

# PSYCHOLOGY

## **Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in Psychology**

### **Minor in Psychology**

## **Master of Arts degree in Psychology — 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](http://humboldt.edu/psychology)

### **The BA Program**

There are two program 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 designed for students who plan on obtaining a bachelor's degree in Psychology and then either entering the workforce or obtaining a 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 physiological and 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 from HSU is an excellent background for graduate school and many careers. Many of our students have been accepted into prestigious nationally recognized Ph.D. programs and many have gone on to master degree programs. The psychology major (Graduate Study Preparation Pathway) provides the basis for a career as a psychologist or mental health care worker. Typically, those professions require a Ph.D. or MA degree. There are also a number of executives, lawyers, and business professionals who earned a bachelor's degree in psychology before they obtained advanced degrees. If you are not planning on graduate school, psychology graduates (in 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 problems and suggest solutions on the basis of research findings. An undergraduate degree is also helpful in many health and social service professions. A psychology major is helpful for careers in areas such as a college admissions or employment counselor, media, management, survey researcher, or human resources, among others.

The master's degree in psychology, combined with an appropriate credential or license, may lead to careers such as school psychologist, counselor in a human 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.

### **Preparation**

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

### **REQUIREMENTS FOR THE BACHELOR'S DEGREE**

*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. 66-81., and "The Master's Degree" pp. 82-84.*

#### **(Lower division)**

##### **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

Graduate Study Preparation Pathway students must also complete at least one upper-division course from the core or breadth courses listed here:

- 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  
PSYC 345L (4) Psychological Testing & Measurement

**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

**ALL undergraduate students in EITHER Psychology Pathway must take:**

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

Choose from the following:

- PSYC 311 (3) Human Development  
PSYC 321 (3) Intro Behavioral Neuroscience  
PSYC 322 (3) Learning & Motivation  
PSYC 323 (3) Sensation & Perception  
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)

**Note: Courses taken to meet requirements above cannot also count in this area.**

Choose 12 units from the following:

- PSYC 300 (3) Psychology of Women [DCG-d]  
PSYC 302 (3) Psychology of Prejudice [DCG-d]  
PSYC 303 (3) Family Relations in Contemporary Society  
PSYC 304 (3) Business Psychology  
PSYC 309 (3) Thinking Consumer in Materialistic Society  
PSYC 320 (4) Behavior Analysis  
PSYC 325 (4) Advanced Behavioral Neuroscience  
PSYC 336 (3) Social Influence & Persuasion  
PSYC 345L (4) Psychological Tests & Measurement  
PSYC 400 (3) Health Psychology  
PSYC 404 (3) Industrial/Organizational Psychology  
PSYC 405 (3) Environmental Psychology  
PSYC 406 (3) Forensic Psychology  
PSYC 414 (3) Psychology of Adolescence & Young Adulthood  
PSYC 418 (3) Developmental Psychopathology  
PSYC 433 (3) Stress & Wellness  
PSYC 436 (3) Human Sexuality  
PSYC 437 (3) Sexual Diversity [DCG-d]  
PSYC 454 (3) Interviewing & Counseling Techniques  
PSYC 473 (3) Substance Use & Abuse  
PSYC 478 (4) Analysis of Variance

**NOTE: Only 3 units from this section may be applied to 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)

Choose from the following:

- PSYC 485 (3) Senior Seminar  
PSYC 486 (3) History & Systems of Psychology  
PSYC 487 (3) Evolutionary Psychology  
PSYC 488 (4) Regression/Multivariate Topics  
PSYC 490 (3) Senior Honors Thesis  
PSYC 600 series Advanced Seminars (IA)

### REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MINOR

Complete at least 15 units, 9 of which must be upper division. At least 3 units must be completed at Humboldt.

#### Introductory Phase (3 units)

PSYC 104 (3) Introduction to Psychology

#### Core Areas (6 units)

Two courses from this area in the approved major courses.

#### Upper Division Breadth (6 units)

Two courses from this area in the approved major courses.

### REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MASTER'S DEGREE

Humboldt offers an MA in psychology under three separate emphases – Academic Research, Counseling (MFT), and School Psychology.

