

# PSYCHOLOGY (BS)

## Health and Human Enrichment

As a Plymouth State psychology major you will engage in wide-ranging study of the mind, brain, and behavior, exploring why people act and think the way they do as you gain an extensive understanding of this fascinating field. Students choose from among three options: Developmental Psychology, Mental Health, 3+2 Mental Health Counseling, or 3+4 School Psychology.

## Developmental Psychology

Students interested in human development can take courses on childhood, adolescent, and adult and aging issues.

## Mental Health

The mental health option helps prepare students for work in a clinical setting as a counselor or therapist. Students take courses related to psychopathology, community mental health, and the treatment of psychological disorders. Students who earn a bachelor's degree are prepared for entry-level employment as case managers or can pursue a graduate degree to be a licensed clinician.

## 3+2 Mental Health Counseling

Qualified PSU students who are majoring in Psychology can enter our accelerated program to become a licensed clinical mental health counselor in just five years. Students who have completed all prerequisite courses and have a minimum 3.5 GPA at the end of their 3rd year of study will be given special consideration for early entry into the Master of Science degree program in Clinical Mental Health Counseling beginning in their 4th year of study. The MS degree program is a two-year program constituted of years four and five for a student who entered the 3+2 program. Students who complete all requirements will earn the Bachelor of Science in Psychology with option in Mental Health at the completion of year four and the Master of Science in Clinical Mental Health Counseling at the completion of year five.

## 3+4 School Psychology

Qualified PSU students who are majoring in Psychology can enter our program to become a licensed school psychologist. Students who have completed all prerequisite courses and have a minimum 3.5 GPA at the end of their 3rd year of study will be given special consideration for early entry into the nationally accredited degree program in School Psychology beginning in their 4th year of study. Students will complete 3 years of graduate study and then a one-year, paid internship. Students who complete all requirements will earn the Bachelor of Science in Psychology with option in Mental Health at the completion of year four and the Master of Education (MEd) and Education Specialist (EdS) degrees in year 7.

## Degree Requirements

Course	Title	Credits
<b>Major Requirements</b>		
PS 2015	Introduction to General Psychology	4
PS 3115	Research Methods and Statistics I (QRCO,TECO)	4
PS 3125	Research Methods and Statistics II (WRCO)	4
PS 3605	Behavioral Neuroscience	4
<b>Group A</b>		

Complete 8 credits from the following: 8

PS 3210	Learning	
PS 3220	Cognitive Psychology	
PS 3035	Social Psychology	

## Capstone

Complete 4 credits from the following: 4

PS 4365	Internship in Psychology	
PS 4405	Psychology Seminar	
PS 4945	Independent Research in Psychology	

General Education (<https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/>)

EN 1400 Composition 4

IS 1115 Tackling a Wicked Problem 4

MA (<https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#MATH>) Mathematics Foundations 3-4

CTDI (<https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#CTDI>) Creative Thought Direction 3-4

PPDI (<https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#PPDI>) Past and Present Direction 3-4

SIDI (<https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#SIDI>) Scientific Inquiry Direction 3-4

SSDI (<https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#SSDI>) Self and Society Direction 3-4

Directions (choose from CTDI, PPDI, SIDI, SSDI) (<https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/>)<sup>1</sup> 4-8

DICO (<https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#DICO>) Diversity Connection 3-4

GACO (<https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#GACO>) Global Awareness Connection 3-4

INCP (<https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#INCP>) Integrated Capstone 4

WECO (<https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#WECO>) Wellness Connection 3-4

**Option Requirements**

Complete one from the following required options:	46-55
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Developmental
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Mental Health
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3+2 in Mental Health Counseling
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3+4 in School Psychology
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<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>120</b>
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<sup>1</sup> Directions should total 20 credits (unless the major has a waiver for a specific Direction).

