

THE PSYCHOLOGY MAJOR AT BRYN MAWR COLLEGE

8/22/22

The Psychology department offers students a major program that allows choices of courses from among a wide variety of fields in psychology: neuroscience, clinical, cognitive, developmental, health, cultural, and social. In addition to the considerable breadth offered, the program encourages the student to focus on more specialized areas, through advanced coursework, seminars, labs, and supervised research. Bryn Mawr Psychology majors find that the major program provides a strong foundation for graduate study in all areas of psychology, as well as for graduate work in medicine, social work, law, business, public health, and education. Students majoring in psychology also have the opportunity to pair their major with a minor in Neuroscience, Health Studies, Data Science, Asian American Studies, or Child and Family Studies (among other minors offered at BMC). A student who wishes to become a Psychology major should fill in a Major Plan and get declared with a permanent psychology faculty member prior to preregistration in the Spring semester of their sophomore year. **Minoring.** A student may minor in Psychology by taking PSYC 105 and PSYC 205 and any other four courses that meet the requirements of the major. Minors are welcome to participate in Psychology Colloquium, but it is not required for the minor.

Psychology Major - 10 Units of Courses* Plus One Semester Psychology Colloquium

Core Courses

- PSYC 105 – Introductory Psychology**
- PSYC 205 – Research Methods and Statistics with laboratory

Two half-unit research method courses (the 28X series) *Bryn Mawr versions of these courses are writing intensive; taking two will satisfy the Writing Requirement in the Major*

- PSYC 282 – Lab in Cognitive Psychology
- PSYC 283 – Lab in Developmental Psychology
- PSYC 284 – Lab in Health Psychology
- PSYC 285 – Lab in Cultural Psychology
- PSYC 286 – Lab in Behavioral Neuroscience
- PSYC 287 – Lab in Cognitive Neuroscience
- PSYC 288 – Lab in Social Psychology
- PSYC 289 – Lab in Clinical Psychology

Six Elective Psychology Courses at the 200 or 300 level (at least two must be at the 200 level and two at the 300 level the other two “grab bag” electives can be from either level)

Intermediate (200) Courses, such as:

- PSYC 203 - Educational Psychology (Praxis Option)
- PSYC 206 - Developmental Psychology
- PSYC 208 - Social Psychology
- PSYC 209 - Clinical Psychology
- PSYC 211 – Lifespan Development
- PSYC 212 - Human Cognition
- PSYC 218 - Behavioral Neuroscience
- PSYC 224 – Cultural Psychology
- PSYC 231 - Health Psychology
- PSYC 299 – Topics in Psychology (course topic rotates)

Advanced (300) Courses, such as:

- PSYC 314 – Multivariate Statistics
- PSYC 315 – Stress Neuroscience
- PSYC 316 – Drugs of Abuse
- PSYC 318 – Data Science with R
- PSYC 322 – Culture and Development
- PSYC 323 – Advanced Topics in Cognitive Neuroscience
- PSYC 327 – Adolescent Development
- PSYC 395 - Psychopharmacology
- PSYC 330 – Reproducible Research in Psychology
- PSYC 331 –Health Behavior and Context
- PSYC 332 – Unlocking the Self-Control Toolbox
- PSYC 352 – Advanced Topics in Developmental Psychology
- PSYC 353 – Advanced Topics in Clinical Psychology
- PSYC 354 – Asian-American Psychology
- PSYC 403 – Supervised Research

One Semester Psychology Colloquium***

- Spring Semester Sophomore Year
- Fall Semester Junior Year
- Spring Semester Junior Year

Senior Capstone Requirement (two options, students pursue one)

- PSYC 399 – Senior Seminar in Psychology
- PSYC 400 – Senior Thesis in Psychology (2 semesters of research)

Research and senior thesis. Students have numerous opportunities to collaborate with faculty on research projects. Students interested in getting involved in research should approach individual faculty to inquire about research opportunities in the faculty member's lab. Senior thesis work is recommended for students who are committed to undertaking a year-long intensive research project and considering graduate school—particularly psychology Ph.D. programs. Students who plan to conduct senior thesis work should talk with individual faculty members to enquire about thesis opportunities in the faculty member's lab. This meeting should occur prior to preregistration in February of junior year. Further information on considering the senior thesis and research opportunities is provided on the Psychology Department website.

