

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN PSYCHOLOGY

Psychology is the study of all aspects of the human experience, such as functions of the brain, experiences within social situations, management of workers, and youth or elderly care. Psychologists work in all industries related to the human experience, such as careers in research, counseling, business, and education. Students within the Psychology Major will evaluate and apply psychological research and the scientific method in an effort to understand and improve the human experience.

Psychology Major Program Impaction

In July 2009, the California State University Chancellor's Office approved impaction status for the Psychology Department. We declared impaction in order to better serve over 700 undergraduate majors by ensuring that they have seats in required courses, which will help them graduate in a timely manner.

Admission to the Psychology major is a selective and competitive process with attention given to GPA, financial need, first-generation college student status, and completion of an Associate Degree for Transfer. The Department, in consultation with the University Admissions Office, reviews admissions criteria on an annual basis. The major can accommodate approximately 350-400 new students annually.

Applications for admission to the major are accepted annually between October 1 and November 30.

Once admitted, the major can be completed in 2 years by students taking 15 units per semester and following an advisor-approved roadmap.

Roughly half of our students take 12-14 units per semester with the remaining students split between those taking fewer than 12 units per semester and those students taking 15 or more units per semester.

Declaring impaction has improved students' time to graduation and has allowed us to lower our student to faculty ratio. Faculty are committed to fostering engaged learning and academic success among our majors and are more available for advising and mentoring with impaction.

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, the student will be able to:

1. Knowledge Base in Psychology

Describe key concepts, principles, and overarching themes in psychology. Develop a working knowledge of psychology's content domains. Describe applications of psychology.

2. Scientific Inquiry and Critical Thinking

Use scientific reasoning to interpret psychological phenomena. Demonstrate psychology information literacy. Engage in innovative and integrative thinking and problem-solving. Interpret, design, and conduct basic psychological research. Incorporate sociocultural factors in scientific inquiry.

3. Ethical and Social Responsibility in a Diverse World

Apply ethical standards to evaluate psychological science practice. Build and enhance interpersonal relationships. Adopt values that build community at local, national, and global levels.

4. Communication

Demonstrate effective writing for different purposes. Exhibit effective presentation skills for different purposes. Interact effectively with others.

5. Professional Development

Apply psychological content and skills to career goals. Exhibit self-efficacy and self-regulation. Refine project management skills. Enhance teamwork capacity. Develop meaningful professional direction for life after.

Psychology (B.A.) – 41-47 Units

The major includes 14 units of core curriculum, 18 units of basic courses, and 9 units of electives. Because of high demand, enrollment priority is given to Psychology majors in all upper-division Psychology courses. Courses numbered 300 and above are not open to freshmen.

- Psychology majors must take PSY 200, PSY 305GW, PSY 371, and PSY 400 for a letter grade and achieve a grade of C or better in all four courses.
- Majors must achieve a grade of CR in PSY 303 and PSY 690.
- PSY 171 (or any quantitative reasoning course) is a prerequisite for PSY 371.

Core Curriculum (14 Units)

Core courses should be taken in the order listed below.

Code	Title	Units
PSY 200	General Psychology	3
PSY 303	Psychology: The Major and the Profession (online)	1
PSY 371	Psychological Statistics	3
PSY 400	Introduction to Research in Psychology	3
PSY 305GW	Writing in Psychology - GVAR	3
PSY 690	Future Directions for Psychology Majors (online)	1

Basic Courses (18-21 Units)

Choose two courses from each of the following Areas 1 through 3:

- Area 1: Basic Psychological Processes (6)
- Area 2: Psychological Development and Individual Differences (6-7)
- Area 3: Social, Cultural, Organizational, and Community Contexts (6-8)

Electives (9-12 Units)

Choose 3 elective courses from courses in Areas 1–3 not used to satisfy the Basic Course requirement and/or from additional upper-division psychology courses.

