MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Department of Psychology undergraduate program is to educate students about the major research findings and theories in the field of psychology and to train them to use an empirical approach for understanding human behavior. Specifically, the program endeavors to provide students with

- Broad exposure to the basic concepts, theories, findings and ethical issues of psychology;
- Education in the scientific method, including hands-on research opportunities;
- Strong critical thinking and written communication skills, including the ability to evaluate and convey the evidence for claims regarding human behavior; and
- Applied experience through internship and practicum opportunities at partnering community organizations.

All students participate in and collaborate on research as part of the academic course sequence. Interested students are encouraged to gain additional research experience through research assistant positions in faculty labs and the undergraduate honors thesis program. The psychology major gives students great flexibility in selecting upper-division courses to fit individual goals and interests. Numerous faculty research programs that range in levels of analysis and intellectual focus enrich classroom and hands-on opportunities. An undergraduate degree in psychology provides the background for a broad range of careers, including social services, education, law, business, or graduate programs in psychology.

CURRICULUM

Students are expected to get a good background in writing and math for the major. This is followed by our statistics and research methods classes, which lay the groundwork for higher level work. The 400-level core courses train students in important skills such as critical thinking about research, report writing, experimentation, and oral presentation, as well as providing exposure to state-of-the-art knowledge in central aspects of psychological science. At this level, there are several broad areas of investigation: cognitive psychology, biological psychology, social psychology, developmental psychology, and clinical, personality, and psychopathology. All majors are required to take a selection of core courses from these areas. We also offer 300-level courses of general interest.

Students who complete the methods training (PSY 302 and 303) and some core courses early in their program maximize their opportunities for research projects, honors theses, etc. Our advanced curriculum provides extensive opportunities for students who have developed strong skills in their regular course work.

The following pages further describe our undergraduate program in psychology. Please note that the material in this handbook is to be used as a supplement to, not a substitute for, discussions with advisers. There are many opportunities for undergraduate psychology majors to receive advising.

1. Dr. Jagdeep Bala, head undergraduate adviser, and her assistants are available for all academic advising: evaluating transfer work, setting up practicum opportunities, and general trouble-shooting.
2. Psychology’s peer advisers are available most days during the academic year and provide assistance for a variety of problems, from how to sign up for a practicum to course scheduling to advice on the GRE and getting into graduate school. They are located in 229 Straub Hall.

Academic Advising Policy: All advising offered in the psychology department is meant to assist students in planning their program to complete their degree in the most efficient way. It is important to remember that students are ultimately responsible for knowing and interpreting their degree audit. Psychology advisers are available to assist students in that endeavor by answering questions, providing resources, and giving general assistance and tips. Please see the head adviser if you have questions about this policy.

ENTRY INTO THE PROGRAM

New students applying to the University of Oregon will need to indicate psychology as their major in the UO’s application materials. To change a major to psychology or to add psychology as an additional major or a minor, students need to submit their information on Psychology’s website http://psychology.uoregon.edu/undergraduate/advising/. Change of major/minor forms are also available in the department’s main office located in 139 Straub Hall.

All required courses or their equivalents must be taken for letter grades and passed with grades of C- or higher. Level I requirements should be completed by the end of the sophomore year and Level II by the end of the junior year, although many students will complete these requirements earlier. Delays in completion of these courses may postpone graduation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level I</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mind and Brain (PSY 201)</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mind and Society (PSY 202)</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>College Algebra (Math 111) or Introduction to Methods of Statistics and Probability (Math 243) (Math 111 or higher* is a pre-req for PSY 302)</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Writing 121 (WR 121)</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Writing 122 (WR 122) or Writing 123 (WR 123)**</td>
<td>4</td>
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*Math 211, 212, and 213 do not satisfy this requirement
**WR 123 is recommended for psychology majors

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Level II</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tr>
<td>Statistical Methods in Psychology (PSY 302) or equivalent*</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Methods in Psychology (PSY 303) (PSY 302 is a pre-req for PSY 303)</td>
<td>4</td>
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*Equivalents are Math 425, 461, or 462 only

After completing the above-mentioned requirements, students can then take our 400-level core courses in further preparation for graduation.

