

PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Mission

The Psychological Sciences program builds knowledge and skill basic to our 21st century science. Students will be able to transfer knowledge and skills to careers in a diverse world and to better understand themselves and others.

Student Learning Outcomes

The undergraduate Psychological Sciences program at Chadron State College adopted student learning outcomes associated with five comprehensive learning goals developed by the American Psychological Association (APA).¹ Students completing a major in Psychological Sciences will be tested in “performance indicators” embedded throughout the curricula as part of the assessment strategy adopted by the Undergraduate Psychological Sciences Program Committee.

Goals¹

1. Knowledge Base in Psychology

Students should demonstrate fundamental knowledge and comprehension of the major concepts, theoretical trends, and empirical findings to discuss how psychological principles apply to behavioral problems. Students completing foundation courses should demonstrate breadth of their knowledge and application of psychological ideas to simple problems; students completing a baccalaureate degree should show depth in their knowledge and application of psychological concepts and frameworks to problems of greater complexity.

1.1 Describe key concepts, principles, and overarching themes in psychology.

1.2 Describe applications of psychology

2. Scientific Inquiry and Critical Thinking

The skills in this domain involve the development of scientific reasoning and problem solving, including effective research methods. Students completing foundation-level courses should learn basic skills and concepts in interpreting behavior, studying research, and applying research design principles to drawing conclusions about psychological phenomena; students completing a baccalaureate degree should focus on theory use as well as designing and executing research plans.

2.1 Demonstrate psychology information literacy.

2.2 Interpret, design, and conduct basic psychological research.

3. Ethical and Social Responsibility in a Diverse World

The skills in this domain involve the development of ethically and socially responsible behaviors for professional and personal settings in a landscape that involves increasing diversity. Students completing foundation-level courses should become familiar with the formal regulations that govern professional ethics in psychology and begin to embrace the values that will contribute to positive outcomes in work settings and in building a society responsive to multicultural and global concerns. Students completing a baccalaureate degree should have more direct opportunities to demonstrate adherence to professional values that will help them optimize their contributions and work effectively, even with those who do not share their heritage and traditions. This domain also promotes the adoption of personal

and professional values that can strengthen community relationships and contributions.

3.1 Apply ethical standards to evaluate psychological science and practice.

4. Communication

Students should demonstrate competence in writing and in oral and interpersonal communication skills. Students completing foundation-level courses should write a cogent scientific argument, present information using a scientific approach, engage in discussion of psychological concepts, explain the ideas of others, and express their own ideas with clarity. Students completing a baccalaureate degree should produce a research study or other psychological project, explain scientific results, and present information to a professional audience. They should also develop flexible interpersonal approaches that optimize information exchange and relationship development.

4.1 Demonstrate effective writing for different purposes.

5. Professional Development

The emphasis in this goal is on application of psychology-specific content and skills, effective self-reflection, project-management skills, teamwork skills, and career preparation. Foundation-level outcomes concentrate on the development of work habits and ethics to succeed in academic settings. The skills in this goal at the baccalaureate level refer to abilities that sharpen student readiness for post baccalaureate employment, graduate school, or professional school. These skills can be developed and refined both in traditional academic settings and in extracurricular involvement.

5.1 Apply psychological content and skills to career goals.

¹ Source: APA Guidelines for the Undergraduate Psychology Major (Version 2.0) (August 2013). Visit <http://www.apa.org/ed/precollege/undergrad/index.aspx> to find the revised APA undergraduate program guidelines.

- Bachelor of Arts – Subject Major in Psychological Sciences (<http://catalog.csc.edu/undergraduate/programs/psychological-sciences/ba-subject-major-psychological-sciences>)
- Psychology (<http://catalog.csc.edu/undergraduate/programs/psychological-sciences/psychology-minor>)
- Social Psychology and Personality Systems (<http://catalog.csc.edu/undergraduate/programs/psychological-sciences/social-psychology-personality-systems-minor>)

PSYC 131 INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCES3 Credits

The course provides an overview of the subfields in current scientific psychology including the biology of behavior, motivation and learning, cognition, development, personality and social psychology. Emphasis is placed on the use of scientific methods to investigate, interpret and describe psychological phenomena.

PSYC 160 SPECIAL TOPICS IN PSYCHOLOGY1-3 Credits

Special topics of current interest in psychology are considered in depth. **Notes:** Students may take more than one special topics course for credit when topics have different course content.

