

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Psychology is an extremely broad discipline. While consistently focused on the individual, it deals with everything from brain and neurological functions to social and environmental influences on behavior and thought. Here at CU Denver, our undergraduate program covers aspects of all the following: experimental psychology, biopsychology, animal behavior, developmental psychology, cognitive psychology, and abnormal psychology. As a foundation, the programs also include an early exposure to research methods and statistics. 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 faculty on research projects at the intersection of psychology and neuroscience in areas such as drug abuse, stress, brain development, health and wellness, depression, 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](mailto: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:*

### Associate Professor David Albeck

[david.albeck@ucdenver.edu](mailto:david.albeck@ucdenver.edu)

Visit the department website [here](#)

North Classroom Building Room 5008 F  
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.S. Degree are required to complete the following minimum program requirements:

1. Students must complete a total of 54-58 credit hours, including a minimum of 31 PSYC credit hours and 23-27 credit hours in ancillary (supporting science) course work.
2. Students must complete a minimum of 16 upper division (3000-level and above) credit hours in the major.
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. An experiential learning component is required and must be approved by the Bachelor of Science academic advisor. To fulfill the experiential learning requirement a student must have a minimum overall GPA of 2.5 or higher. Fulfilling this requirement with a project outside of the Psychology Department requires prior approval by the Bachelor of Science academic advisor. Independent study or internship credit hours taken outside of the Psychology Department will not count as Psychology credit hours.

## 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
<b>* Course prerequisites change regularly. Students are responsible for consulting advisors and the class schedule in the student portal for prerequisite information. *</b>		
<b>CU Denver Core Curriculum Requirements</b>	<b>34 - 40</b>	<a href="#">CU Denver Core Curriculum Requirements</a>
<b>CLAS Graduation Requirements</b>	<b>15 - 29</b>	<a href="#">CLAS Graduation Requirements</a>
<b>PSYC Major Requirements</b>	<b>31</b>	16 semester hours must be upper-division
<b>PSYC Required Courses</b>		
PSYC 1000 Introduction to Psychology I	3	Course can fulfill CU Denver Core Behavioral Science
PSYC 1005 Introduction to Psychology II	3	Course can fulfill CU Denver Core Behavioral Science
PSYC 2090 Statistics and Research Methods	4	*Prerequisite: PSYC 1000
PSYC 2220 Biological Basis of Behavior	3	*Prerequisite: PSYC 1000 or BIOL 2051. Course can fulfill CU Denver Core Nat/Phys Science (non-lab)
PSYC 3090 Research Methods in Psychology	3	*Prerequisite: PSYC 1000, 1005, and 2090
PSYC 4054 Behavioral Neuroscience	3	*Prerequisite: PSYC 1000, 1005, 2090, 2220, 3090, and six credits or two courses from PSYC 3050-4990
Complete PSYC 3205 Human Development I: Child Psychology <b>or</b> 3305 Abnormal Psychology <b>or</b> 3415 Experimental Social Psychology	3	*Choose in consultation with your major advisor. See term notes in sample plan below. *Prerequisite: C- or higher in PSYC 1000 and 1005 or 3215 (for 3205) *Prerequisite: PSYC 1000 and 1005 (for 3305 and 3415))
<b>PSYC Electives</b>	<b>6</b>	*Choose two from: PSYC 3104, 3222, 3254, 3262, 3263, 3264, 3265, 3724, 3810, 3822, 3832 or 4164. Check individual courses for prerequisites.
<b>PSYC Experiential Learning Component</b>	<b>3</b>	*Choose from: PSYC 3939 or 4111 or 4840 or 4880 or honors project in consultation with major advisor. An experiential learning component is required and must be approved by the PSYC B.S. advisor. To fulfill the experiential learning requirement a student must have a minimum overall GPA of 2.5 or higher. Fulfilling this requirement with a project outside of the Psychology Department requires prior approval by the PSYC B.S. advisor. Independent study or internship credit hours taken outside of the Psychology Department will not count as Psychology credit hours.
<b>Ancillary Biology and Chemistry Requirements</b>		
<b>BIOL 2051 &amp; 2071 General Biology I with lab <b>or</b> BIOL 2095 &amp; 2096 Honors General Biology I with lab</b>	<b>4</b>	*Prerequisite: High School chemistry or CHEM 1000 recommended Course can fulfill CU Denver Core Natural/Physical Science (with lab)
<b>BIOL 2061 &amp; 2081 General Biology II with lab <b>or</b> BIOL 2097 &amp; 2098 Honors General Biology II with lab</b>	<b>4</b>	*Prerequisite: C- or higher in General or Honors BIOL I with lab Course can fulfill CU Denver Core Natural/Physical Science (with lab)
<b>CHEM 2031 &amp; 2038 General Chemistry I with lab <b>or</b> CHEM 2081 &amp; 2088 Honors General Chemistry I with lab</b>	<b>4</b>	*Prerequisite: MATH 1110 and High School chemistry or CHEM 1000 recommended Course can fulfill CU Denver Core Natural/Physical Science (with lab)
<b>CHEM 2061 &amp; 2068 General Chemistry II with lab <b>or</b> CHEM 2091 &amp; 2098 Honors General Chemistry II with lab</b>	<b>5</b>	*Prerequisite: C- or higher in General or Honors CHEM I with lab Course can fulfill CU Denver Core Natural/Physical Science (with lab)
<b>Upper Division Natural Science Electives (must take two)</b>	<b>6-10</b>	*Choose two from: BIOL 3225, 3244, 3445, 3611, 3621, 3654, 3832, 4134, 4165 or CHEM 3810, 4810, 4820. Check individual courses for prerequisites.
<b>Estimated General Electives</b>	<b>0 - 17</b>	General Elective credits will vary based on Core & CLAS Requirements. Consult with CLAS Advisor.
<b>Total Minimum Program Hours:</b>	<b>120</b>	45 semester hours must be upper-division

