Welcome to Psychology

California State University San Marcos

Orientation to the Psychological Science major
For more information

• Psychology Program website: http://www.csusm.edu/psychology
  • Click on BA program link:
    • Psychological Science student handbook
    • Psychological Science major and minor requirements worksheets
Perspective on the Psychological Science Program

- Strong focus on empirical research
  - Major provides a very strong background for admission to doctoral study in all areas of psychology (including clinical and counseling)
- Primarily interested in working with children or adolescents?
  - Think about the Child & Adolescent Development (CHAD) major
- Several of the introductory courses for PSYC and CHAD are the same, so you don’t need to choose now
Requirements for the Majors

- Will your Transfer Courses meet the requirements for the major?
  - Articulation with community colleges for lower-division courses
  - [www.assist.org](http://www.assist.org)
  - Check with the Psychology faculty advisors (Dr. Dustin Calvillo, dcalvill@csusm.edu or Dr. Gerardo Gonzalez, ggonz@csusm.edu) for course equivalency/substitution if needed
Lower-Division Requirements

• Required courses
  • PSYC 100: Introduction to Psychology
  • PSYC 220: Introductory Statistics in Psychology
  • PSYC 230: Research Methods in Psychology (including a lab component)

• These courses are also pre-requisites for many upper-division courses—finish them up in your first semester if possible

• Must have a grade of C or better to count as prerequisites and to count toward the major
Articulated classes from local community colleges

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CSUSM requirement</th>
<th>Accepted community college courses</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 100: Introduction to Psychology</td>
<td>Any Introduction to Psychology or General Psychology course</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYC 220: Introductory Statistics in Psychology</td>
<td>Palomar: PSYC 205 or SOC 205</td>
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<td>MiraCosta: PSYC 104 or SOC 104</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mt. San Jacinto: MATH 140</td>
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<td></td>
<td>SDCCD Mesa, Miramar, City: PSYC 258</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYC 230: Research Methods in Psychology</td>
<td>Palomar: PSYC 230</td>
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<td>MiraCosta: PSYC 205</td>
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<td>Mount San Jacinto: PSYC 124 (Fall 2017 or later)</td>
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Psychology Upper-Division Requirements

• Core lecture courses
  • PSYC 332 Social Psychology
  • PSYC 360 Biopsychology
  • PSYC 362 Cognitive Processes
  • PSYC 402 Psychological Testing
  • PSYC 490 History of Psychology
  • Developmental Psychology (PSYC 331, 349, or 356)
  • PSYC 334 (Personality) or 336 (Abnormal)
Psychology Upper-Division Requirements

- Applied Psychology (from a menu)

- Two upper-division laboratory courses (PSYC 390-PSYC 396)

- Three additional electives
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.
Additional Opportunities

• Go beyond the basic requirements:
  • Get involved in research work with faculty members and other students
  • Students publish, present papers, etc.
  • Consider field placement, independent study

• Graduate School Bound?
  • Faculty members need to know you beyond just your courses to be able to write a strong and detailed letter of recommendation
Student Organizations
Open to PSYC Majors

- Psychology Student Organization
  - Open to all interested students
- Psi Chi: International Honor Society in Psychology
  - Overall GPA in top 35% of class (usually between 3.1 and 3.25)
  - Minimum psychology GPA=3.0
- Great opportunities for involvement with other students and faculty members
  - Good for networking
  - Good on your resume
In April/May we host a student research fair

- Keynote speakers are major figures in the field
- Students present their research in posters and papers
- Career panel
- Graduate program panel
- And much more!

Get involved in research fair planning!
Department Faculty

• A description of each faculty member’s background and interests is listed in our handbook

• We have a commitment to working closely with students; we like to work with you

• Find faculty whose interests are related to yours and get to know them
Registration

- Some courses are already full and closed, but there are seats open in many of the courses you need to take.

- Crashing courses
  - Get yourself on the waitlist for courses you want, and monitor your position.
  - Faculty tend to honor the waitlist unless there are unusual circumstances.
Questions?