PSYC 231 EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY3 Credits

Reviews key theories and research on human learning and development as applied to student-learning assessment and effective instruction.

Fifteen hours of school observation are required.

Prerequisites: EDUC 131 with a grade of C or better

PSYC 234 COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGY3 Credits

This course introduces the core psychological processes involved in thinking and cognition, including perception, attention, memory, language, decision making and problem solving.

Prerequisites: PSYC 131

PSYC 240 STATISTICS FOR PSYCHOLOGY3 Credits

Methods used in summarizing data and generalizing research results are examined. Students develop skills in descriptive and inferential data analysis in the context of psychological research. Students explore statistical software. Familiarity with algebraic processes is assumed.

Prerequisites: PSYC 131

PSYC 242 MEASUREMENT AND RESEARCH DESIGN3 Credits

Students explore a variety of data collection methods and how they relate to research questions. Students also develop hypotheses, understand the role of ethics in research, participate in psychological studies and prepare research papers.

Prerequisites: PSYC 131 and PSYC 240 (can also be taken as a co-requisite)

Requirements: Lab fees required.

PSYC 243 ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY3 Credits

Students study the past and contemporary theories of abnormal behavior, DSM and other taxonomies, and explore research explaining adaptive and maladaptive human behavior.

Prerequisites: PSYC 131

PSYC 251 SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY3 Credits

This course investigates the science of social influences on human thought and behavior. Topics include how we view others, interpersonal attraction, attitudes, group relations, conformity and leadership.

Prerequisites: PSYC 131

PSYC 254 DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY3 Credits

Major theories and research in human developmental psychology are explored including biological, cognitive and psychosocial development from conception through adulthood.

Prerequisites: PSYC 131

PSYC 390 INTERNSHIP IN PSYCHOLOGY3 Credits

Students interested in practical experiences in psychology.

Prerequisites: Sophomore or above status

Add Consent: Department Consent

Notes: Interested students should contact the Internship and Career Services Office to secure application materials; application should be made prior to the semester the internship will be started; the amount of credit will be based on the availability of a suitable work position, the qualifications of the applicant and the work hours.

PSYC 400 INDEPENDENT RESEARCH3 Credits

Guided independent research in the area of psychology.

Prerequisites: PSYC 131

Add Consent: Department Consent

Notes: The number of credit hours varies in accordance with the topic and the amount of work required.

Requirements: Permission of the advisor, the instructor, and the Dean of Professional Studies and Applied Sciences required.

PSYC 401 TOPICS IN PSYCHOLOGY3 Credits

Individual academic needs of those registered in this course will be accommodated. Normally, the instructor will select the topic in psychology.

Prerequisites: PSYC 131 and permission of the advisor, the instructor, and the Dean of the School of Education, Human Performance, Counseling, Psychology and Social Work

Add Consent: Instructor Consent

Requirements: Permission of the advisor, the instructor, or the Dean of Professional Studies and Applied Sciences.

PSYC 421 CULTURE AND PSYCHOLOGY3 Credits

Current methods and research findings in the field of cross-cultural psychology. The impact of culture on behavioral and psychological processes such as perception, cognition, development, psychopathology and social behavior is explored.

Essential Studies: SLO #10

Prerequisites: PSYC 131 and Junior or above status

PSYC 430 INTRODUCTION TO BEHAVIORAL NEUROSCIENCE3 Credits

This course surveys neural morphology and physiology and, more generally biology's role in the future of scientific psychology. Students examine how the brain drives and reflects behavior.

Essential Studies: SLO #6

Prerequisites: PSYC 131 and Junior or above status

PSYC 435 THEORIES OF PERSONALITY3 Credits

Major theoretical orientations and research in personality psychology are explored.

Prerequisites: PSYC 131 and Junior or above status

PSYC 442 HISTORY OF PSYCHOLOGY3 Credits

Survey of the historical background of psychology, emphasizing its philosophical and scientific origins and evolution of the psychological sciences. Contributions of major schools of psychology are emphasized.

Prerequisites: PSYC 131 and Junior or above status

PSYC 499 ADVANCED RESEARCH METHODS3 Credits

Psychological sciences majors develop and complete a research project including data collection and analysis, as well as preparation of an APA Style research report. This course builds on knowledge from earlier classes and helps students develop skills valued in graduate school and careers.

Prerequisites: PSYC 131, PSYC 240, PSYC 242, and Junior or above status