

# Psychology

In the College of Sciences

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## Faculty

Emeritus: Alf, Borges, Bryson, Defran, Dicken, Fenson, Franzini, Gallo, Graham, Grossberg, Harari, Hillix, Hunrichs, Karen, Kass, Koppman, Leckart, Lee, Lynn, McCordick, McDonald, Mollenauer, O'Day, Penn, Plotnik, Psomas, Radlow, Rodin, Rosenbaum, Sattler, Schulte, Scollay, Segal, Smith, Spinetta, Stevens, Turner

Chair: Murphy

Professors: Atkins-Kaplan, Cronan, Dunn (IVC), Graf, Hornbeck, Klonoff, Litrownik, Marlin, Marshall, Martin, Matt, McGivern, Murphy, Price (Joseph), Prislín, Reed, Reilly, Riley, Saccuzzo, Sallis, Scott

Associate Professors: Castañeda (IVC), Friend, Hattrup, Malcarne, Price (Judy), Velasquez

Assistant Professors: Alfonso-Reese, Christensen, Conte, Devos, Ehrhart, K., Ehrhart, M., Gallo, Mattson, Mueller, Roesch, Thomas, Twenge, Yeh

## Offered by the Department

Doctor of Philosophy degree in clinical psychology.

Master of Arts degree in psychology.

Master of Science degree in psychology.

Major in psychology with the B.A. degree in liberal arts and sciences.

Minor in psychology.

## The Major

**What is psychology?** Psychology is the scientific discipline that studies human behavior and mental processes: how human beings develop, learn, think and feel. Psychologists study the relative influences of heredity and experience throughout the life span in a wide variety of environments, including the laboratory, home, school, workplace, jury room, hospital and hospice. Faculty of the Department of Psychology at SDSU focus on a number of areas of psychology. Among these are:

- the effects of prenatal environments, including the influence of hormones and drugs on brain development and later functioning,
- the effects of childhood experience on social-emotional and cognitive development,
- the functioning of adults and the elderly in response to biological and environmental challenges,
- the normal processes of learning, memory and cognition,
- the effectiveness of behavioral and cognitive intervention procedures for enhancing physical and mental well-being.

**What do psychology graduates do?** The majority of students who graduate with a B.A. in psychology enter the job market and find employment in a broad range of settings, including business, state and local government agencies, and health-care services. Because the B.A. in psychology provides a liberal arts education as opposed to technical training, psychology majors will need to acquire job-specific experience or expect additional on-the-job training.

**Does the B.A. in psychology prepare students for graduate work in applied areas?** Students who have maintained strong academic records in psychology often enter masters degree programs in counseling: Clinical Social Work; Marriage, Family and Child Counseling; and School Psychology. Others pursue graduate work in a number of related fields including Program Evaluation, Industrial and

Organizational Psychology, Public Health, Social Ecology, Education, Program Development, Criminal Justice, Law, Administrative Social Work, Human Resource Development, and Medicine.

**What is the Ph.D. in psychology?** Graduate work which leads to the Ph.D. trains one to be a scientific psychologist, to study human behavior and mental processes, and to teach at the university. The Ph.D. in clinical psychology also includes supervised training in clinical practice. The time commitment for earning a Ph.D. degree is considerable, and these programs are highly competitive. Only a small percentage of psychology graduates will in fact go on to earn the Ph.D. in psychology.

## Impacted Program

The psychology major is an impacted program. To be admitted to the psychology major, students must meet the following criteria:

- a. Complete the following courses with a grade of C or higher: Psychology 101, 201, 211, 230, 260, 270, 271; and Biology 100. With the exception of Psychology 201, these courses cannot be taken for credit/no credit (Cr/NC);
- b. Have a cumulative GPA of 2.40 or higher.

To complete the major, students must fulfill the degree requirements for the major described in the catalog in effect at the time they are accepted into SDSU (assuming continuous enrollment).

## Advising

All students planning to major in psychology are urged to make an appointment at the Psychology Undergraduate Advising Office (Life Sciences 03) during their first semester of residence at SDSU. Students who plan to transfer as psychology majors should make an appointment before registering. The Advising Office is open year round and the telephone number is (619) 594-5412.

## Psychology Major

**With the B.A. Degree in Liberal Arts and Sciences**

**(Major Code: 20011)**

All candidates for a degree in liberal arts and sciences must complete the graduation requirements listed in the section of this catalog on "Graduation Requirements." No more than 50 units in psychology courses can apply to the degree.

**A minor is not required for this major.** However, depending on career goals, students may wish to consider minors in areas such as biology, business, public administration, recreation, social work, statistics, and others.

## General Requirements for the Major

**Preparation for the Major.** Psychology 101, 201, 211, 230, 260, 270, 271, and Biology 100. (20 units). With the exception of Psychology 201, these prerequisite courses may not be taken Cr/NC. The minimum grade in each class is C or higher. **NOTE:** Psychology majors may use Psychology 270 to satisfy Mathematics/Quantitative Reasoning General Education requirement. **NOTE ALSO:** A college level statistics course will be accepted from another department in lieu of Psychology 270.

