

PSYCHOLOGY (BA)

CIP: 42.0101

Program Description

Psychology is the study of mind and behavior. The major in Psychology introduces students to the main concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in the field. Students gain the ability to think scientifically, creatively, and critically about human behavior and mental processes; to acquire the basic skills for conducting research in these areas; and to develop a general understanding of psychology as both a natural science and a social science.

Students grapple with overarching themes and persistent questions in psychology, such as the interaction of heredity and environment, variability and continuity of behavior and mental processes within and across species, free will versus determinism, the relation between mind and body, and applicability of general theories and measures to specific societal and cultural contexts. Topics of inquiry include cognition, sensation and perception, language and memory, child development and education, personality and individual differences, social interaction and group dynamics, intergroup relations, and the connection between the individual and society.

Students complete the major with realistic ideas about how to implement their psychological knowledge, skills, and values in occupational pursuits in a variety of settings. The NYUAD Psychology Program provides a solid preparation for graduate programs in basic and applied psychology, other psychology-related fields, and graduate programs in business, education, health, and law.

The Psychology major consists of: four required courses that provide the foundation for more advanced courses in psychology; four elective courses that cover broader subareas of psychology; two advanced electives that go deeper into specific areas of research and inquiry and that emphasize the scientific research and writing process; and the research seminar followed by a two-course capstone research experience. To ensure that students receive a broad training in psychology, students must complete two basic electives from the Social and Developmental Psychology series and two basic electives from the Cognition and Perception series.

Specialization in Brain and Cognitive Sciences (For Psychology Majors Only)

The Psychology major offers a specialization in Brain and Cognitive Science (BCS), which covers the collection of disciplines that are unified by a focus on the function of the brain. BCS investigates some of the deepest mysteries facing science in the 21st century, which concern the processes that underlie neural dynamics and enable higher brain functions, including perception, memory, attention, language, emotion, decision-making, motor control, and consciousness.

Experimental approaches in BCS vary from analyses of molecular and cellular mechanisms in nerve cells and groups of nerve cells to imaging studies of the entire brain to behavioral studies of whole organisms. Theoretical tools include mathematical and computational modeling approaches that have proved useful in other areas of science. Experimental questions include issues related to biophysical and neurochemical mechanisms within single nerve cells, meso- and macro-scale functional neural circuits, and the relationship between activity at these various levels of analysis and behavior. Additionally, courses in

the BCS will examine how disruption at these different levels results in psychiatric (e.g., anxiety disorders and depression), neurological (e.g., Parkinson's and Alzheimer's diseases), and developmental (e.g., dyslexia and autism) disorders.

Psychology Study Abroad Program

The study away pathway for the Psychology major can be found on the NYUAD Student Portal at students.nyuad.nyu.edu/pathways (<http://students.nyuad.nyu.edu/pathways/>). Students with questions should contact the Office of Global Education.

Effective from 2019-2020 onward, Psychology courses taken abroad may only be counted as basic electives. There will be no equivalencies for advanced electives, which will be required to be taken in Abu Dhabi, unless an exception is granted by the program. The program strongly recommends that students not take more than one Psychology course while studying abroad.

Finally, effective from 2019-2020 onward, the Research Seminar in Psychology for capstone students will take place in the spring semester of the third year.

Admissions

New York University's Office of Undergraduate Admissions supports the application process for all undergraduate programs at NYU. For additional information about undergraduate admissions, including application requirements, see [How to Apply](https://www.nyu.edu/admissions/undergraduate-admissions/how-to-apply.html) (<https://www.nyu.edu/admissions/undergraduate-admissions/how-to-apply.html>).

Program Requirements

Course	Title	Credits
General Education Requirements		
Colloquia		8
First-Year Seminar		4
Arts, Design, and Technology		4
Cultural Exploration Analysis		4
Data and Discovery		4
Structures of Thought and Society		4
January Term Courses (3 courses)		12
Required Courses		
PSYCH-UH 1001	Introduction to Psychology	4
PSYCH-UH 1002EQ	Research Methods in Psychology	4
PSYCH-UH 1003		4
PSYCH-UH 1004Q	Statistics for Psychology	4
Electives		
Select two electives from the Social and Developmental Psychology series		8
Select two electives from the Cognition and Perception series		8
Select two Advanced electives; at least one must have a lab component		8
Research Seminar		
PSYCH-UH 3090	Research Seminar in Psychology (half course)	2
Capstone		
PSYCH-UH 4001	Capstone Project in Psychology 1	4
PSYCH-UH 4002	Capstone Project in Psychology 2	4