**Developmental Option of BS Psychology**

Course	Title	Credits
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**Option Requirements**

PS 2055	Lifespan Developmental Psychology	4
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**Group B**

Complete 8 credits from the following:	8
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PS 3175
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PS 3105
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PS 3565	Adulthood and Aging
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Electives	28-36
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<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>40-48</b>
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**Mental Health Option of BS Psychology**

Course	Title	Credits
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**Option Requirements**

PS 2055	Lifespan Developmental Psychology	4
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PS 3325	Psychopathology	4
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PS 4335	Community Mental Health	4
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PS 4355	Treatment of Psychological Disorders	4
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Electives	25-33
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<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>41-49</b>
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**3+2 Option in Mental Health Counseling**

Course	Title	Credits
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**Pre-Mental Health Counseling Option Requirements**

PS 2055	Lifespan Developmental Psychology	4
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PS 3325	Psychopathology	4
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PS 4335	Community Mental Health	4
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PS 4355	Treatment of Psychological Disorders	4
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**3+2 in Mental Health Counseling courses <sup>1</sup>**

CO 5040	Diversity and Advocacy in Helping Relationships	3
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CO 5720	Addictions & Related Disorders	3
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CO 5010	Professional Orientation and Ethics	3
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CO 5260	Counseling Theories and Personality	3
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CO 5070	Research Design in the Helping Professions	3
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CO 5770	Psychopathology: Disorders of Childhood, Adolescence and Adulthood	3
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CO 5020	Counseling Skills	3
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CO 5790	Assessment, Diagnosis, and Treatment Planning	3
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CO 5230	Career Counseling and Development	3
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CO 5430	Assessment for Counselors	3
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<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>46</b>
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<sup>1</sup> Minimum cumulative GPA of 3.5 required for early application to the graduate program. Graduate admission required for full-time enrollment in graduate courses.

**3+4 Option in School Psychology**

Course	Title	Credits
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**Pre-School Psychology Option Requirements**

PS 2055	Lifespan Developmental Psychology	4
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PS 3325	Psychopathology	4
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PS 4335	Community Mental Health	4
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PS 4355	Treatment of Psychological Disorders	4
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**3+4 in School Psychology courses <sup>1</sup>**

CO 5040	Diversity and Advocacy in Helping Relationships	3
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CO 5050	Advanced Human Development	3
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SY 6010	Foundations-School Psychology	3
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CO 5770	Psychopathology: Disorders of Childhood, Adolescence and Adulthood	3
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SY 5300	Foundations and Multicultural Aspects of Parenting	3
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CO 5070	Research Design in the Helping Professions	3
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CO 5260	Counseling Theories and Personality	3
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CO 5780	Working with Youth and Systems	3
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**Group B**

Complete 6 credits from the following:	6
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SY 7000	Cognition and Learning: From Theory to Practice
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SY 7100	Behavioral Assessment, Analysis, and Intervention
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SY 7200	Administering Individual Intelligence Tests
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SY 7300	Educational Assessment & Consultation
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CO 5020	Counseling Skills
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CO 5130	Psychopharmacology and the Biological Basis of Mental Health
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CO 5650	Critical Issues in Schools
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<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>46</b>
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<sup>1</sup> Minimum cumulative GPA of 3.5 required for early application to the graduate program. Graduate admission required for full-time enrollment in graduate courses.

**Recommended Course Sequence**

Check all course descriptions for prerequisites before planning course schedule. Course sequence is suggested but not required.

To complete the bachelor's degree in 4 years, you must successfully complete a minimum of 15 credits each semester or have a plan to make up credits over the course of the 4 years. For example, if you take 14 credits one semester, you need to take 16 credits in another semester. Credits completed must count toward your program requirements (major, option, minor, certificate, general education or free electives).

**Required Options in this Major**

Complete one option

## Developmental Option of BS Psychology

Check all course descriptions for prerequisites before planning course schedule. Course sequence is suggested but not required.

Course	Title	Credits
<b>Year One</b>		
<b>Fall</b>		
EN 1400	Composition	4
IS 1115	Tackling a Wicked Problem	4
PS 2015	Introduction to General Psychology	4
SIDI ( <a href="https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#SIDI">https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#SIDI</a> )	Scientific Inquiry Direction	3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>15</b>
<b>Spring</b>		
PS 2055	Lifespan Developmental Psychology	4
MA ( <a href="https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#MATH">https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#MATH</a> )	Mathematics Foundations	3
PPDI ( <a href="https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#PPDI">https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#PPDI</a> )	Past and Present Direction	4
SSDI ( <a href="https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#SSDI">https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#SSDI</a> )	Self and Society Direction	4
<b>Credits</b>		<b>15</b>
<b>Year Two</b>		
<b>Fall</b>		
PS 3115	Research Methods and Statistics I (QRCO,TECO)	4
CTDI ( <a href="https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#CTDI">https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#CTDI</a> )	Creative Thought Direction	3
Directions (choose from CTDI, PPDI, SSDI, SSDI) ( <a href="https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/">https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/</a> ) <sup>1</sup>		4
Electives		4
<b>Credits</b>		<b>15</b>
<b>Spring</b>		
Choose one Developmental course from the following:		4
PS 3105		
PS 3175		
PS 3565	Adulthood and Aging	
PS 3125	Research Methods and Statistics II (WRCO)	4
DICO ( <a href="https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#DICO">https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#DICO</a> )	Diversity Connection	4
Electives		4
<b>Credits</b>		<b>16</b>