**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.

<b>Year One</b>	<b>Fall</b>	CRS
	ENGL 1020 – Core Composition I	3
	CU Denver Core Mathematics – MATH 1110 <i>recommended</i>	3
	PSYC 1000 <sup>C</sup>	3
	CU Denver Core Social Science / First-Year Seminar	3
	BIOL 2051 & 2071 <sup>PR C</sup> or 2095 & 2096 <sup>PR</sup>	4
<b>Total Credit Hours</b>	<b>16</b>	

<b>Spring</b>	CRS
ENGL 2030 – Core Composition II	3
CU Denver Core Humanities	3
PSYC 1005 <sup>C</sup>	3
BIOL 2061 & 2081 <sup>PE C</sup> or 2097 & 2098 <sup>PE</sup>	4
General Elective	3
<b>Total Credit Hours</b>	<b>16</b>

<b>Year Two</b>	<b>Fall</b>	CRS
	PSYC 2090 <sup>PE</sup>	4
	CLAS Communicative Skills	3
	CU Denver Core Arts	3
	CHEM 2031 & 2038 <sup>C</sup> or 2081 & 2088	4
	General Upper-Division Elective	3
<b>Total Credit Hours</b>	<b>17</b>	

<b>Spring</b>	CRS
PSYC 2220 <sup>PE C</sup>	3
CHEM 2061 & 2068 <sup>PE C</sup> or 2091 & 2098	5
CU Denver Core Cultural Diversity	3
CLAS Humanities	3
General Elective	3
<b>Total Credit Hours</b>	<b>17</b>

<b>Year Three</b>	<b>Fall</b>	CRS
	PSYC 3090 <sup>PE</sup>	3
	CU Denver Core International Perspectives	3
	CLAS Foreign Language Semester I	5
	Upper-Division Natural Science	3
<b>Total Credit Hours</b>	<b>14</b>	

<b>Spring</b>	CRS
PSYC Upper-Division Elective	3
Upper-Division Natural Science	3
CLAS Foreign Language Semester II	5
CLAS Social Science	3
<b>Total Credit Hours</b>	<b>14</b>

<b>Year Four</b>	<b>Fall</b>	CRS
	PSYC Upper Division Elective	3
	*PSYC 3205 <sup>PE</sup> , 3305 <sup>PE</sup> or 3415 <sup>PE</sup>	3
	General Upper-Division Elective	3
	General Upper-Division Elective	3
	General Upper-Division Elective	3
<b>Total Credit Hours</b>	<b>15</b>	

<b>Spring</b>	CRS
PSYC 4054 <sup>PE</sup>	3
PSYC 3939 <sup>PE</sup> or 4111 <sup>PE</sup> or 4840 <sup>PE</sup> or 4880 <sup>PE</sup>	3
General Upper-Division Elective	3
General Upper-Division Elective	3
*If 3305 <sup>PE</sup> or 3415 <sup>PE</sup> are desired, take in spring	--
<b>Total Credit Hours</b>	<b>12</b>

<sup>M</sup> Major Course Available    <sup>C</sup> CU Denver Core Course    <sup>PE</sup> Prerequisite Enforced    <sup>PR</sup> Prerequisite Recommended