

Psychology

Faculty: Dahling, Chair; Barnack-Tavlaris, Bireta, Borders, Chung, Crawford, Graham, Herres, Kim-Prieto, Kirnan, Leynes, Martinetti, Onyewuenyi, Ruscio, Stahl, Vivona, Wiley, Wong

The Bachelor of Arts in Psychology program focuses on the scientific study of behavior, cognition, and emotion. Through in-depth exploration of psychological theory and research—including hands-on learning in research laboratories, internships, and community-based projects—students gain understanding of the complexities of psychological phenomena. The Psychology Department helps students develop and appreciate the importance of critical thinking combined with empirical evidence in understanding human and animal nature. The Department offers learning experiences that enrich students' understanding of functioning from behavioral, biological, cognitive, developmental, humanistic, organizational, psychodynamic, social, and sociocultural perspectives.

Requirements for the Psychology Major

Requirements for the major: 12 course units

All students must take four Methods and Statistics Core courses in sequence, three Foundation courses, three Specialized courses, one Psychology Option, and one Senior Experience course. At least one of these courses must come from the Social Context menu below. Please see the [Psychology Department web page](#) for more detail, including specialization-specific requirements.

A. Methods Sequence Courses: (Four required courses taken in sequence.)

PSY 101/General Psychology

PSY 121/Methods and Tools of Psychology

PSY 203/Design and Statistical Analysis

PSY 299/Research Seminar (recommended to be taken in specialization, if applicable.)

B. Foundation Courses: (Choose at least three)

PSY 212/Biopsychology

PSY 213/Learning and Memory

PSY 214/Cognitive Psychology

PSY 215/Social Psychology

PSY 216/Personality Theory and Research

PSY 217/Abnormal Psychology

PSY 220/Development across the Lifespan

PSY 267/Organizational Psychology

C. Specialized Courses: (Select at least three 300-level courses from options relevant to one's area of specialization, if applicable.)

D. Psychology Required Elective: (Select one additional course at the 200-level or above; 300-level or above is encouraged.)

E. Senior Experience: (Select at least one 400-level course.)

F. Social Context Requirement: The Psychology Department aims to foster an understanding and appreciation of human diversity, including the ways that people's social power and social location shape, constrain, and enrich their lives. To ensure that all students have an opportunity to engage with these traditions, all majors are required to include, at either the Foundation (200) level or Specialized (300) level, a course from the list below:

PSY 215/Social Psychology

PSY 219/Clinical Psychology

PSY 220/Development across the Lifespan

(Please note that ECE/ELE 201 and SPE 203 cannot fulfill this requirement.)

PSY 267/Organizational Psychology

PSY 324/Racial Identity Development

PSY 336/Sexual and Gender Minority Mental Health

PSY 337/Poverty, Mental Health, and Well-Being

PSY 340/ Health Psychology

PSY 341/Personality and Culture

PSY 350/ Psychology of Women

PSY 355/Social Psychology of Power, Oppression, and Privilege

Options for the Psychology Major

Specializations in Psychology

Students can optionally declare a specialization for the Psychology major in one of six areas: Biopsychology, Cognitive Psychology, Counseling & Clinical Psychology, Developmental Psychology, Industrial/Organizational Psychology, or Social Psychology. Specializations can be declared when applying for admission to TCNJ or during the course of study at any point prior to the last semester before graduation. Specializations can also be dropped or changed at any point during the course of study. Declaring a specialization will prescribe certain choices within the 12-course Psychology major, and in some cases will also add requirements for correlate courses outside of the major. Full details of each specialization's philosophy and requirements are listed in a more digestible fashion [on the Psychology Department website](#). Required courses for each specialization beyond the generic Psychology major requirements include:

- **Biopsychology:** PSY212; either PSY213 *or* 214; any two of PSY311, 316, 340, 342, 343, and 346; correlate courses: BIO201; any one of BIO211, 221, or 231; any one of PHL 100, 120, 205, 255, 311, 410, 421, or 422.