Areas of Study

Code	Title	Units
Area 1: Basic Psychological Processes		
PSY 432	Cognitive Development: Language, Thinking, and Perception	3
PSY 490	Introduction to Data Science for Psychology	3
PSY 491	Learning	3
PSY 492	Perception	3
PSY 493	Motivation	3
PSY 494	Cognitive Psychology	3
PSY 495	The Psychology of Human Memory	3
PSY 498	Cognitive Neuroscience: Psychological Models	3
PSY 531	Psycholinguistics	3
PSY 581	Physiological Psychology I	3
PSY 582	Physiological Psychology II	3

Area 2: Psychological Development and Individual Differences

PSY 430	Adolescent Psychology	3
PSY 431	Developmental Psychology ¹	3
PSY 433	Social, Emotional, and Personality Development	3
PSY 434	The Psychology of Aging	3
PSY 435	Behavior Problems of Children	3
PSY/SXS 436	The Development of Femaleness and Maleness	4
PSY 442	Health Psychology	3
PSY 451	Theories of Personality	3
PSY 452	Abnormal Psychology: Minor Variants of Personality	3
PSY 521	Introduction to Clinical Psychology	3

Area 3: Social, Cultural, Organizational, and Community Contexts

PSY 440	Social Psychology	3
PSY 441	The Psychology of the Family	3
PSY 455	Cross-Cultural Perspectives in Psychology	3
PSY/SXS 456	Psychology of Human Sexual Behavior	3
PSY 461	Introduction to Industrial/Organizational Psychology	3
PSY 462	Personnel Psychology	3
PSY 463	Human Factors	3
PSY 464	Psychology of Career Pursuit	3
PSY 465	The Psychology of Work-Life Stress	3
PSY 466	Training and Development in Organizations	3
PSY 472	Introduction to Legal Psychology	3
PSY 474	Psychology of Social Justice	3
PSY 475	Psychology of Policing	3
PSY 525	Community Psychology	3
PSY 540	Decision Making: A Perspective from Social Psychology	3
PSY 547	Social Conflict and Conflict Resolution	3
PSY 558 & PSY 559	Field Services Seminar and Psychological Field Service	3-5
PSY 645	Group Processes	3

Additional Courses That May be Used for Electives

PSY 300	Current Issues in Psychology	3
PSY/SXS 320	Sex and Relationships	3
PSY 330	Child Development ¹	3
PSY 443	The Science of Happiness	3
PSY 450/SXS 400/SOC 400	Variations in Human Sexuality	3
PSY 571	Intermediate Psychological Statistics	3
PSY 601	Theoretical Backgrounds in Psychology	3
PSY 668	The Psychology of Leadership	3
PSY 680	Peer Advising in Psychology	3
PSY 685	Projects in the Teaching of Psychology	3
PSY 693	Proseminar I	3
PSY 694	Proseminar II	3
PSY 697	Senior Project Preparation	3
PSY 698	Senior Project in Psychology	3
PSY 699	Independent Study in Psychology	1-4

¹ Students may not use PSY 330 as an elective if they have taken PSY 431.

Complementary Studies

Bachelor of Arts students must complete at least 12 units of Complementary Studies from courses with a prefix other than PSY, and not cross-listed with PSY. (Note: Students may not use an alternate prefix that is cross-listed with the primary prefix for the major.)

Students who complete two majors or a major and a minor automatically complete the Complementary Studies requirement. Additional ways to complete Complementary Studies for students in the Psychology major include 12 units of languages other than English, 12 units from an approved Study Abroad program, 12 units from partial completion of a certificate, or 12 units from any combination of courses in Anthropology, Biology, Child and Adolescent Development, Criminal Justice Studies, Computer Science, Counseling, Education, Ethnic Studies, Philosophy, and Sociology, or a coherent group of courses approved by a major advisor as complementary to the major. All of the units must be separate from units counted in the major. Courses that fulfill the complementary studies requirement may be lower or upper-division units, resident or transfer units, or units taken in approved study abroad programs. Consult with your major advisor for assistance.

Students who have earned AA-T or AA-S degrees may use courses from community colleges to fulfill the Complementary Studies requirement provided the course has a prefix other than Psychology. Students should consult with a major advisor about how transfer units and/or SF State units can best be applied to this requirement in order to ensure degree completion within 60 units.

General Education Requirements

Requirement	Course Level	Units	Area Designation
Oral Communication	LD	3	A1
Written English Communication	LD	3	A2
Critical Thinking	LD	3	A3
Physical Science	LD	3	B1
Life Science	LD	3	B2
Lab Science	LD	1	B3
Mathematics/Quantitative Reasoning	LD	3	B4
Arts	LD	3	C1
Humanities	LD	3	C2
Arts or Humanities	LD	3	C1 or C2
Social Sciences	LD	3	D1
Social Sciences: US History	LD	3	D2
Lifelong Learning and Self-Development (LLD)	LD	3	E
Ethnic Studies	LD	3	F
Physical and/or Life Science	UD	3	UD-B

Arts and/or Humanities	UD	3	UD-C
Social Sciences	UD	3	UD-D

SF State Studies

Courses certified as meeting the SF State Studies requirements may be upper or lower division in General Education (GE), a major or minor, or an elective.

