

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. The Gardner Psychology Research Scholars Program consists of a rigorous set of criteria centered around a research project working with a Psychology faculty mentor.

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) 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 (NC) 5002 J

303-315-7045

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 credit 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) credit hours
4. Complete all CU Denver Core, CLAS, and major requirements
5. Complete a minimum of 30 CLAS credit hours with letter grades at CU Denver

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

- 16 credit hours Pass/Fail
- 12 credit hours of Independent Study/Directed Research
- 12 credit hours of internship credit
- 8 credit 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 43 credit hours with 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 courses that apply to the major and must achieve a minimum of B (3.0) in the 3 Behavioral & Biomedical Sciences Research courses and must achieve a minimum cumulative major GPA of 2.5. All graded attempts in required and elective courses are calculated in the major GPA. Courses taken using pass/fail grading cannot apply to major requirements.
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 does NOT count toward the 43 credit hour minimum or the 16 credit hour upper-division requirement, but it does count as elective psychology credit. PSYC 3600 Topics in Psychology: See your PSYC advisor to determine if they count as Group A or Group B courses.
6. Students with transfer credit for PSYC 1005 that was awarded zero credit hours will need to take an additional three credit Psychology Elective course to reach the minimum credit hours required for the Psychology Major.

LYNXCONNECT RESOURCES

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

Degree Requirements	Credits	Notes
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* 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	16 credit hours must be upper-division
PSYC Required Courses		
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: C- or higher in PSYC 1000
PSYC 2220 Biological Basis of Behavior	3	*Prerequisite: C- or higher in PSYC 1000 or BIOL 2020. Course can fulfill CU Denver Core Natural/Physical Science (non-lab)
PSYC 3090 Research Methods in Psychology	3	*Prerequisite: C- or higher in PSYC 1000, 1005, and 2090
PSYC 4511 History of Psychology	3	*Prerequisite: C- or higher in PSYC 1000, 1005, 2090, 2220, 3090, and six credits or two courses from PSYC 3050-4990
PSYC Group A Electives		*The two Group A electives must be different courses.
Choose one from PSYC 3144 Human Cognition or PSYC 3222 Principles of Learning & Behavior	3	*Group A electives must include one of these two courses. See department list for other Group A electives. *Prerequisite: C- or higher in PSYC 1000
Choose one from PSYC 3144, 3222, 3254, 3262, 3263, 3264, 3265, 3385, 3724, 3810, 3822, 3832, 4054 or 4164	3	Check individual courses for prerequisites.
PSYC Group B Electives		*The three Group B electives must be different courses.
Choose two from PSYC 3205 Human Development I: Child Psychology, PSYC 3305 Abnormal Psychology, or PSYC 3415 Experimental Social Psychology	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: C- or higher in PSYC 1000 and 1005 (for 3305 and 3415)
Choose one from PSYC 3145, 3205, 3215, 3235, 3305, 3405, 3505, 3611, 3612, 3615, 4455, 4485, 4500, 4730	3	Check individual courses for prerequisites.
PSYC Elective	3	*Complete one additional elective course from either Group A or Group B not already completed. Check individual courses for prerequisites.
Behavioral and Biomedical Sciences Research Requirements Students must earn a minimum grade of B or better in all of the following courses:	6	
Choose one from PSYC 4680 Behavioral & Biomedical Sciences Research Seminar or MARC 4680 Behavioral & Biomedical Sciences Research Seminar	1	*Prerequisite: Instructor permission
Choose one from PSYC 4681 Behavioral & Biomedical Sciences Research Seminar II or MARC 4681 Behavioral & Biomedical Sciences Research Seminar II	2	*Prerequisite: PSYC 4680 or MARC 4680 and instructor permission
Choose one from PSYC 4780 Behavioral & Biomedical Sciences Research: Ethics and Issues or MARC 4780 Behavioral & Biomedical Sciences Research: Ethics & Issues	3	*Prerequisite: C- or higher in PSYC 1000, 1005, 2090, 2220, and 3090 or instructor permission
Estimated General Electives	8 - 28	General Elective credit hours will vary based on Core & CLAS Requirements. Consult with CLAS Advisor.
Total Minimum Credit Hours:	120	45 credit hours must be upper-division

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 Nat/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 Second Language Semester I	5
	PSYC Upper-Division Elective (B)	3
	PSYC 4680 ^{PE} or MARC 4680 ^{PE}	1
	Total Credit Hours	15

Spring	CRS
PSYC Upper-Division Elective (A)	3
General Elective	3
CLAS Second Language Semester II	5
CLAS Social Science	3
PSYC 4681 ^{PE} or MARC 4681 ^{PE}	2
Total Credit Hours	16

Year Four	Fall	CRS
	PSYC Upper-Division Elective (A)	3
	PSYC Upper-Division Elective (B)	3
	PSYC 4780 ^{PE} or MARC 4780 ^{PE}	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