Students should also complete the 12 credits of college biology, chemistry, or physics (not astronomy) requirement during the first or second level of their education. All courses must be taken from the same area (e.g., 12 credits of biology) WITH ONE EXCEPTION: The science requirement can also be met by taking Chemistry 111 or Chemistry 221 and two courses from Biology 211, 212, and 213. All 12 credits must be taken on a graded basis and passed with a C- or higher.
PSYCHOLOGY MAJOR OPTIONS

Students who plan graduate study in psychology should undertake both research assistant activity and explore the honors in psychology program. Other students who plan to work in counseling, industrial psychology, government, or business administration should think more about applied experience in practicum placements and other skills that make the student a more attractive job candidate or candidate for training.

Five Areas of Investigation in Psychology

COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGY - Study of human functions involved in processing, storing, transforming, and responding to information.
   Core courses - 433 Learning and Memory, 435 Cognition, 436 Human Performance, 438 Perception, 440 Psycholinguistics, HPHY 333 Motor Control, LING 396 Language and Cognition.

BIOLOGICAL PSYCHOLOGY (NEUROSCIENCE) - Study of the neural and biological mechanisms of behavior. May be relevant to clinical psychology and human experimental psychology, in addition to biological psychology.
   PSY 304 is an additional prerequisite for PSY 445 and 449.

SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY - Study of individual attitudes, small group processes, organizations, interpersonal behavior, person perception, personality and cultural influences on behavior.

CLINICAL, PERSONALITY, AND PSYCHOPATHOLOGY - Study of normal human personality, deviant behavior and its remediation.
   Core Courses - 468 Motivation and Emotion, 469 Psychopathology, 471 Personality, 472 Psychology of Trauma, 473 Marital and Family Therapies, 480 Development and Psychopathology.

DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY - Study of developmental processes. Students who have an interest in developmental psychology, but do not wish to take a more specialized course, are advised to take Psychology 376 (Child Development). This course should also help you decide if you want to pursue a developmental specialization.
MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

1. A minimum of 44 credits in psychology -- with at least 36 of these upper-division -- and at least 16 of these taken at the University of Oregon.

2. **ALL REQUIRED COURSES MUST BE TAKEN GRADED AND PASSED WITH A C- OR HIGHER.** A course in which a student receives a grade of D+ or lower cannot be counted toward the major requirements. Any elective psychology course may be taken Pass/No pass and must be passed (grade of “P”) to count.

3. The following 200-level courses must be taken graded and passed with a C- or higher and **may be taken in conjunction with PSY 302:**

   - PSY 201 Mind and Brain **and** PSY 202 Mind and Society

4. College Algebra (Math 111) or Introduction to Methods of Statistics and Probability (Math 243). These courses must be taken graded and passed with a C- or higher prior to PSY 302 and 303. Math 111 or 243 is recommended, and we accept Math 111 or higher. Math 211, 212, and 213 do not count toward this requirement.

5. Two writing courses, WR 121 (must be taken before PSY 302) and either WR 122 or WR 123 must be taken graded and passed with a C- or better prior to PSY 303. WR 123 is recommended.

6. PSY 302 (Statistical Methods) **and** PSY 303 (Research Methods). PSY 302 must be passed with a C- or higher prior to taking PSY 303. Passing both PSY 302 and 303 with a C- or higher is a prerequisite for psychology courses numbered 412-480. Students cannot take 400-level courses without PSY 302 and 303. Because they are tightly integrated, PSY 302 and 303 are strongly preferred. However, the following courses may be substituted:

   - **Substitutions:**
     - MATH 425, 461 or 462 may be taken in lieu of PSY 302. The credits earned through a course equivalent will apply toward the minimum of 44 psychology credits.

7. Twelve credits of college biology, chemistry, or physics (not astronomy). Courses need **not** be in numerical sequence, but must be taken from the same area (e.g., a year of biology) with the following exception: The requirement can also be met by combining Chemistry 111 (Introduction to Chemical Principles) or CH 221 and two courses from Biology 211, 212, and 213. **All 12 credits must be taken graded.**

8. Sixteen graded credit hours of psychology courses numbered 410 (Evolutionary Psychology only) 420, 435-459, 461, 468-476, 478, 480, LING 396, or HPHY 333. At least 8 of these 16 credits must be from the C list: PSY 410 **Evolutionary Psychology only,** PSY 435-450, PSY 475, 476, HPHY 333 or LING 396. Courses on the C list tend to emphasize cognitive or biological processes. At least 8 of the 16 credits must be from the "S" list: PSY 420, PSY 456-473, PSY 478 and 480. Courses on the S list tend to emphasize social, personality, or clinical processes. **Please note:** PSY 410 courses **except for Evolutionary Psychology, count as elective credits only.**

9. A maximum of 4 credits of PSY 409 (Practicum) can be used toward the 36 upper-division psychology credit hour requirement, if the practicum is from the list of departmentally approved practica (see Psychology Blackboard site).
Department of Psychology Grading Standards

A+ signifies a rare level of achievement above and beyond the excellent performance that merits an A grade. In many courses no student performs at this unusual level, and some instructors in psychology do not use this grade.

