

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Psychology is an extremely broad discipline, studying everything from brain and neurologic functions to social and environmental influences on behavior and thought. Here at CU Denver, our undergraduate programs cover aspects of all the following: experimental psychology, biopsychology, animal behavior, developmental psychology, social psychology, cognitive psychology, personality, industrial/organizational psychology, and abnormal psychology. The psychology major is designed to help students achieve the following learning goals:

- **Knowledge Base of Psychology:** Students will recognize, explain, and distinguish the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in Psychology.
- **Research Methods in Psychology:** Students will demonstrate the statistical, organizational, writing, and analytical skills necessary to interpret and conduct meaningful and valid research in Psychology.
- **Critical Thinking Skills:** Students will use skeptical inquiry and scientific thinking skills to interpret and solve problems related to behavior and mental processes.
- **Application of Psychology:** Students will apply psychological principles to solve personal, social, and/or organizational problems.
- **Values in Psychology:** Students will evaluate evidence, tolerate ambiguity, act ethically, recognize and respect diversity, and/or reflect other values that are the underpinnings of psychology as a discipline.

The Department of Psychology strives to provide the highest quality, state-of-the-art educational experience for our undergraduate students. Our faculty members bring alive for students the subject matter and methodologies of psychology and prepare students to become sophisticated consumers and evaluators of information. Our students can collaborate with our faculty members on research projects at the intersection of psychological science and areas such as health and wellness, drug abuse, aging, stress, depression and child development, and marital relationships—research that is often focused on problems of contemporary urban life.

ACADEMIC ADVISING

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) supports students to graduation using a shared advising system. CLAS students have two academic advisors with whom they should meet regularly to discuss academic and degree progress: a CLAS Academic Advisor and a major/faculty advisor.

For questions related to CU Denver Core Curriculum, CLAS, general graduation requirements, university/college academic policies, or campus resources contact:

CLAS Academic Advising

clas_advising@ucdenver.edu

Find your CLAS Advisor [here](#)

North Classroom (NC) Building 1030
303-315-7100

For questions related to major requirements, major course prerequisites, or evaluation of transfer coursework in your major contact:

Professor Mitch Handelsman

mitchell.handelsman@ucdenver.edu

Visit the department website [here](#)

North Classroom Building Room 5002
303-315-7050

GENERAL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS & POLICIES

All CU Denver CLAS students are required to complete the following minimum general graduation requirements to be eligible to apply for graduation:

1. Complete a minimum of 120 semester hours
2. Achieve a minimum 2.0 CU cumulative grade point average (GPA)
3. Complete a minimum of 45 upper-division (3000- to 4000-level) semester hours
4. Complete all CU Denver Core, CLAS, and major requirements
5. Complete a minimum of 30 CLAS hours at CU Denver

*The following are **maximum** semester hours that can apply toward the minimum 120 hours required for graduation:*

- 56 semester hours in major department/prefix courses
- 16 semester hours Pass/Fail
- 12 semester hours of Independent Study/Directed Research
- 12 semester hours of internship credit
- 8 semester hours of physical education credit

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS & POLICIES

Students are responsible for meeting with the major/faculty advisor in the department to confirm major requirements. In addition to completing all CU Denver Core and CLAS requirements, students completing the Psychology B.A. Degree are required to complete the following minimum program requirements:

1. Students must complete a minimum of 37 PSYC credit hours.
2. Students must complete a minimum of 16 upper division (3000-level and above) PSYC credit hours.
3. Students must earn a minimum grade of C-(1.7) in all major courses taken at CU Denver and must achieve a minimum cumulative major GPA of 2.0. All graded attempts in required and elective courses are calculated in the major GPA. Students cannot complete major or ancillary course requirements as pass/fail.
4. Students must complete a minimum of 16 upper division (3000-level and above) PSYC credit hours with CU Denver faculty.
5. PSYC 3939, Internship/Cooperative Education, does NOT count toward the 37- hour minimum or the 16-hour upper-division requirement, but it does count as elective psychology credit. For topics courses (PSYC 3600): See your PSYC advisor to determine if they count as Group A or Group B courses.

LYNX CONNECT RESOURCES

Are you interested in learning about internship, study abroad, career, and research opportunities for this major? Visit the CU Denver Lynx Connect, located in Tivoli Student Union (TV) Suite 339, and browse the Lynx Connect [website](#) for more information.