## Year Three

### Fall

Choose one Lab course from the following:		4
PS 3035	Social Psychology	
PS 3210	Learning	
PS 3220	Cognitive Psychology	
PS 3605	Behavioral Neuroscience	4
INCP ( <a href="https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#INCP">https:// coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/ general-education/ #INCP</a> )	Integrated Capstone	4
WECO ( <a href="https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#WECO">https:// coursecatalog.plymo general-education/ #WECO</a> )	Wellness Connection	4
Credits		16

### Spring

Choose one Lab course from the following:		4
PS 3035	Social Psychology	
PS 3210	Learning	
PS 3220	Cognitive Psychology	
Choose one Developmental course from the following:		4
PS 3105		
PS 3175		
PS 3565	Adulthood and Aging	
GACO ( <a href="https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#GACO">https:// coursecatalog.plymouth general-education/ #GACO</a> )	Global Awareness Connection	4
Electives		4
Credits		16

## Year Four

### Fall

Choose one Capstone course from the following:		4
PS 4365	Internship in Psychology	
PS 4405	Psychology Seminar	
PS 4945	Independent Research in Psychology	
Electives		11
Credits		15
Spring		
Electives		12
Credits		12
Total Credits		120

<sup>1</sup> Directions should total 20 credits (unless the major has a waiver for a specific Direction).

## Mental Health Option of BS Psychology

Check all course descriptions for prerequisites before planning course schedule. Course sequence is suggested but not required.

Course	Title	Credits
<b>Year One</b>		
<b>Fall</b>		
EN 1400	Composition	4
IS 1115	Tackling a Wicked Problem	4
PS 2015	Introduction to General Psychology	4
SIDI ( <a href="https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#SIDI">https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#SIDI</a> )	Scientific Inquiry Direction	3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>15</b>
<b>Spring</b>		
PS 2055	Lifespan Developmental Psychology	4
MA ( <a href="https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#MATH">https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#MATH</a> )	Mathematics Foundations	3
PPDI ( <a href="https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#PPDI">https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#PPDI</a> )	Past and Present Direction	4
SSDI ( <a href="https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#SSDI">https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#SSDI</a> )	Self and Society Direction	4
<b>Credits</b>		<b>15</b>
<b>Year Two</b>		
<b>Fall</b>		
PS 3115	Research Methods and Statistics I (QRCO,TECO)	4
CTDI ( <a href="https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#CTDI">https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#CTDI</a> )	Creative Thought Direction	3
Directions (choose from CTDI, PPDI, SSDI, SSDI) ( <a href="https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/">https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/</a> ) <sup>1</sup>		4
Electives		4
<b>Credits</b>		<b>15</b>
<b>Spring</b>		
PS 3125	Research Methods and Statistics II (WRCO)	4
PS 3605	Behavioral Neuroscience	4
PS 3325	Psychopathology	4
DICO ( <a href="https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#DICO">https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#DICO</a> )	Diversity Connection	4
<b>Credits</b>		<b>16</b>
<b>Year Three</b>		
<b>Fall</b>		
Choose one Lab course from the following:		4
PS 3035	Social Psychology	
PS 3210	Learning	
PS 3220	Cognitive Psychology	
PS 4335	Community Mental Health	4

INCP ( <a href="https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#INCP">https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#INCP</a> )	Integrated Capstone	4
WECO ( <a href="https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#WECO">https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#WECO</a> )	Wellness Connection	4
<b>Credits</b>		<b>16</b>
<b>Spring</b>		
Choose one Lab course from the following:		4
PS 3035	Social Psychology	
PS 3210	Learning	
PS 3220	Cognitive Psychology	
PS 4355	Treatment of Psychological Disorders	4
GACO ( <a href="https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#GACO">https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#GACO</a> )	Global Awareness Connection	4
Electives		4
<b>Credits</b>		<b>16</b>
<b>Year Four</b>		
<b>Fall</b>		
Choose one Capstone from the following:		4
PS 4365	Internship in Psychology	
PS 4405	Psychology Seminar	
PS 4945	Independent Research in Psychology	
Electives		11
<b>Credits</b>		<b>15</b>
<b>Spring</b>		
Electives		12
<b>Credits</b>		<b>12</b>
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>120</b>

<sup>1</sup> Directions should total 20 credits (unless the major has a waiver for a specific Direction).

