

Information for Psychological Science Majors



Psychological Science Program (PSYC) at CSUSM

The PSYC major in the Psychology Department has a strong focus on empirical research in psychological science, with preparation for graduate study in all areas of psychology (including clinical and counseling psychology). Students who are primarily interested in working with children or adolescents may want to consider the Child & Adolescent Development (CHAD) major. Several introductory courses for PSYC and CHAD are the same, so you don't need to choose now.

Major Requirements

Lower Division Requirements (9 units)

PSYC 100	Introduction to Psychology
PSYC 220	Introduction to Statistics in Psychology
PSYC 230	Research Methods in Psychology (with lab*)
*Note to Transfer Students: If a Research Methods course is completed without a lab at a Community College , you will be required to complete the lab at CSUSM (PSYC 231) or take PSYC 230 at CSUSM.	

These courses are also pre-requisites for many upper-division courses – complete them in your first semester if possible.

Language Proficiency (0-9 units)

This requirement can be met in one of eight ways. See PSYC Major Worksheet on website.

Transfer Students!

Will your transfer courses meet the lower-division requirements for the major?

For articulation with community colleges, visit www.assist.org

Required Core Lecture Courses (22 units)

PSYC 332	Social Psychology
PSYC 360	Biopsychology
PSYC 362	Cognitive Processes
PSYC 402	Psychological Testing
PSYC 490	History of Psychology
PSYC 331, 349, or 356	Developmental Psychology (choose 1)
PSYC 334 or 336	Personality or Abnormal Psychology (choose 1)

Upper Division Requirements (18 units)

PSYC 390 through 396	Laboratory Courses (choose 2)
See PSYC Major Worksheet	Applied Psychology Course (choose 1)
300-, 400-, or 500-level PSYC courses	Upper division Psychology electives (choose 3)

Minimum Grade of "C"

You must earn a grade of "C" or higher in every course in order to count it toward the major.

If you earn a "C-" or lower, you will have to repeat the course.

Breadth Requirement (3 units)

The course you choose for your UDJGE area DD (social science) course cannot be a Psychology or CHAD course – it must be a course outside of our department.

Setting Yourself Up for Success



- Plan to spend at least 8 hours per week for each 3-unit course. For a full load of 5 classes, this is a minimum of 40 hours per week devoted to school. Consider taking 4 classes for school-work-life balance and staying on track to graduate by taking courses in summer sessions.
- Stay connected and gain assistance by visiting your professors' office hours, get assistance with statistics or research by visiting *PARL*, and get involved in university and department activities.

Helpful Resources



Psychology Dept. website, <https://www.csusm.edu/psychology>
Psychology Academic Resource Library (PARL),
<https://www.csusm.edu/psychology/currentstudents/parl.html>
CSUSM Student Resources & Services, <https://www.csusm.edu/students>