Psychology (BA)

Degree Requirements

General Education Requirements (36 Hours)

Area I - Written Composition (2 Courses, 6 Hours)
A. 3 hours: EH 101
B. 3 hours: EH 102

Area II - Humanities & Fine Arts (4 Courses, 12 Hours. Arts And Sciences Majors Take 5 Courses, 15 Hours)
A. 3 hours: CA 110
B. 3 hours from: EH 215, EH 216, EH 225, EH 226, EH 235, EH 236
C. 3 hours from: ARH 100, ARH 103, ARH 123, ARS 101, DRA 110, MUL 101

Area III – Natural Sciences & Mathematics (3 Courses & Labs, 11-14 Hours)
A. 3-4 hours from: MA 110, MA 112, MA 113, MA 115, MA 120, MA 125, MA 126, MA 227, MA 237, MA 238

Area IV – History, Social & Behavioral Sciences (4 Courses, 12 Hours)
A. 3 hours from: HY 101, HY 102, HY 135, HY 136
B. 9 hours from: AN 100, AN 101, CA 100, CA 211, CJ 105, ECO 215, ECO 216, GEO 114, GEO 115, GS 101, HY 101, HY 102, HY 135, HY 136, IS 100, IST 201, NAS 101, PSC 130, PSY 120, PSY 250, SY 109, SY 112

Area V (3 Courses, 9-10 Hours)
A. Foreign Language. 6 hours from any one group:
   LG 101 & LG 102, LGS 106 & LGS 107, LGS 110 & LGS 111, LG 111 & LG 112 or proficiency test or LG 113, LG 121 & LG 122, LG 131 & LG 132 or proficiency test or LG 134, LGS 131 & LGS 132, LG 141 & LG 142, LGS 141 & LGS 142, LG 151 & LG 152 or proficiency test or LG 153, LGS 161 & LGS 162, LG 171 & LG 172 or LG 173, LGS 171 & LGS 172, LGS 181 & LGS 182

   Students may fulfill the foreign language requirement by passing a proficiency test offered by the Department of Modern and Classical Languages at the level equivalent to the second semester of the foreign language sequence, or by passing another test (e.g., AP (Advanced Placement) or CLEP (College Level Examination Program) at the equivalent level). Students who pass a proficiency test at the level equivalent to first semester of the foreign language sequence are required to complete only the second semester and will fulfill the foreign language requirement with 3 credit hours of course work.
B. Natural Sciences/Math. 3-4 hour lab science or math/stat course from:
Students must complete a 6 credit hour sequence either in literature (Area II – EH 215 & EH 216, EH 225 & EH 226, or EH 235 & EH 236) or history (Area IV – HY 101 & HY 102 or HY 135 & HY 136).

All undergraduates must complete two designated writing credit (W) courses, at least one of which must be in the student's major or minor.

**UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES**

The objective of psychology, as a science, is to understand, explain, and predict the behavior of organisms. The Department of Psychology has developed and organized its course offerings to meet three major goals:

1. To provide a strong foundation for those students who plan to enter a graduate school of psychology after completing their undergraduate degree requirements.
2. To assist those students who are planning careers in psychology or in related fields by providing a flexible curriculum that can be designed to meet the career goals of individual students.
3. To meet the needs of those students who are taking psychology courses as part of their liberal arts education.

**Major Requirements (36 Hours)**

**Psychology Core Basic (4 Courses, 12 Hours)**
- A. 15 hours: PSY 120, PSY 220, PSY 320, PSY 310

**Psychology Core Experimental/Learning (2 Courses, 6 Hours)**
- A. 6 hours from: PSY 416, PSY 420 or PSY 317**, PSY 428, PSY 475

**Psychology Core Personality/Social And Abnormal (2 Courses, 6 Hours)**
- A. 6 hours from: PSY 340, PSY 435, PSY 440

**Psychology Core Developmental (1 Course, 3 Hours)**
- A. 3 hours from: PSY 350, PSY 456

**Psychology Core Capstone Course (1 Course, 3 Hours)**
- A. 3 hours from: PSY 412, PSY 414

**Psychology Core Elective (2 Courses, 6 Hours)**

**Minor Requirements (0 Hours)**

A minor is required for this degree program.

**Requirements For A Minor In Psychology**

A minimum of 21 semester hours in Psychology, including PSY 120 or PSY 121, PSY 220 and 15 semester hours of electives (twelve of those must be in courses numbered 300 or above).

**Notes:**

* Recommended Course

** You may take either PSY 420 or PSY 317 but not both.

The remaining six hours of electives needed for a major may be taken from any courses not taken previously (excluding PSY 250).

Students who are preparing for graduate study are encouraged to take all courses listed in the undergraduate core and any additional courses recommended by their faculty advisor. Student research is encouraged by the faculty and students may obtain course credit for individual student research projects in PSY 494. Students pursuing a degree in Psychology also must have a minor in another discipline.
Additional Information

Accelerated Bachelor’s To Master’s Program In Psychology
See Graduate School Bulletin for rules for all Accelerated Bachelor’s to Master’s Programs https://www.southalabama.edu/bulletin/current/colleges-schools/graduate-school/index.html.

