PSYCHOLOGY, BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (B.S.) WITH A CONCENTRATION IN LIFE SCIENCE

The Bachelor of Science in Psychology curriculum reflects the discipline's major functions — scientific research, teaching, acting as a healing profession and raising philosophical questions about the assumptions, values and ideals of human beings and their societies, which reflects psychology's origin in philosophy. Through a core set of requirements the student systematically develops understanding and skill in scientific methods of inquiry, focusing on the human mind and behavior. To fulfill the degree requirements, students may pursue the standard curriculum by selecting courses from four content areas that introduce students to the healing and philosophical sides of psychology and provide a broad understanding of the field as a whole; or the student may apply to one of several more focused concentrations that draw upon the special strengths of the VCU Department of Psychology.

Program outcomes

Upon completing this program, students will know and know how to do the following:

- **Understanding of content domain**
  The curriculum of the B.S. in Psychology is designed to provide students with an accurate, comprehensive and up-to-date understanding of psychological concepts, principles and findings in the key domains of the field, including developmental processes, social processes, physiological and behavioral processes, and mental health and well-being.

- **Development of intellectual domain**
  The curriculum of the B.S. in Psychology fosters the development of the intellectual skills required to generate theories, do research, communicate ideas and information to others, evaluate conclusions statistically and locate the information needed for these intellectual pursuits. Students will learn to think scientifically, understand the relationships between theories, observations and conclusions, and skillfully evaluate the empirical support for various theories and findings.

- **Development of affective and interpersonal domain**
  Students seeking the B.S. in Psychology learn a number of practical, applied life skills pertaining to personal adjustment, relations with others and cross-cultural awareness.

Student learning outcomes

I. Communication and professional development

- Effective communication skills: Students will be able to communicate psychological theory and research to a range of audiences in oral and written formats in the capstone course.

II. Development of intellectual domain

- Critical evaluation skills: Students will be proficient in evaluating psychological theory and research methods; thinking scientifically about behavior and mental processes; and basing judgments on psychological theory and research.

- Empirical research skills: Students will demonstrate proficiency in applying methodological knowledge in measurement, experimental design and analysis of psychological data.

III. Ethical responsibility in a diverse world

- Ethical practices: Students will demonstrate an understanding of ethical issues in psychological research and practice.

Special requirements

The Bachelor of Science in Psychology curriculum requires a minimum of 120 credits, with at least 30 credits in psychology courses. A maximum of 40 credits in psychology (this limit does not apply to PSYC courses numbered 490 and above) can be presented for the degree. At least 15 of the 30 minimum-required credits must be completed at VCU. All students must complete the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 101 Play course video for Introduction to Psychology</td>
<td>Introduction to Psychology</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 214</td>
<td>Applications of Statistics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 317</td>
<td>Experimental Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Ancillary requirements**

- **BIOL 101** Biological Concepts
- **BIOZ 101** and Biological Concepts Laboratory

Select one of the following:

- **BIOL 201** Human Biology
- Or an approved biology course

- **STAT 210** Basic Practice of Statistics

This information outlines the requirements for students who are admitted and pursuing the life science concentration. To be admitted, continue and graduate with this concentration, students must achieve a minimum cumulative VCU GPA of 2.5 and also achieve a minimum GPA of 2.5 in the major. This concentration requires 34 credit hours in the major.

Standard psychology courses must be taken sequentially and ideally should be completed by the end of the junior year. These courses are PSYC 101 with a minimum grade of C; PSYC 214 with a minimum grade of C (PSYC 214 also has the prerequisite requirement of STAT 210 or its equivalent with a minimum grade of C); and PSYC 317 with a minimum grade of C (PSYC 317 also has the prerequisite requirement of PSYC 214 or its equivalent with a minimum grade of C).

PSYC 451 is the capstone course and must be taken in the senior year.

Degree requirements for Psychology, Bachelor of Science (B.S.) with a concentration in life science

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General education (<a href="http://bulletin.vcu.edu/undergraduate/undergraduate-study/general-education-curriculum/">http://bulletin.vcu.edu/undergraduate/undergraduate-study/general-education-curriculum/</a>)</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Select 30 credits of general education courses in consultation with an adviser.

**Major requirements**
Psychology, Bachelor of Science (B.S.) with a concentration in life science

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Major core requirements</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 214 Applications of Statistics 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 317 Experimental Methods 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 451 History of Psychology 3</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concentration requirements</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 201 Human Biology 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 445 Neurobiology and Behavior 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHTX 400 Drugs and Their Actions 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 401 Physiological Psychology 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 406 Perception 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 410 Principles of Learning and Cognition 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 412 Health Psychology 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 492 Independent Study 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or PSYC 493 Fieldwork: Human Services 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or PSYC 494 Research Internship in Psychology 3</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ancillary requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 101 Biological Concepts (satisfies general education BOK for natural sciences and AOI for scientific and logical reasoning) 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOZ 101 Biological Concepts Laboratory 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HUMS 202 Choices in a Consumer Society 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 101 Play course video for Introduction to Psychology (satisfies general education BOK for social/behavioral sciences and AOI for diversities in the human experience) 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 210 Basic Practice of Statistics (satisfies general education quantitative foundations) 3</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Electives (upper level)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Experiential fine arts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-3</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Foreign language through the 102 level (by course or placement)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-6</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Open electives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Select any course. 26-34</td>
</tr>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>120</td>
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</table>

Course offered by the School of the Arts

The minimum number of credit hours required for this degree is 120.

What follows is a sample plan that meets the prescribed requirements within a four-year course of study at VCU. Please contact your adviser before beginning course work toward a degree.

**Freshman year**

**Fall semester**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 101 Biological Concepts (satisfies general education BOK for natural sciences and AOI for scientific and logical reasoning) 3</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 101 Biological Concepts Laboratory 1</td>
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**Spring semester**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 214 Applications of Statistics (Note prerequisite is STAT 210 with a minimum grade of C.) 3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNIV 200 Advanced Focused Inquiry: Literacies, Research and Communication (satisfies general education BOK for social/behavioral sciences and AOI for diversities in the human experience) 3</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term Hours:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
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**Sophomore year**

**Fall semester**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 201 Human Biology 3</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>HUMS 291 Special Topics in the Humanities and Sciences 1</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 424 Applications of Statistics (Note prerequisite is STAT 210 with minimum grade of C.) 3</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term Hours:</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>16</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Electives (upper level)</th>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Foreign language 101</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
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</tbody>
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**Spring semester**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 401 Principles of Learning and Cognition 3</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective (upper-level) 3</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Term Hours:</th>
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**Junior year**

**Fall semester**

<table>
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<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 406 Perception 3</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYC 410 Principles of Learning and Cognition 3</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Elective (upper-level) 3</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Term Hours:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Open electives</td>
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<tr>
<td>--------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Term Hours:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Spring semester</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 445 Neurobiology and Behavior</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYC 412 Health Psychology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elective (upper-level)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Open electives</td>
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<td><strong>Term Hours:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Senior year</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fall semester</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>PHTX 400 Drugs and Their Actions</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>PSYC 493 or 494</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYC or other elective (upper-level)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Open elective</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Spring semester</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYC or other elective (upper-level)</td>
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<td>Open electives</td>
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