### 3+2 Clinical Mental Health

Course	Title	Credits
<b>Year One</b>		
<b>Fall</b>		
EN 1400	Composition	4
IS 1115	Tackling a Wicked Problem	4
PS 2015	Introduction to General Psychology	4
SIDI ( <a href="https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#SIDI">https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#SIDI</a> )	Scientific Inquiry Direction	4
<b>Credits</b>		<b>16</b>
<b>Spring</b>		
PS 2055	Lifespan Developmental Psychology	4

MA ( <a href="https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#MATH">https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#MATH</a> )	Mathematics Foundations	4
PPDI ( <a href="https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#PPDI">https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#PPDI</a> )	Past and Present Direction	4
SSDI ( <a href="https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#SSDI">https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#SSDI</a> )	Self and Society Direction	4

**Credits** 16

#### Year Two

##### Fall

PS 3115	Research Methods and Statistics I (QRCO,TECO)	4
CTDI ( <a href="https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#CTDI">https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#CTDI</a> )	Creative Thought Direction	4
Directions (choose from CTDI, PPDI, SIDI, SSDI) ( <a href="https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/">https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/</a> )		4
PS 3605	Behavioral Neuroscience	4

**Credits** 16

##### Spring

PS 3125	Research Methods and Statistics II (WRCO)	4
WECO ( <a href="https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#WECO">https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#WECO</a> )	Wellness Connection	4
PS 3325	Psychopathology	4
DICO ( <a href="https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#DICO">https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#DICO</a> )	Diversity Connection	4

**Credits** 16

#### Year Three

##### Fall

Choose one lab course from the following:		4
PS 3035	Social Psychology	
PS 3210	Learning	
PS 3220	Cognitive Psychology	
PS 4335	Community Mental Health	4
INCP ( <a href="https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#INCP">https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#INCP</a> )	Integrated Capstone	4
GACO ( <a href="https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#GACO">https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#GACO</a> )	Global Awareness Connection	4

**Credits** 16

##### Spring

Choose one Lab course from the following:		4
PS 3035	Social Psychology	

PS 3210	Learning	
PS 3220	Cognitive Psychology	
PS 4355	Treatment of Psychological Disorders	4
Choose one Capstone from the following:		4
PS 4365	Internship in Psychology	
PS 4405	Psychology Seminar	
PS 4945	Independent Research in Psychology	

**Credits** 12

#### Year Four

##### Fall

CO 5010	Professional Orientation and Ethics	3
CO 5260	Counseling Theories and Personality	3
CO 5070	Research Design in the Helping Professions	3
CO 5770	Psychopathology: Disorders of Childhood, Adolescence and Adulthood	3

**Credits** 12

##### Spring

CO 5020	Counseling Skills	3
CO 5790	Assessment, Diagnosis, and Treatment Planning	3
CO 5230	Career Counseling and Development	3
CO 5430	Assessment for Counselors	3

**Credits** 12

##### Summer

CO 5040	Diversity and Advocacy in Helping Relationships	3
CO 5720	Addictions & Related Disorders	3

**Credits** 6

**Total Credits** 122

### 3+4 School Psychology

Course	Title	Credits
<b>Year One</b>		
<b>Fall</b>		
EN 1400	Composition	4
IS 1115	Tackling a Wicked Problem	4
PS 2015	Introduction to General Psychology	4
SIDI ( <a href="https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#SIDI">https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#SIDI</a> )	Scientific Inquiry Direction	4
<b>Credits</b>		16

##### Spring

PS 2055	Lifespan Developmental Psychology	4
MA ( <a href="https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#MATH">https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#MATH</a> )	Mathematics Foundations	4
PPDI ( <a href="https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#PPDI">https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#PPDI</a> )	Past and Present Direction	4