A signifies an exceptional level of achievement. The student demonstrates an excellent grasp of the material and very strong performance across the board, or exceptional performance on most aspects of the course and good performance in others.

B signifies a good level of achievement. The student demonstrates consistently good grasp of material and good performance, or very strong performance on some aspects of the course and satisfactory performance on others.

C signifies an adequate level of achievement. The student demonstrates a satisfactory grasp of course material and adequate performance, or good performance on many aspects of the course paired with some notable deficiencies.

D signifies a minimal level of achievement. The student demonstrates the bare minimum level of understanding and/or performance to pass the course and does not fully meet the course requirements.

F signifies achievement below the minimum needed to pass the course. Evidence of student understanding of course material and/or performance is insufficient to merit credit for the course.

Instructors in the Department of Psychology put considerable effort into their grading criteria. If you believe there has been an error in how your grade was calculated please contact your instructor. Correcting an error or changing an I or Y grade (see below) are legitimate reasons for a grade change. Student lobbying is not.

Other grades: I and Y

I may be used when the quality of work is satisfactory, but some minor yet essential requirement has not been completed, for reasons acceptable to the instructor. Faculty and students should discuss and agree on the requirements and specific deadlines for making up the incomplete.

Y may be used when suspected student academic misconduct is being investigated and has not yet been resolved.

If an instructor suspects academic misconduct, such as cheating, plagiarism, or unauthorized collaboration on assignments and/or tests, the student will be contacted. If this does not clear up all suspicion, the incident will also be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards as required by State of Oregon administrative rules. Sanctions for confirmed academic misconduct may include an F in the course.

PREPARING FOR GRADUATE SCHOOL

Prospective graduate students must recognize that psychology is an empirical science, with strong ties to the other sciences and social sciences. A substantial background in the supporting sciences, statistics, and computer skills is advised. In addition, PSY 412 (Applied Data Analysis) is helpful. Students who plan to apply for graduate training in psychology should become involved in research assistant activities by their sophomore or early junior year. Often this work can lead to an individual honors project and a degree with
Honors in Psychology (see below). Students should discuss the possibility of a future honors project with their proposed faculty sponsors. For students applying to counseling or clinical programs, it is also important to have had practicum experience in human service activities. Students planning graduate studies should have strong preparation in psychology and supporting areas (biology, computer science, math, social science, etc.) good grades, and an aptitude for empirical research and academic coursework.

Peer advising has some information about graduate programs. By the junior year, students should have written for information from programs they are considering. These programs typically require excellent grades, a strong research and/or applied background, good faculty recommendations, and high scores on the Graduate Record Examinations (GREs.) Preparation for the latter is available in courses and in book form. Students usually take the GREs in the summer or fall of the year preceding the beginning of the graduate program.

HONORS IN PSYCHOLOGY CURRICULUM
Lou Moses, honors director for 2015-2016; moses@uoregon.edu

Students who plan to pursue a degree with honors are advised to follow a curriculum similar to that described as preparation for graduate study. Students with high GPAs who do well in PSY 303, Research Methods, are eligible to apply to the honors program, but the program is not limited to this group. If you enjoy research and would like to obtain first-hand experience in carrying out an honors research project, you may consider applying to the departmental honors program. Honors students work closely with faculty and obtain valuable experience in designing, carrying out, and writing up a substantial project. Completing an honors project also makes possible stronger faculty recommendations for future training.

To carry out an honors project, it is necessary to apply to the program and find a faculty member or a graduate student in the psychology doctoral program who will be your honors adviser. (If you choose a graduate student as an adviser, your second reader must be a faculty member). Finding an adviser can be done in several ways; the best way is to become involved early in your career at the university as a research assistant with an ongoing project. (See information under research assistant experience and field experiences). It is usually necessary to become involved in this kind of work as early as possible (late in your sophomore year or at the beginning of your junior year) in order to have time to qualify for an individual honors project. Be sure to discuss with your proposed faculty or graduate student adviser whether an honors project will be a possibility in your senior year. Note: It is strongly recommended that students begin their honors project four terms before the planned completion date. Applications for the honors program, which are available on our website, should be submitted as soon as eligibility is determined as the program fills quickly.

