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
William Reynolds, Ph.D.

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

The BA Program

There are two program pathways for the BA in Psychology. The Graduate Study Preparation Pathway is designed for students who anticipate that they may continue for an advanced degree in psychology or related discipline or seek a greater emphasis in 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 obtain a degree in another field of study such as law, or other non-science related field.

Students in both programs will have demonstrated:

- knowledge of significant facts and theories in the basic process area of psychological science including biopsychology, learning and motivation, sensation and perception, and cognition
- knowledge of significant facts and theories in the social and interpersonal processes area of psychological science including human development, social psychology, personality, and abnormal psychology
- the ability to locate appropriate sources for psychological research by searching databases; read original scientific reports critically, write a review using these materials in APA style
- knowledge of diverse populations, effective communication skills, effective interpersonal skills, increased self-understanding, and insight into the behavior of others
- application of their knowledge and skills in psychology to improve their own lives and the lives of others
- respect for the dignity and worth of all people and rights of individuals to privacy, confidentiality, and self-determination

Students who complete the Graduate Study Preparation Pathway will also have demonstrated:

- the ability to design a psychological study, use basic laboratory skills to conduct the research, use statistical methods and software to analyze data, draw reasonable conclusions based on their research, and report their findings in APA style

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 options in Biological Psychology, Social and Environmental Psychology, Developmental Psychopathology, 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 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 mental health service professions. A psychology major is helpful for careers in areas such as a college admissions or employment counselor; media buyer; management trainee, mental health aide, 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 and school psychology. The department’s community 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. 61-77, and “The Master’s Degree” section of the catalog, pp. 78-80.

(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) Intro to Psychological Statistics

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.
PSYC 242  (4) Intro to Psych Research Design & Methodology
Graduate Study Preparation Pathway students must also complete at least one upper-division "D" or "L" course from the core or breadth courses listed here:
PSYC 311D (2) Human Development Discussion
PSYC 324D (2) Cognitive Psychology Discussion
PSYC 335D (2) Social Psychology Discussion
PSYC 337D (2) Personality Theory & Research Discussion
PSYC 345L (4) Psychological Testing and Measurement

(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)
Choose from the following:
PSYC 300 (3) Psychology of Women
PSYC 302 (3) Psychology of Prejudice
PSYC 303 (3) Family Relations in Contemporary Society
PSYC 309 (3) Thinking Consumer in Materialistic Society
PSYC 320 (4) Advanced Behavioral Neuroscience
PSYC 325 (4) Behavior Analysis
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 434 (3) Death, Dying & Grief

PSYC 436 (3) Human Sexuality
PSYC 437 (3) Sexual Diversity
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 Emphasis

This Academic Research Program offers a master's degree with a focus of study in one of four specialization areas: Social and Environmental Psychology, Biological Psychology, Developmental Psychopathology, 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.

Biological Psychology Specialization
BIOL 105, CHEM 107, PSYC 321, and PSYC 325 (or equivalent).

Social/Environmental Specialization
PSYC 302 and PSYC 335 (or equivalent).

Developmental Psychopathology Specialization
PSYC 311 or CD 350, PSYC 438, and CD 464 or PSYC 418 (or equivalent).

Behavior Analysis Specialization
PSYC 320 and PSYC 322 (or equivalent).

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• 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 Degree
(All Specialization Areas)

• At least 30 units in Psychology or supporting courses as defined by Specializations 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 specializations.

• Biological Psychology Specialization

Biological psychology is the study of the physiological bases of behavior, particularly how the brain affects behavior. The Biological Psychology Specialization 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 Biological option without 24 units of psychology if they have completed PSYC 104, PSYC 241, and PSYC 242 (or equivalents). These students would complete prerequisite psychology courses in addition to the required coursework after admission to the program to bring them to a total of 24 units overall.

Required Courses [6 units]

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]

• Developmental Psychopathology Specialization

Developmental psychopathology is the study of psychological problems in the context of human development. The Developmental Psychopathology Specialization provides students with a background in understanding both normal and atypical development. Emphasis on normal developmental milestones in conjunction with a focus on emotional and behavioral challenges prepares students to work with a wide variety of children and their families or pursue Ph.D. study.