SSDI ( <a href="https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#SSDI">https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#SSDI</a> )	Self and Society Direction	4
<b>Credits</b>		<b>16</b>
<b>Year Two</b>		
<b>Fall</b>		
PS 3115	Research Methods and Statistics I (QRCO,TECO)	4
CTDI ( <a href="https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#CTDI">https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#CTDI</a> )	Creative Thought Direction	4
Directions (choose from CTDI, PPDI, SIDI, SSDI) ( <a href="https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/">https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/</a> )		4
PS 3605	Behavioral Neuroscience	4
<b>Credits</b>		<b>16</b>
<b>Spring</b>		
PS 3125	Research Methods and Statistics II (WRCO)	4
WECO ( <a href="https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#WECO">https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#WECO</a> )	Wellness Connection	4
PS 3325	Psychopathology	4
DICO ( <a href="https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#DICO">https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#DICO</a> )	Diversity Connection	4
<b>Credits</b>		<b>16</b>
<b>Year Three</b>		
<b>Fall</b>		
Choose one Lab from the following:		4
PS 3035	Social Psychology	
PS 3210	Learning	
PS 3220	Cognitive Psychology	
PS 4335	Community Mental Health	4
INCP ( <a href="https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#INCP">https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#INCP</a> )	Integrated Capstone	4
GACO ( <a href="https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#GACO">https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#GACO</a> )	Global Awareness Connection	4
<b>Credits</b>		<b>16</b>
<b>Spring</b>		
Choose one Lab course from the following:		4
PS 3035	Social Psychology	
PS 3210	Learning	
PS 3220	Cognitive Psychology	
PS 4355	Treatment of Psychological Disorders	4
Choose one Capstone from the following:		4
PS 4365	Internship in Psychology	
PS 4405	Psychology Seminar	

PS 4945	Independent Research in Psychology	
<b>Credits</b>		<b>12</b>
<b>Year Four</b>		
<b>Fall</b>		
CO 5040	Diversity and Advocacy in Helping Relationships	3
CO 5050	Advanced Human Development	3
SY 6010	Foundations-School Psychology	3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>9</b>
<b>Spring</b>		
CO 5770	Psychopathology: Disorders of Childhood, Adolescence and Adulthood	3
SY 5300	Foundations and Multicultural Aspects of Parenting	3
CO 5070	Research Design in the Helping Professions	3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>9</b>
<b>Summer</b>		
CO 5260	Counseling Theories and Personality	3
CO 5780	Working with Youth and Systems	3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>6</b>
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>116</b>

## Learning Outcomes

Students of Psychology will leave PSU knowing:

- General content knowledge across the range of psychology's major subareas.
- About the Nature/Nurture issue: The degree to which any behavior, emotion or mental condition is the result of genetic (nature) or environmental influences (nurture), such as learning or exposure to situations or substances before or after birth.
- How to conduct experiments, with humans or animals, to identify factors that predict or cause changes in any type of behavior or mental process.
- How to carry out statistical analyses on data collected in the above-noted experiments and interpret the findings.
- How to communicate the results of completed studies in writing (using American Psychological Association [APA] format) and verbally, both clearly and effectively.
- How to separate pseudoscience from legitimate scientific knowledge in the behavioral sciences as well as areas outside our field (e.g., medicine).
- How to recognize one-sided sources of information, be they political, theoretical, religious, philosophical or otherwise, and seek out balanced, ideally non-partisan sources of information on the same topics. The difference between empirical questions—those that can be answered by structured observations and organized collections of data—and philosophical questions, which generally cannot be answered empirically.
- How to design and conduct correlational/observational studies to determine which human or environmental factors are reliable predictors of behavior, and under what conditions.
- How to design and carry out “true” experiments to evaluate which human or environmental factors cause changes in behavior, and to



identify how other factors might enhance or weaken the effects of the first.