- **Cognitive Psychology:** PSY213; PSY214; any one of PSY303, 311, 320, 346, 371, or 390 (with Cognitive focus).
- **Counseling & Clinical Psychology:** PSY217; PSY219; and a required field experience satisfied through PSY398, 399, or 487.
- **Developmental Psychology:** PSY220 or equivalent; and any two of PSY320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 370, or ELOPsy course with Developmental focus.
- **Industrial/Organizational Psychology:** PSY267; PSY364; and any ELOPsy course within the PSY major; correlate courses: any two of FIN 201, IST 201, MGT 201, or MKT 201 (all ½-unit, quarter-length courses); any two of ACC 201, ECO 101, ECO 102, FIN 239, IST 310, IST 320, MGT 310, MGT 320, MGT 345, BUS 325, BUS 375, BUS 385, MKT 371, MKT 380.
- **Social Psychology:** PSY215; any two of PSY324, 332, 336, 338, 340, 348, 350, 355, 375, or ELOPsy with Social Psychology focus .

Experiential Learning Opportunities in Psychology (ELOPsy)

Experiential learning is a cornerstone of the undergraduate psychology program at TCNJ. We assert that learning through direct experience is one of the most powerful and transformative learning strategies. The Experiential Learning Opportunities in Psychology (ELOPsy) at TCNJ encourage direct student involvement in and exploration of psychological theory, research, and application. Such experiences are designed to target integrative learning objectives. Experiential Learning Opportunities in Psychology include:

- PSY 390, 492/Collaborative Research Course and Senior Collaborative Research Course
- PSY 391/Independent Study in Psychology
- PSY 393, 493/Independent Research in Psychology and Senior Independent Research in Psychology
- PSY 397/Instructional Internship in Psychology
- PSY 399, 487/Internship in Psychology and Senior Internship in Psychology

Students may take ELOPsy courses multiple times (with the exception of 397, which may be taken twice only). A maximum of one 300-level ELOPsy course may be counted as a Specialized course in the Psychology major and minor; one 300- or 400-level ELOPsy course may be counted as the Psychology Option in the Psychology major; one 400-level ELOPsy course may be counted as the Senior Experience course in the Psychology major (see specific psychology specialization requirements). Some ELOPsy courses may be taken for variable credit (PSY 397, 399/499, and 391/393). All other ELOPsy courses are one unit courses. Prerequisites and requirements for the ELOPsy courses vary.

Psychology Major with Education as Dual Major

See both advisors in Education and in Psychology for coordinated advising. All standard Psychology major requirements and regulations apply to Education dual-majors.

Education dual-majors may take any one of the following courses below that are cross-listed with PSY 220/Development Across the Lifespan. These courses will double-count toward Education requirements and the Foundation area of the Psychology major.

However, students cannot count *both* PSY 220 and any of these courses toward graduation requirements.

- ECE 201
- ELE 201
- SPE 203
- NUR 110

Psychology Major with other Second Majors

Psychology maintains double-major agreements with African American Studies (AAS), Criminology (CRI), Philosophy (PHL), and Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (WGSS). These agreements specify courses that each department has agreed to double-count to reduce the overall course requirements involved in pursuing both majors. These agreements are detailed [on the Department website](#).

Departmental Honors in Psychology

Departmental Honors in Psychology requires a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.75 at the end of the semester prior to graduation. All students who meet or exceed this threshold will automatically be granted Departmental Honors. Further information is available on the [Psychology Department website](#).

Program Entrance, Retention, and Exit Standards

Every major program at the College has set standards for allowing students to remain in that program, to transfer within the College from one program to another, and to graduate from a program. The following are the standards for Psychology programs with minimum grades noted in parentheses:

Entry to the program:

- Internal transfer into the program from another program within the College requires completion of an application process that occurs once each semester. Applicants for full major status must have credit for PSY 101 and must write an essay, while applicants for pre-major status must only write the essay. Pre-majors will convert to standard/full major status upon completion of PSY101 with a C-grade or better.

- External transfer students who wish to enter The College of New Jersey with a Psychology major or double major must meet college transfer admission standards.

Retention in the program:

- Retention in the program is based on the following performance standards in these “critical content courses”: PSY 121/Methods and Tools of Psychology, PSY 203/Design and Statistical Analysis, and PSY 299/Research Seminar (C- in all).
- All students (including transfer students) must take at least six Psychology course units at The College of New Jersey, including PSY 203 (Design & Statistical Analysis), PSY 299 (Research Seminar in Psychology), and PSY 4xx (any Senior Capstone experience).
- Students must earn a C- or better in each course applied to the psychology major. However, a psychology course for which the grade is D+ or D may be applied toward graduation as a free elective.
- In accordance with College policy, courses may only be repeated **once**. Courses can be repeated twice only with permission from the Department Chair.
- The complete retention policy is described on the [Psychology Department website](#), including links to forms.