Program Description
The USA accelerated bachelor’s to master’s (ABM) in Psychology provides exceptional undergraduate students the opportunity to earn a bachelor’s and master’s degree at an accelerated pace in Psychology. While still an undergraduate, ABM students may count up to 12 credit hours of graduate course work towards their graduate degree. ABM students typically complete the master’s degree within one academic year after completing the undergraduate degree.

Psychology majors are encouraged to apply for the Accelerated Bachelor’s to Master’s (ABM) Program in Psychology. This program is designed to allow the student to complete the Bachelor’s degree in Psychology and the Master’s degree in Psychology (Behavior and Brain Sciences program only) in five years.

Admission Procedures
Admission will be a competitive process. The minimum standards are:

- Have completed at least 90 credit hours
- Have completed at least 30 credit hours at USA
- Must have at least a 3.3 GPA (Cumulative and Psychology)
- Requires 2 letters of recommendation
- Must have a verifiable score on either the ACT, SAT, or GRE

Admission will be based on characteristics of the applicant and research match to the Psychology faculty.

Once admitted into the ABM program, students must maintain at least a 3.0 GPA and remain in good standing to progress into the graduate program.

Program Procedures
ABM students may begin taking graduate courses after completing at least 90 hours of undergraduate credit.

Typically, during their senior undergraduate year, students will take 6 graduate credits per semester for 2 semesters (12 hours) while they are also taking undergraduate courses. Of these 12 graduate hours, 6 hours can count toward both degrees (Bachelor’s and Master’s) if the courses are completed with grades of at least B. Courses with a grade of C can count toward the undergraduate degree but not the graduate degree. Courses with a grade below C cannot count toward the undergraduate or graduate degree.

Upon completing the undergraduate degree, students will apply to the Master’s Psychology (Behavior and Brain Sciences) program. ABM students who are in good standing will be accepted into the Psychology (Behavior and Brain Sciences) Master’s program.

Completion of the Master of Science (Behavior and Brain Sciences) requires successful completion of all requirements, including at least 36 graduate credit hours. Graduate credit taken while an undergraduate that is completed with at least the grade of B will be transferred into the Master’s program upon acceptance into the program and will apply toward the 36 hours required for the Master of Science degree.

A student who withdraws or is dismissed from the ABM program may not count graduate coursework towards both degrees. Graduate courses for which an undergraduate student did not earn an “A” or “B” grade, may not be counted towards the graduate degree.

An ABM student must be a full time student and must complete all degree requirements for the master’s within three semesters of the semester in which they were admitted to the Graduate School. An exception for a fourth semester may be granted where an additional semester is required for final revisions to and submission of a defended thesis. Exceptions to the ABM policy are at the discretion of the Dean of the Graduate School.
Graduation Plan

Psychology (BA): (120 Total Hours)

First Year - Fall Semester

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course ID</th>
<th>Course Description</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CAS 100</td>
<td>First Year Experience- College Success</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>EH 101</td>
<td>English Composition</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math Course</td>
<td>MA 110 or higher: **Area III, A</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Natural Science with Lab</td>
<td>**Area III, B</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>*PSY 120</td>
<td>Introduction to Psychology</td>
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Total Hours 15

First Year - Spring Semester

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<tr>
<th>Course ID</th>
<th>Course Description</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EH 102 or Honors</td>
<td>English Composition II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History</td>
<td>US or Western Civilization: **Area IV, A</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social/Behavioral Science Elective*</td>
<td>**Area IV, B</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fine Arts Elective</td>
<td>**Area II, C</td>
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<tr>
<td>CA 110</td>
<td>Public Speaking</td>
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Total Hours 15

Second Year - Fall Semester

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<th>Course Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Foreign Language I</td>
<td>**Area V, A</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minor Course</td>
<td>Choose a course from your minor</td>
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<tr>
<td>English Literature</td>
<td>**Area II, B</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>Choose a course</td>
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<tr>
<td>*ST 210</td>
<td>Introduction to Statistics</td>
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Total Hours 15
## Second Year - Spring Semester

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<tr>
<td>Foreign Language II</td>
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<td>Minor Course</td>
<td>Choose a course from your minor.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Humanities Elective</td>
<td>**Area II, E</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSY 220</td>
<td>Research Designs/Analysis I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Science with Lab</td>
<td>**Area III, B</td>
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Total Hours 15

## Third Year - Fall Semester

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<tr>
<th>Course ID</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Psychology Core Developmental</td>
<td>PSY 350, PSY 456 (Pick 1)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY 320</td>
<td>Research Design/Analysis II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
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<td>Minor Course</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>Choose a course.</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social/Behavioral Science Elective</td>
<td>**Area IV, B</td>
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Total Hours 15

## Third Year - Spring Semester

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<tr>
<th>Course ID</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Psychology Core Capstone</td>
<td>PSY 412 (W) or PSY 414 (W)</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Psychology Core Experimental/Learning</td>
<td>PSY 416, PSY 420 or PSY 317#, PSY 428, PSY 475 (Pick 2)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychology Core Personality/Social</td>
<td>PSY 340, PSY 435, PSY 440 (Pick 2)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minor Course</td>
<td>Choose a course from your minor.</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minor Course</td>
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#You may take either PSY 420 or PSY 317 but not both.

