSYC 654 (3) Interviewing & Counseling Techniques

Second Semester
PSYC 606 (2) Educational Foundations/ School Psychology
PSYC 617 (3) Cognitive Assessment II: Cognitive/Biological Bases of Behavior
PSYC 642 (2) Research Methods: Evaluation
PSYC 651 (3) Diagnosis & Treatment of Children for the School Psychologist I – Cognitive & Academic Difficulties
PSYC 669 (3) Legal & Ethical Foundations in School Psychology
PSYC 690 (1-6) Thesis (optional)
PSYC 692 (1) School Psychology Portfolio Project
PSYC 783 (4) School Psychology Practicum

Third Semester
PSYC 607 (2) Consultation/Collaboration
PSYC 608 (2) Advanced Assessment/ Case Presentation
PSYC 655 (3) Social-Behavioral Evaluation
PSYC 676 (3) Cross Cultural Counseling for Individuals, Children & Families
PSYC 690 (1-6) Thesis (optional)
PSYC 783 (4) School Psychology Practicum

Fourth Semester
PSYC 659 (3) Mental Health in K-12 Schools
PSYC 690 (1-6) Thesis (optional)
PSYC 692 (2) School Psychology Portfolio Project
PSYC 783 (4) School Psychology Practicum

Internship (Third Year)
PSYC 692 (3) School Psychology Portfolio Project
PSYC 693 (0) Comprehensive Exam: School Psychology
PSYC 784 (6-12) School Psychology Internship

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