#### MA Degree: 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.  
707-826-3670

#### The Program

#### Prerequisites and Requirements for Admission

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
- 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).
- A minimum undergraduate grade-point average (GPA) of 3.25 in Psychology courses.
- (Neuroscience Emphasis)  
BIOL 105, CHEM 107, PSYC 321, and PSYC 325 (or equivalent).
- (Social/Cognitive Emphasis)  
PSYC 302 and PSYC 335 (or equivalent).
- (Developmental Emphasis)  
PSYC 311 or CD 350, PSYC 438, and CD 464 or PSYC 418 (or equivalent).
- (Behavior Analysis Emphasis)  
PSYC 320 and PSYC 322 (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 prior to application.

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

**Requirements for the Degree:  
Academic Research Concentration  
(all emphasis areas)**

- 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.
- Completion of PSYC 641 (3), PSYC 642 (3), and PSYC 647 (3) in the first year.
- Completion of PSYC 578 (4) or PSYC 588 (4).
- Continuous enrollment in PSYC 690 (1-6) or PSYC 692 (1-3).
- Completion of either a thesis or project as a culminating experience.
- Completion of 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/Cognitive specialization 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 AR coordinator.

Students may count 578/588 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 345 (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 578/588 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 problematic 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 BA and MA 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 Requirements for Admission

- All requirements listed in the section above titled Prerequisites and Requirements for Admission, 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:
- Completion of PSYC 641 (3) and PSYC 642 (2) in the undergraduate Senior year.
- Completion of PSYC 647 (3) in the 5th year.

### MA Degree: Counseling Concentration

This master's degree in psychology is accredited by the California Board of Behavioral Sciences and provides the academic requirements 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.

### Program Coordinators

Carrie Aigner, Ph.D.  
Sarah Haag, Ph.D.  
707-826-3757

### The Program

Students completing this program will have demonstrated:

- workable knowledge of standard psychotherapeutic techniques
- knowledge of and conformance to the laws, regulations, and professional ethics related to the practice of a master's level psychotherapist

- the ability to understand and utilize research related to the field of counseling psychology
- appreciation and knowledge of issues of race, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and religions as they relate to providing effective psychotherapeutic interventions.

The master's program emphasizing counseling provides a solid foundation in clinical theory and research, along with extensive training in clinical skills. Supervised fieldwork/practica are a required part of the program, including experience in our on-site counseling clinic. Students are required to either pass a cumulative exam or complete a master's thesis. The cumulative exam is given in the fourth semester. If students choose the thesis option, they must decide by their second semester and enroll in thesis units starting second semester, first year. The program is administered by a faculty committee that plans the curriculum, makes program policy, and selects students for admission.

### Prerequisites for Admission

The following courses must be completed before the start of the program:

- Introduction to Psychology
- Introduction to Research Design
- Introductory Statistics

At least three courses in:

- Abnormal Psychology
- Human Development
- Personality Theory
- Neuroscience
- Cognitive Psychology
- Interviewing and Counseling

### Requirements

- A bachelor's degree with a GPA of minimum of 3.0
- Some experience in human services and/or research
- Goals that match the program's objectives
- The potential for becoming an effective and ethical psychotherapies
- Resume
- Prerequisite Verification Form
- Demonstrated excellence in oral and written communication

### 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 (odd-numbered years.)  
PSYC 662 (1) Practicum Preparation

#### Second Semester

- PSYC 518 (3) Advanced Developmental Psychopathology  
PSYC 636 (1) Sexuality Counseling (even-numbered years)  
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 (even-numbered years)  
PSYC 640 (1) Aging & Long-Term Care  
PSYC 657 (3) Group Counseling & Group Psychotherapy (even-numbered years)  
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)

**NOTE:** Some one-unit courses may be offered as a weekend course or on a Friday.

**NOTE:** 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.

## MA Degree: 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  
707-826-4047

### 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 or Developmental Psychopathology
- Psychological Tests and Measurement

### 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

### Admission Procedures

For all three graduate programs the following are necessary to submit to the Office of Admissions, Humboldt State University, Arcata, CA 95521.

- A California State University application form. All applicants apply to the university through [calstate.edu/apply](http://calstate.edu/apply).

- Official transcripts of all college-level work (from every institution attended). Current HSU students need not request transcripts.

- Three letters of recommendation demonstrating academic and professional potential. At least one from faculty, the others can come from employers or professionals.

Each concentration maintains different admission requirements and prerequisites. It is essential, therefore, that students contact the Department of Psychology for specific information.

### Program Requirements

All three concentrations require recommendation by the department for advancement to candidacy and a minimum GPA of 3.0 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.