Total Hours 15
Fourth Year - Fall Semester

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<td>PSY 310</td>
<td>Biopsychology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychology Core/Experimental/Learning</td>
<td>PSY 416, PSY 420 or PSY 317#, PSY 428, PSY 475 (Pick 2)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychology Core/Personality/Social</td>
<td>PSY 340, PSY 435, PSY 440 (Pick 2)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minor Course</td>
<td>Choose a course from your minor.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Psychology Elective</td>
<td>Choose a course from your minor.</td>
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<td>Humanities Elective</td>
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<td>Elective</td>
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Total Hours 15

Notes

*Recommended Course

**See Degree Requirements

Department Information

Department of Psychology website
http://www.southalabama.edu/psychology

Undergraduate Studies

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All first-time freshmen must successfully complete CAS 100: First Year Experience as a degree requirement. Students must enroll during their first term at USA, except for summer-entry students who must enroll in the fall semester following entry.
Accelerated Bachelor’S To Master’S Program In Psychology

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Graduate Study In Psychology
The Department of Psychology accepts applicants to the Master of Science program (non-Clinical/Counseling) and to the Doctor of Philosophy program in Clinical/Counseling Psychology (CCP). Students admitted to the CCP program with a Bachelor’s degree will complete the Master of Science program (Clinical and Counseling Psychology).

The Master of Science degree program in Psychology (non-Clinical/Counseling) is designed to provide individuals with knowledge of current theories, principles, and methods of psychology in preparation for future work toward a doctoral degree, employment
in a research setting or employment in a college teaching position. The Department of Psychology currently accepts applicants to the Master of Science degree program, with an interest in one or more areas of concentration in the Behavioral and Brain Sciences Psychology Program. The available areas of concentration include: Behavioral Statistics/Computational Modeling, Personality and Measurement, Cognitive and Perceptual Processing, Psychophysiology, Social/Developmental Psychology, and College Teaching Preparation.

Students enrolled in the Doctor of Philosophy in Clinical and Counseling Psychology have the opportunity to earn a Master's of Science in Psychology as they progress towards completion of the doctoral degree. Students interested in a graduate degree in Clinical and Counseling Psychology are encouraged to see the full program description of the doctoral program in Clinical and Counseling Psychology under the heading "The Graduate School" for more information www.southalabama.edu/ccp/.

**Requirements For Admission**

Students are admitted Fall Semester only. Applications to the Doctoral CCP Graduate Program should be completed by December 15. Applications to the Masters program in Behavioral and Brain Sciences should be completed by February 15. Late applications will be considered only if there are still openings available. Please note that the Psychology Graduate Program is a competitive program with a limited capacity and admits students to begin in the Fall Semester only.

In addition to the Graduate School application form and required supporting documentation, the Department of Psychology Master of Science requires submission of official GRE scores, a statement of purpose, and three letters of recommendation. Applicants to the Psychology Master of Science concentration in Behavioral and Brain Sciences typically have a minimum GPA of at least a 3.0 on all undergraduate work. In exceptional cases, applicants may be considered with at least a 2.5 GPA on all undergraduate work, or at least a 2.75 GPA on the last 60 hours of undergraduate work. Applicants typically have a minimum GRE score of 300 (verbal + quantitative). In exceptional cases, applicants may be considered with a GRE below 300.

Applicants to the Doctor of Philosophy in Clinical and Counseling Psychology should see www.southalabama.edu/ccp/.

**Non-degree Students**

Applicants for non-degree status in psychology are considered only in exceptional cases and will normally be admitted only if they meet regular admission standards. Following admission, non-degree students must have permission of the department chair and director of graduate studies of the college for each course they wish to enroll in. Enrollment will be approved on a space-available basis with preference being given to degree students. Non-degree students must satisfy the same prerequisites and corequisites as degree students.

**Progress Toward Degree**

All graduate students will be evaluated each semester to determine if they are making satisfactory progress toward completion of degree requirements. Students will be given written reports, including specific deficits, if they are not making satisfactory progress. Such students will have one semester to remedy the specific deficits listed or will be subject to dismissal from the program.

**Graduate Assistantships**

Each year the Psychology Department recommends qualified applicants to the Dean of the Graduate School for graduate assistantships. Application forms for graduate assistantships may be obtained from the Graduate School. The deadline for receipt of completed doctoral assistantship applications is December 15, and for the masters assistantship applications is February 15.