Other Elective Credits	50
Total Credits	140

Requirements for Double Majors Pursuing Capstone Projects in Other Programs

In lieu of the two semester capstone sequence, two extra courses distributed as follows:

Course	Title	Credits
Select one Advanced Elective in Psychology		4
Select one Basic Elective or Advanced Elective in Psychology		4
Total Credits		8

Specialization in Brain and Cognitive Sciences (for Psychology Majors Only)

Course	Title	Credits
General Education Requirements		
Colloquia		8
First-Year Seminar		4
Arts, Design, and Technology		4
Cultural Exploration Analysis		4
Data and Discovery		4
Structures of Thought and Society		4
Required Courses		
PSYCH-UH 1001	Introduction to Psychology	4
PSYCH-UH 1002EQ	Research Methods in Psychology	4
PSYCH-UH 1003		4
PSYCH-UH 1004Q	Statistics for Psychology	4
PSYCH-UH 2412	Cognitive Neuroscience	4
BIOL-UH 3101	Behavioral and Integrative Neuroscience	4
BIOL-UH 3211	Experimental Neurobiology	4
Electives		
Select two electives from the Social and Developmental Psychology series		8
Select one elective from the Cognition and Perception series		4
Select two Advanced electives from the following:		8
PSYCH-UH 3614EQ	Lab in Multisensory Perception and Action	
PSYCH-UH 3617EQ	Lab in Visual Neuroscience	
PSYCH-UH 3620EQ	Lab in Clinical Neuropsychology	
PSYCH-UH 3261EQ		
Research Seminar		
PSYCH-UH 3090	Research Seminar in Psychology (half course)	2
Capstone		
PSYCH-UH 4001	Capstone Project in Psychology 1	4
PSYCH-UH 4002	Capstone Project in Psychology 2	4
Other Elective Credits		42
Total Credits		128

Sample Plan of Study

Course	Title	Credits
1st Semester/Term		
PSYCH-UH 1001	Introduction to Psychology	4
PSYCH-UH 1002EQ	Research Methods in Psychology	4
First-Year Seminar		4
Core Courses		4
Credits		16
2nd Semester/Term		
Elective Course		4
Credits		4
3rd Semester/Term		
PSYCH-UH 1004Q	Statistics for Psychology	4
Colloquium		4
Core Courses		4
Elective Course		4
Credits		16
4th Semester/Term		
PSYCH-UH 1003		4
Core Courses		4
Elective Course		4
Elective Course		4
Credits		16
5th Semester/Term		
Elective Course		4
Credits		4
6th Semester/Term		
Psychology Elective		4
Colloquium		4
Elective Course		4
Elective Course		4
Credits		16
7th Semester/Term		
PSYCH-UH 3090	Research Seminar in Psychology	4
Advanced Psychology Lab Elective		4
Elective Course		4
Core Courses		4
Psychology Elective		4
Credits		20
8th Semester/Term		
Elective Course		4
Credits		4
9th Semester/Term		
Abroad		
Credits		0
10th Semester/Term		
PSYCH-UH 4001	Capstone Project in Psychology 1	4
Elective Course		4
Elective Course		4
Psychology Elective		4
Credits		16
11th Semester/Term		
PSYCH-UH 4002	Capstone Project in Psychology 2	4
Elective Course		4
Elective Course		4
Advanced Psychology Elective		4
Credits		16
Total Credits		128

Learning Outcomes

Students who major in Psychology at NYU Abu Dhabi will develop:

1. Specialized knowledge of the psychology scientific, theoretical literature.
2. Comprehensive understanding of the critical problems and questions in psychology, including how to identify them, evaluate their importance, and prepare ways to study them.
3. Technical, creative, and analytic skills to collect, analyze, and interpret various types of data. These skills will include a mastery of widely used computer-based data collection programs and statistical software packages.
4. Advanced communication skills, including how to present their work according to the field's academic standards. These skills will include a mastery of how to write papers in the style of the American Psychological Association (APA).
5. The ability to recognize the ethical complexity of issues in psychology, including the necessity for academic integrity.
6. Skills to self-evaluate and evaluate others through the peer-review process of critical idea exchange.

Policies

NYU Policies

University-wide policies can be found on the New York University Policy pages (<https://bulletins.nyu.edu/nyu/policies/>).

NYU Abu Dhabi Policies

A full list of relevant policies can be found on NYU Abu Dhabi's undergraduate academic policies page (<https://bulletins.nyu.edu/undergraduate/abu-dhabi/academic-policies/>).