Study abroad. A student who wishes to study abroad in their junior year should consult with their major advisor as well as their Dean far in advance to select a program appropriate to their academic interests. Students may be able to count one or two* (see asterisk below with explanation) psychology courses taken abroad towards their major requirements. Students will need to submit the syllabus for the course to their major advisor, and the advisor, in consultation with the department, will determine whether the course may be used towards the major requirements. Approval is granted on a course-by-course basis and should be obtained before leaving Bryn Mawr, with final approval after the student completes the course. Students studying abroad are encouraged to complete Psychology Colloquium before studying abroad.

*With approval, a maximum of two courses (or their equivalent) from Study Abroad OR from another University outside the TRICO (or Penn) OR from AP or IB credit for Intro can count toward major/minor requirements.

**Students may elect to place out of BMC's Introductory Psychology course (with a 5 on the AP or a 6 or 7 on the IB or having taken intro at another College and earning a merit grade). These students are only required to complete 9 additional full unit courses or their equivalent.

***Psychology Colloquium is offered every semester on Fridays from 12-1pm. Students are encouraged to enroll as soon as possible after they declare the major and complete Psychology Colloquium by the end of junior year. Majors can sign up by emailing Ann Ogle, the departmental administrative assistant aogle@brynmawr.edu.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1) Can I test out of Intro Psychology?

Students who have received a 5 on the AP Psychology exam, a 6 or 7 on the IB Psychology exam, or who have taken Introductory Psychology at an accredited college or university and received a merit grade may elect to place out of Introductory Psychology and pursue their 9 additional credits for the major.

2) Can I take psychology courses in Haverford's Psychology department to count toward the Bryn Mawr Psychology major?

Yes, Introductory Psychology, Research Methods and Statistics, and intermediated 200 level courses and advanced 300 level courses all translate to course accrual in the Bryn Mawr Psychology Major. However, lab courses offered at Haverford College target different pedagogical goals and do **NOT** count towards the Bryn Mawr Writing within the Major requirement. Bryn Mawr Psychology majors are thus required to fulfill their lab courses in the BMC Psychology Department.

3) Do any courses in the Bryn Mawr Psychology major fulfill any of the college distribution requirements? Yes.

- Introductory Psychology (105) at Bryn Mawr College is a laboratory science course and fulfills the Scientific Investigation (SI) requirement. (Note: Testing out of the course does not fulfill the SI requirement. Haverford's Introductory Psychology course does not fulfill the SI requirement).
- Research Methods and Statistics (205) fulfills the Quantitative Methods (QM) and Scientific Investigation (SI) requirements.
- Cultural Psychology fulfills the Cross Cultural Analysis requirement (CC).

4) Do I need to take the subject level 200 course that corresponds to the half-unit 28X laboratory course?

No, enrollment in the 28X laboratory courses is not predicated on completion or simultaneous enrollment in a parallel intermediate level 200 course. While it can be helpful to gain even greater exposure to a particular subfield, the courses are not designed with 200-subject prerequisites and some students enjoy getting a taste of a different subfield via the laboratory courses. Methods and Statistics (205) IS a prerequisite for half-unit 28X lab courses.

5) Are there prerequisites for courses across the psychology major? Yes.

- Introductory Psychology (105; merit grade, 2.0 or above) is a gateway prerequisite course to all 200 level subject courses.
- Research Methods and Statistics (205; merit grade, 2.0 or above) is a gateway prerequisite course to all Laboratory 28X courses and 300-level seminars.
- Research Methods and Statistics (merit grade, 2.0 or above) and 200-level subject courses (merit grade, 2.0 or above) are prerequisite courses to all 300-level advanced courses, however the 200-level subject course prerequisites depend on the area of focus (e.g., either Health Psychology or Social Psychology at the 200 subject-level serve as prerequisites to Health Behavior and Context at the 300 seminar-level).

6) I finished Introductory Psychology, what should I do next?

After you complete Introductory Psychology (105), it is your time to explore! Try out some different 200-level intermediate courses to get more depth on psychology subfields. Register for Research Methods and Statistics (205) as soon as possible after you complete Introductory Psychology (105) and complete Research Methods and Statistics (205) prior to the end of sophomore year. If you know a psychology major or minor is for you, reach out to declare in your sophomore year!

7) Do I need to earn a certain grade for courses to count toward my psychology major or minor?

Yes. For courses to count toward major or minor credit accrual in Bryn Mawr Psychology, students are required to earn a merit grade (2.0 or above) for the course to apply toward major or minor credit. **This is regardless of whether the grade is covered or uncovered on the student's transcript.** Students need to check the entered grade, not whether the grade is listed on their transcripts as credit/no credit.