Required Courses [13 units]

PSYC 419 [3] Family Violence
PSYC 638 [3] Advanced 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 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 Specialization [not currently accepting applicants]

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 specialization 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.
5th Year (4+1) Pathway

Students may also apply while in undergraduate status to begin the graduate program in their senior year, 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.

Certificate in Institutional Research

Students interested in careers in institutional research are encouraged to pursue the Institutional Research Graduate Certificate in conjunction with the Academic Research M.A. program (see Certificates of Study).

This certificate is administered by the College of eLearning and Extended Education.

MA Degree: Counseling Emphasis

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 Coordinator
Emily Sommerman, Psy.D.
707-826-3270

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/pracica are a required part of the program, including experience working directly with clients in our community clinic, the department’s training facility that provides low-cost counseling to campus and community members. 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:

Lower Division
- Introduction to Research Design
- Introductory Statistics

Upper Division
- Abnormal Psychology
- Developmental Psychology
- Personality Theory
- Behavioral Neuroscience

Requirements

- A bachelor’s degree with substantial preparation in psychology 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 psychotherapist
- Autobiographical questions
- Resume of both paid and volunteer work
- Prerequisite Verification Form
- Demonstrated excellence in oral and written communication
- GRE (general exam only)

Courses

First Semester
PSYC 641 (3) Research Methods: Philosophy & Design
PSYC 654 (3) Interviewing and Counseling Techniques
PSYC 658 (3) Theories of Individual Counseling and 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 Practicum (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
MA Degree:
School Psychology Emphasis

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. The program is fully approved by the National Association of Psychologists (NASP). As a graduate of a nationally accredited program, students are eligible to sit for the national licensing exam to become a Nationally Certified School Psychologist (NCSP).

Program Coordinator
Lisa Miller, M.A., L.E.P.
Emily Sommerman, Psy.D.
707-826-3270

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 specialization in school psychology is required to complete a comprehensive portfolio containing examples of work in all of the California and NASP 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
- Psychological Tests and Measurement

Requirements

- Statement of intent
- Prerequisite Verification Form
- CBEST Exam Verification

First Semester

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<td>Psychological Foundations/School Psychology</td>
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<td>PSYC 616</td>
<td>(3)</td>
<td>Cognitive Assessment I: Cognitive/Biological Bases of Behavior</td>
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<td>PSYC 641</td>
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<td>Research Methods: Philosophy &amp; Design</td>
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<td>PSYC 654</td>
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<td>Interviewing &amp; Counseling Techniques</td>
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Second Semester

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<td>Educational Foundations/School Psychology</td>
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<td>PSYC 617</td>
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<td>Cognitive Assessment II: Cognitive/Biological Bases of Behavior</td>
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<td>PSYC 642</td>
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<td>Research Methods: Evaluation</td>
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<td>PSYC 651</td>
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<td>Diagnosis &amp; Treatment of Children for the School Psychologist I – Cognitive &amp; Academic Difficulties</td>
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<td>Legal &amp; Ethical Foundations in School Psychology</td>
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<td>PSYC 783</td>
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Third Semester

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<td>Advanced Assessment/Case Presentation</td>
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<td>PSYC 655</td>
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<td>Social-Behavioral Evaluation</td>
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<td>Cross Cultural Counseling for Individuals, Children &amp; Families</td>
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Fourth Semester

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Internship (Third Year)

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<td>PSYC 784</td>
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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 CSU Mentor – www.csumentor.org.
- Official transcripts of all college-level work (from every institution attended). Current HSU students need not request transcripts.
- Three letters of recommendation from university faculty, employers, or professionals who can discuss academic and professional potential. These are completed online via CSU Mentor; page 11 of the application.

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

Program Requirements

All three emphases 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 emphasis requires a separate program of coursework. Contact the Department of Psychology for further information.