Degree Requirements	Credits	Notes
* Course prerequisites change regularly. Students are responsible for consulting advisors and the class schedule in the student portal for prerequisite information. *		
CU Denver Core Curriculum Requirements	34 - 40	CU Denver Core Curriculum Requirements
CLAS Graduation Requirements	15 - 29	CLAS Graduation Requirements
PSYC Major Requirements	37	<i>16 semester hours must be upper-division</i>
PSYC Required Courses		
PSYC 1000 Introduction to Psychology I	3	<i>Course can fulfill CU Denver Core Behavioral Science</i>
PSYC 1005 Introduction to Psychology II	3	<i>Course can fulfill CU Denver Core Behavioral Science</i>
PSYC 2090 Statistics and Research Methods	4	*Prerequisite: PSYC 1000
PSYC 2220 Biological Basis of Behavior	3	*Prerequisite: PSYC 1000 or BIOL 2051. <i>Course can fulfill CU Denver Core Nat/Phys Science (non-lab)</i>
PSYC 3090 Research Methods in Psychology	3	*Prerequisite: PSYC 1000, 1005, and 2090
PSYC 4511 History of Psychology	3	*Prerequisite: PSYC 1000, 1005, 2090, 2220, 3090, and six credits or two courses from PSYC 3050-4990
PSYC Group A Electives		
<i>Choose one from PSYC 3222 Principles of Learning & Behavior or PSYC 3144 Human Cognition</i>	3	*Group A electives must include one of these two courses. See department list for other Group A electives. *Prerequisite: PSYC 1000
<i>Choose one from PSYC 3104, 3144, 3222, 3254, 3262, 3263, 3264, 3265, 3385, 3724, 3810, 3822, 3832, 4054 or 4164</i>	3	<i>Check individual courses for prerequisites.</i>
PSYC Group B Electives		
<i>Choose two from PSYC 3205 Human Development I: Child Psychology, PSYC 3305 Abnormal Psychology, or PSYC 3415 Experimental Social Psychology other than the ones taken above</i>	6	*Group B electives must include two of these three courses. See department list for other Group B electives. *Prerequisite: C- or higher in PSYC 1000 and 1005 or 3215 (for 3205) *Prerequisite: PSYC 1000 and 1005 (for 3305 and 3415)
<i>Choose one from PSYC 3145, 3205, 3215, 3235, 3305, 3405, 3415, 3505, 3610, 3611, 3612, 3615, 4455, 4485, 4500, 4730</i>	3	<i>Check individual courses for prerequisites.</i>
PSYC Major Elective	3	*Take one additional course from group A or B. Check individual courses for prerequisites.
Estimated General Electives	14 - 34	<i>General Elective credits will vary based on Core & CLAS Requirements. Consult with CLAS Advisor.</i>
Total Minimum Program Hours:	120	<i>45 semester hours must be upper-division</i>

SAMPLE ACADEMIC PLAN OF STUDY

The following academic plan is a *sample* pathway to completing degree requirements for this major. Students should tailor this plan based on previously completed college coursework (e.g., AP, IB, CLEP, dual/concurrent enrollment, and transfer credit), course availability, and individual preferences related to course load, schedules, or add-on programs such as minors or double-majors.

Year One	Fall	CRS
	ENGL 1020 – Core Composition I	3
	CU Denver Core Mathematics – MATH 2830 <i>recommended</i>	3
	PSYC 1000 ^C	3
	CU Denver Core Humanities / First-Year Seminar	3
	General Elective	3
Total Credit Hours	15	

Spring	CRS
ENGL 2030 – Core Composition II	3
CU Denver Core Arts	3
PSYC 1005 ^C	3
CU Denver Core Nat/Phys Science with Lab	4
General Elective	3
Total Credit Hours	16

Year Two	Fall	CRS
	PSYC 2090 ^{PE}	4
	CLAS Communicative Skills	3
	CU Denver Core Social Science	3
	PSYC Upper Division elective (B)	3
	General Elective	3
Total Credit Hours	16	

Spring	CRS
PSYC 2220 ^{PE C}	3
CLAS Biol/Phys Science with Lab	4
CU Denver Core Cultural Diversity ^M	3
CLAS Humanities	3
General Elective	3
Total Credit Hours	16

Year Three	Fall	CRS
	PSYC 3090 ^{PE}	3
	CU Denver Core International Perspectives	3
	CLAS Foreign Language Semester I	5
	PSYC Upper-Division elective(B)	3
Total Credit Hours	14	

Spring	CRS
PSYC Upper-Division elective (A)	3
General Elective	3
CLAS Foreign Language Semester II	5
CLAS Social Science	3
Total Credit Hours	14

Year Four	Fall	CRS
	PSYC Upper-Division elective (A)	3
	PSYC Upper-Division elective (B)	3
	General Upper-Division Elective	3
	General Upper-Division Elective	3
	General Upper-Division Elective	3
Total Credit Hours	15	

Spring	CRS
PSYC 4511 ^{PE}	3
PSYC Upper-Division elective (A or B)	3
General Upper-Division Elective	3
General Upper-Division Elective	3
General Upper-Division Elective	3
Total Credit Hours	15

^M Major Course Available ^C CU Denver Core Course ^{PE} Prerequisite Enforced ^{PR} Prerequisite Recommended