American Ethnic and Racial Minorities	LD or UD	3	AERM
Environmental Sustainability	LD or UD	3	ES
Global Perspectives	LD or UD	3	GP
Social Justice	LD or UD	3	SJ

Note: LD = Lower-Division; UD = Upper-Division.

First-Time Student Roadmap (4 Year)

1. In order to choose your English Composition A2 course and your QR/Math B4 course, please complete the online advising activities at writingadvising.sfsu.edu ([https://writingadvising.sfsu.edu/](https://writingadvising.sfsu.edu)) and mathadvising.sfsu.edu (<https://mathadvising.sfsu.edu/>). Questions? Contact Gator Smart Start. (<https://gatorsmartstart.sfsu.edu/>)
2. Select the row that matches your English course choice for A2.*
3. Select the column that matches your QR/Math course choice for B4.
4. Click the Roadmap that lines up with your row and column.

For example, if you select ENG 104/ENG 105 and a multi-semester QR/math sequence for your first year, then choose Roadmap D.

Course Choice	One-Semester Course	Two-Semester Sequence or Support Course
ENG 114	Roadmap A (http://bulletin.sfsu.edu/colleges/science-engineering/psychology/ba-psychology/roadmap-i-ii-eng/)	Roadmap C (http://bulletin.sfsu.edu/colleges/science-engineering/psychology/ba-psychology/roadmap-iii-iv-eng/)
ENG 104/ENG 105	Roadmap B (http://bulletin.sfsu.edu/colleges/science-engineering/psychology/ba-psychology/roadmap-i-ii-stretch/)	Roadmap D (http://bulletin.sfsu.edu/colleges/science-engineering/psychology/ba-psychology/roadmap-iii-iv-stretch/)

* Composition for Multilingual Students: If taking ENG 209 as your first English course, choose the ENG 114 row. If taking ENG 201 or ENG 212 for your first English course, choose the ENG 104/ENG 105 row.

Transfer Student Roadmap (2 Year)

For students with an AA-T in **Psychology**. [This roadmap opens in a new tab](http://bulletin.sfsu.edu/colleges/science-engineering/psychology/ba-psychology/adt-roadmap/) (<http://bulletin.sfsu.edu/colleges/science-engineering/psychology/ba-psychology/adt-roadmap/>).

SF State Scholars

The San Francisco State Scholars program provides undergraduate students with an accelerated pathway to a graduate degree. Students in this program pursue a bachelor's and master's degree simultaneously. This program allows students to earn graduate credit while in their junior and/or senior year, reducing the number of semesters required for completion of a master's degree.

[This roadmap opens in a new tab.](http://bulletin.sfsu.edu/colleges/science-engineering/psychology/ba-psychology/scholars-roadmap/) (<http://bulletin.sfsu.edu/colleges/science-engineering/psychology/ba-psychology/scholars-roadmap/>)

This degree program is an approved pathway (“similar” major) for students earning the ADT in Psychology

California legislation SB 1440 (2009) mandated the creation of the Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT) to be awarded by the California Community Colleges. Two types of ADTs are awarded: Associate in Arts for Transfer (AA-T) and Associate in Science for Transfer (AS-T).

Note: no specific degree is required for admission as an upper-division student. However, the ADT includes specific guarantees related to admission and graduation and is designed to clarify the transfer process and strengthen lower-division preparation for the major.

An ADT totals 60 units and in most cases includes completion of all lower-division General Education requirements and at least 18 units in a specific major. (The Biology, Chemistry, and Environmental Science AS-T degrees defer 3 units in lower-division GE area C and 3 units in lower-division GE area D until after transfer.) Students pursuing an ADT are guaranteed admission to the CSU if minimum eligibility requirements are met, though not necessarily to the CSU campus of primary choice.