In order to graduate with honors in psychology, students admitted to the program will be required to register for a three-term, one-credit-per-term honors seminar (PSY 490-492) and Intermediate Data Analysis (PSY 412) which is usually offered fall term only. Typically, students would begin the seminar cycle fall term of the academic year in which they plan to graduate. In addition, honors students need to complete an honors project with final approval by the student’s adviser, a second reader, and the honors program director.

PSI CHI

Psi Chi is the National Honor Society in Psychology founded in 1929 for the purpose of encouraging and advancing the science of psychology. Potential members must have at least 14 credits in psychology, must be declared as a psychology major or minor, and must have a cumulative UO and psychology GPA of 3.25
or higher depending on class standing. Qualified candidates may apply for membership twice each year. Please contact peer advising for more information.

**RESEARCH ASSISTANT EXPERIENCE**

Psychology majors have the opportunity to work on ongoing research projects within the department. This experience is especially helpful for students considering graduate school or other training programs that value skills in analysis and strong work habits. The research experience lets students know whether doing research is something they really enjoy. In addition, the faculty sponsor of a research project can provide the student a letter of recommendation for application to graduate schools, other training programs, or employment. The usual entry to research assistant work is completion of all prerequisite courses, and at least a B or B+ average in psychology courses is typically expected. Students pursuing research assistant experience should be prepared for responsible work that requires extreme care and considerable commitment. Extended training for a position may require that student research assistants plan a two or three quarter commitment to their work. A list of research assistant opportunities is available on Psychology's Blackboard page. You may also ask individual faculty whether they have research assistant positions available. You can browse faculty research interests online at http://psychweb.uoregon.edu/research.

**FIELD EXPERIENCES IN APPLIED PSYCHOLOGY (Practicum)**

Students interested in careers in the human services (e.g., mental health, education, social services) should consider participating in some sort of applied work as a part of their education. Supervised experience in applied settings can be a valuable adjunct to the academic curriculum. Such opportunities permit students to apply some of the concepts learned in class and to gain first-hand knowledge about career possibilities. Listed below are several possibilities for applied work, which may carry academic credit. Interested students will need to meet with the current practicum coordinator to finalize participation details.

1. Participation in applied projects within the Department of Psychology: Several faculty members direct projects in which undergraduates can obtain supervised experience in applied work (PSY 401). Advanced students who have considerable prior course work in psychology may be eligible for such opportunities, which often combine research and applied skills training. A list of available opportunities can be found on the department's Blackboard page. Students must make arrangements with the faculty member who directs the project.

2. Practicum opportunities on campus or in the community: A list of such practica (PSY 409) and the procedures for participating in them can be found on Psychology's Blackboard page.

**PEER ADVISING**

Psychology majors are invited to apply to become psychology peer advisers. Peer advisers work with their fellow psychology majors to perform a variety of academic advising services such as providing degree analyses and help with schedule planning. They also offer information about university and major requirements and resources, careers in psychology, and graduate school opportunities, as well as practica and research opportunities. For more information and applications, stop by the Office of Peer Advising in 229 Straub, or call 346-4936.
GRADUATING IN PSYCHOLOGY

Check the academic calendars (accessible from the web page of the Office of the Registrar – http://registrar.uoregon.edu/) for each term’s degree application deadline. It’s a good idea for students to submit their degree application, which is found in DuckWeb, the term before they plan on graduating so that they don’t miss the application deadline. Participation in Psychology’s graduation ceremony in June requires signing up via our website to do so. Students whose credits may not be finished until summer or fall are welcome to walk in Psychology’s spring ceremony.

A MINOR IN PSYCHOLOGY

The Department of Psychology offers a psychology minor. **All required courses for the minor must be taken graded and passed with a C- or higher.** The psychology minor requires 28 credits in psychology. Students can add a psychology minor on the department’s website here http://psychweb.uoregon.edu/undergraduates/advising.

**Psychology Minor -- 28 credits**

Mind and Brain (PSY 201) and Mind and Society (PSY 202) ......................... 8  
Statistical Methods in Psychology (PSY 302) or equivalent*  ......................... 4  
Research Methods in Psychology (PSY 303) .............................................. 4  
Three psychology core courses numbered 410 (Evolutionary Psychology only) 420-459, 468-480, including at least one from List C and one from List S ......................... 12  
*Equivalents are Math 425, 461, 462

All 28 credits **must be graded and passed with a C- or higher.** 20 credits must be upper-division, and at least 12 credits must be taken at the University of Oregon.