Recommended Course Sequence: Four-Year Student

First Year

FYS First Year Seminar	1 course unit
PSY 096/Orientation to Psychology	0 course units
PSY 101/General Psychology	1 course unit
PSY 121/Methods and Tools of Psychology	1 course unit
PSY Choose one Foundation course	1 course unit
FYW 102/Academic Writing (if not exempted)*	1 course unit
Foreign Language (if not exempted)**	2 course units
College Core (science: biology recommended)	1 course unit

**It is recommended that students exempted from these courses take other College Core courses.*

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Total for year

8 course units

If a student has earned transfer credit for PSY 101 (or its equivalent) or has earned a score of four or higher on the AP Psychology test, PSY 121 should be selected and an additional foundation course should be taken in the first year.

Second Year

PSY 097/Exploring the Psychology Major	0 course units
PSY 203/Design and Statistical Analysis	1 course unit
PSY 299/Research Seminar	1 course unit
PSY Choose two Foundation courses	2 course units
Foreign Language (if not exempted)*	1 course unit
College Core courses	1-2 course units
Electives	1-2 course units
Total for year	8 course units

Psychology majors may choose an optional primary specialization in sophomore year or later by completing a Specialization Choice Sheet (available on the [Psychology Department website](#)) in consultation with her/his advisor and submitting it to the Psychology Department main office. PSY 299 (Research Seminar) is recommended to be taken in the chosen specialization.

Third Year

PSY 098/Exploring the Psychology Profession	0 course units
PSY Choose two Specialized courses	2 course units
PSY Psychology Option	1 course unit
College Core courses	1-2 course units
Electives	3-4 course units
Total for year	8 course units

Fourth Year

PSY 099/Psychology Professional Seminar	0 course units
PSY Choose one Specialized course	1 course unit
PSY Senior Experience course	1 course unit
College Core courses	1-2 course units
Electives	4-5 course units
Total for year	8 course units

Recommended Course Sequence: Two-Year Transfer Student with AA/AS Degree**Third Year**

PSY 097/Exploring the Psychology Profession	0 course units
PSY 121/Methods & Tools of Psychology	1 course unit
PSY 203/Design & Statistical Analysis	1 course unit
PSY 2xx/Foundation Course choices	2 course units
PSY 3xx/Specialized Course choices	2 course units
Elective choices	2 course units
Total for year	8 course units

Fourth Year

PSY 099/Psychology Professional Seminar	0 course units
PSY 299/Research Seminar	1 course unit
PSY 4xx/Senior Experience in Psychology	1 course unit
PSY 2xx/Foundation Course choice	1 course unit
PSY 3xx/Specialized Course choice	1 course unit
PSY 2xx or 3xx/Psych Option choice	1 course unit
Elective choices	3 course units
Total for year	8 course units

Notes for Transfer Students:

- This recommended course sequence for external transfer students assumes that students arrive with a course equivalent to PSY 101; without this credit, a summer or winter course will be required.
- Psychology-only transfer students can fit a five-course minor in place of the Elective choices listed in the plan above. More elective spaces are available for students who bring additional Psychology coursework to TCNJ.
- Transfer students with dual majors in Psychology and Education must consult with both advisors for guidance and will use the elective spaces above for Education requirements. Given the breadth of the Education programs, several summer or winter courses are necessary to graduate within two years.

Requirements for the Minor in Psychology

A five-course minor in psychology is available. Requirements for the minor include:

1. PSY 101/ General Psychology
2. PSY 121/ Methods and Tools of Psychology.
3. Any one course at the Foundation level (PSY2xx).
4. Any two courses at the Specialized level (PSY3xx).
5. All grades C- or better.

At least 2.5 units required for the minor must be completed at The College of New Jersey or through previously-approved study abroad. One Experiential Learning Opportunity in Psychology (ELOPsy) course may count toward the Psychology minor.