Upon verification that the ADT has been awarded prior to matriculation at SF State, students are guaranteed B.A. or B.S. completion in 60 units if pursuing a “similar” major after transfer. Determinations about “similar” majors at SF State are made by faculty in the discipline.

Degree completion in 60 units cannot be guaranteed when a student simultaneously pursues an additional major, a minor, certificate, or credential.

A sample advising roadmap for students who have earned an ADT and continue in a “similar” major at SF State is available on the Roadmaps tab on the degree requirements page for the major. The roadmap displays:

- How many lower-division units required for the major have been completed upon entry based on the award of a specific ADT;
- Which lower-division requirements are considered complete upon entry based on the award of a specific ADT;
- How to complete the remaining 60 units for the degree in four semesters.

Students who have earned an ADT should seek advising in the major department during the first semester of attendance.

General Advising Information for Transfer Students

1. Before transfer, complete as many lower-division requirements or electives for this major as possible.

2. The following courses are not required for admission but are required for graduation. Students are strongly encouraged to complete these units before transfer; doing so will provide more flexibility in course selection after transfer.

- a course in U.S. History
- a course in U.S. & California Government

For information about satisfying the requirements described in (1) and (2) above at a California Community College (CCC), please visit <http://www.assist.org> (<http://assist.org>). Check any geographically accessible CCCs; sometimes options include more than one college. Use ASSIST to determine:

- Which courses at a CCC satisfy any lower-division major requirements for this major;
- Which courses at a CCC satisfy CSU GE, US History, and US & CA Government requirements.

Remedial courses are not transferable and do not apply to the minimum 60 semester units/90 quarter units required for admission.

Additional units for courses that are repeated do not apply to the minimum 60 units required for upper-division transfer (for example, if a course was not passed on the first attempt or was taken to earn a better grade).

Before leaving the last California Community College of attendance, obtain a summary of completion of lower-division General Education units (IGETC or CSU GE Breadth). This is often referred to as a GE certification worksheet. SF State does not require delivery of this certification to Admissions, but students should retain this document for verifying degree progress after transfer.

Credit for Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, or College-Level Examination Program courses: AP/IB/CLEP credit is not automatically transferred from the previous institution. Units are transferred only when an official score report is delivered to SF State. Credit is based on the academic year during which exams were taken. Refer to the University Bulletin in effect during the year of AP/IB/CLEP examination(s) for details regarding the award of credit for AP/IB/CLEP.

Students pursuing majors in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines often defer 6-9 units of lower-division General Education in Areas C and D until after transfer to focus on preparation courses for the major. This advice does not apply to students pursuing associate degree completion before transfer.

Transferring From Institutions Other Than CCCs or CSUs

Review SF State's lower-division General Education requirements. Note that, as described below, the four basic skills courses required for admission meet A1, A2, A3, and B4 in the SF State GE pattern. Courses that fulfill the remaining areas of SF State's lower-division GE pattern are available at most two-year and four-year colleges and universities.

Of the four required basic skills courses, a course in critical thinking (A3) may not be widely offered outside the CCC and CSU systems. Students should attempt to identify and take an appropriate course no later than the term of application to the CSU. To review more information about the A3 requirement, please visit bulletin.sfsu.edu/undergraduate-education/general-education/lower-division/#AAEL.

Waiting until after transfer to take a single course at SF State that meets both US and CA/local government requirements may be an appropriate option, particularly if transferring from outside of California.

All Students Must Meet the Transfer Eligibility Requirements Outlined Below for Admission.

For more information, visit the Undergraduate Admissions section (<http://bulletin.sfsu.edu/undergraduate-admissions/>).

- Complete 60 or more transferable semester units or 90 or more quarter units.
- Earn a college grade point average of 2.0 or better in all transferable courses. Non-local area residents may be held to a higher GPA standard.
- Be in good standing at the last college or university attended.
- Complete 30-semester units (45-quarter units) of General Education, including four basic skills courses:
 - a. One course in oral communication (same as CSU GE Area A1)
 - b. One course in written composition (same as CSU GE Area A2)
 - c. One course in critical thinking (same as CSU GE Area A3)
 - d. One course in mathematics or quantitative reasoning (same as CSU GE Area B4)
- The four basic skills courses and a minimum of 60 transferable semester units (90-quarter units) must be completed by the spring semester prior to fall admission, or by the fall semester prior to spring admission. Earn a C- or better grade in each basic skills course.