- How to use statistical software (e.g., SPSS or Minitab) to analyze data from experiments or correlational studies to determine the probability that results could have occurred by chance (e.g., via an unlucky/disproportionate assignment to groups) and the strength of such associations (i.e., what proportion of behavioral variability is accounted for by our factor of interest). Students should be able to understand what the computer-generated results tell us.
- How to critically read reports of studies purporting to accomplish either of the above goals—prediction or causation—and determine whether or to what extent the conclusions are justified by the data.
- How to write clearly and convincingly about why people and animals behave the way they do. This goal applies both to communicating one's own research findings as well as to analyzing, synthesizing and summarizing the results and writings of others.
- How to verbally present to others, about one's own research or knowledge acquired by others, with the goal of educating them about the causes and correlates of human and/or animal behavior.
- How to be sensitive to the ethical considerations of conducting psychological research on human and animal subjects, and adhere to a code of conduct that includes, among other things: Always obtaining informed written consent from subjects before involving them in experiments; getting approval from any animal or human subject committees that oversee such research; and debriefing subjects once the study is completed. Researchers should also be prepared to help subjects get over any negative aftereffects of participation in a research project, such as feeling embarrassed, unintelligent, etc., especially if the study included any type of deception. In the case of deception, subjects should be thoroughly educated about why it needed to be used in the experiment.
- How to identify when correlational data is incorrectly used to support claims about causation. This very important error is pervasive in society and is especially damaging when committed by those with power to affect our lives (e.g., politicians, journalists, medical practitioners, scientists, lawyers, judges and juries). We want our majors to notice and vigorously challenge this error whenever and wherever it is encountered.
- How to perform well on tests of general content knowledge across the major subareas of psychology: learning, memory, cognition, social psychology, personality, sensation and perception, intelligence, motivation, emotion, psychological disorders and their treatment, research design and statistical analysis—and exhibit a fundamental understanding of the biological/neuroscientific bases of all the above-noted topics, as well as how they are affected by development across the lifespan (i.e., prenatal, infancy, childhood, adolescence, adulthood, aging). Along with the nature/nuture issue noted earlier, these last two italicized factors—biology/neuroscience and development across the lifespan—are dominant themes in modern psychology.
- How to be open-minded about things not yet known about human behavior and mental processes, and to resist forming premature and/or impenetrable beliefs about such things.
- How to be critical thinkers who are not afraid to be skeptical about suspicious sounding claims, especially about causes or predictors of behavior, and who demand solid, ideally empirical, evidence before accepting such claims.
- How to be unmoved by arguments by authority figures, especially when better ways exist to get the same information (e.g., science/empiricism).

- How to be willing to educate others about what they've learned about behavior and mental processes—whenever and wherever these topics come up. The field of psychology has begun to prioritize getting “what we know” into the public sphere, where it can and should inform public policy decisions, and students of psychology who share their knowledge are key players in this mission.
- How to be caring, empathic individuals, who, even if they've never experienced the challenges of others, particularly in the area of mental health, can nevertheless understand and appreciate what those challenges might be like. Psychology students who see others suffering from depression, anxiety, memory loss, traumatic stress disorder or any psychological challenge should be advocates for treatment and be willing to do whatever they can to encourage and help others get such help. Most psychological problems can be treated—through counseling/therapy, medication, or other approaches—but many who suffer are unaware of this, and/or believe that to even seek treatment shows weakness. Students of psychology can make a huge difference by challenging these attitudes.

## Career Pathways

There are many different options for careers in Psychology. Here are some suggestions for how to begin your search:

What can I do with a degree in Psychology? – Many students do not realize how many opportunities there are in Psychology. You don't have to go to grad school.

### Psychology Career List

**Direct Care:** Mental Health Counselor, Marriage and Family Therapist, School Psychologist, School Counselor, Recreational Therapist, Clinical Psychologist, Counseling Psychologist, Substance Abuse Counselor, Art Therapist, Social and Human Service Assistant, Fitness and Wellness Coordinator, Community Health Worker, Industrial/Organizational Psychologist, Psychiatrist, Intelligence Analyst, Forensic Science Technician, Healthcare Social Worker, Patient Representative, Genetic Counselor, Probation Officer, Administration, Operations Manager, Public Relations and Fundraising Manager, Technical Writer, Social and Community Service Manager.

**Research:** Clinical Research Coordinator, Social Science Research Assistant, Market Research Analyst, Statistician, Clinical Data Manager, Neuropsychologist, Archivist, Management Analyst, Testing/Test Development, Experimental Psychology.

**Education:** Psychology Teacher, Distance Learning Coordinator, Education Administrator, Instructional Coordinator, Tutor, Instructional Designer, Self-Enrichment Education Teachers.

**Human Resources:** Human Resources Specialist, Training and Development Manager, Compliance Manager, Customer Service Representative, Eligibility Interviewers, Occupational Health and Safety Specialist, Labor Relations Specialist.