**Language Requirement.** Competency (successfully completing the third college semester or fifth college quarter) is required in one foreign language to fulfill the graduation requirement. Refer to section of catalog on "Graduation Requirements." Psychology majors are urged to discuss scheduling the language requirement with an adviser in the Psychology Undergraduate Advising Office.

**Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement.** Completing one of the approved upper division writing courses (W) with a grade of C (2.0) or better or passing the Writing Proficiency Assessment with a score of 10 or above.

**The Major. Methods.** All majors must complete Psychology 301 or 410 or both. Psychology 301 is suitable for most psychology majors, including those planning to enter the job market after graduation, those undecided about career plans, and those planning to pursue graduate work in related fields such as counseling.

Students planning to pursue graduate work in psychology should take psychology 370 and 410 as early as possible. **Note:** Students enrolling in these courses must have earned a B or better in Psychology 270 or its equivalent. Students unsure of their statistical or computer competence may wish to take Psychology 301 before enrolling in Psychology 370 or 410.

**Breadth.** All majors must complete 12 units selected from a list of content courses covering areas of biological, developmental, abnormal, social, personality, cognitive, and sensation/perception.

**Requirements for the Major.** A minimum of 31 upper division units in psychology to include Psychology 301 or 410 and 12 units, including at least three units from each of the following groups. The remaining three units are selected from Group II or Group III.

**Group I.** One of the following:

Psychology 340 or 344.

**Group II.** At least one of the following:

Psychology 319;

Psychology 331 or 332;

Psychology 333 or 350.

**Group III.** At least one of the following:

Psychology 360 or 361 or 362;

Psychology 380;

Psychology 388.

## Recommendations for Electives

**Employment with the B.A.** Electives should be selected in accord with general career goals. Students interested in health and human services may take courses that focus on psychological health and well-being or issues related to child development. Those interested in business may take courses that focus on industrial, organizational and consumer issues or that emphasize computer skills, measurement, data analysis, or some combination of these.

**Masters programs in counseling.** At SDSU, a Master of Science degree in Counseling is offered by the College of Education and a Master of Social Work degree is offered by the College of Health and Human Services. For these programs students have considerable latitude in the selection of psychology electives, but it is important to develop an appropriate profile of volunteer or work experience.

**Graduate programs in psychology.** Most masters or doctoral programs in psychology require students to have strong research profiles. SDSU psychology majors can accomplish this by completing Psychology 370, 410, and becoming involved as early as possible in faculty-sponsored research.

## Psychology Minor

The minor in psychology consists of 18-21 units selected from one of the following areas:

**Industrial/Organizational:** Psychology 101 and 270 or equivalent; 12 units of upper division psychology to include Psychology 319, 320, 321, and 370. Students with credit in Management 350 or Public Administration 340 may not enroll in Psychology 321, but may select another upper division psychology course. (18 units)

**Personality and Social:** Psychology 101, 230 and 211 or 260; 12 units of upper division psychology courses of which nine must be selected from Psychology 331 or 332 or 333, 340, 350 and 351. (21 units)

Courses in the minor may not be counted toward the major, but may be used to satisfy preparation for the major and general education requirements, if applicable. A minimum of six upper division units must be completed in residence at San Diego State University.

## Courses (PSY)

**Note:** Many psychology courses have enforced prerequisites, meaning the student must provide proof of having completed the prerequisite to the instructor in order to remain enrolled. Students who have not completed an enforced prerequisite and who fail to drop the class officially will be assigned the grade of "WU," which is equivalent to an "F." Before enrolling in psychology courses, students should consult the catalog to determine that they have completed any enforced prerequisites.

### LOWER DIVISION COURSES

#### PSY 101. Introductory Psychology (3) I, II

Facts, principles, and concepts which are basic to understanding human behavior.

#### PSY 201. Introduction to the Psychology Major (1) Cr/NC

Prerequisites: Psychology 101 and completion of 30 units.

Exposure to information about careers in psychology. Includes the identification of career-related strengths and interests and information on postbaccalaureate options in psychology and related fields. Introduction to resources in Psychology Undergraduate Advising and Career Services.

#### PSY 211. Learning (3) I, II

Prerequisite: Psychology 101.

Basic principles and research in animal and human learning.

#### PSY 230. Developmental Psychology (3) I, II

Prerequisite: Psychology 101. **Proof of completion of prerequisite required:** Copy of transcript.

Psychological development of normal individual from conception through childhood, adolescence, and maturity. Emphasis on interdependence of various periods of the individual's life. Not open to students with credit in Child and Family Development 270 or General Studies 130.

#### PSY 250. Faculty Student Mentoring Program (1) Cr/NC

Provides upper class mentors for freshman and community college transfer students. Mentors assist students in locating campus resources, linking them with departmental advisers, identifying tutors in science courses and encouraging students to participate in workshops. Maximum credit two units.

#### PSY 260. Introduction to Physiological Psychology (3) I, II

Prerequisites: Psychology 101 and Biology 100. **Proof of completion of prerequisites required:** Copy of transcript.

Elementary physiology of the nervous system. Physiological mechanisms underlying the psychological phenomena of sensation, perception, emotion, arousal, motivation, learning and memory, and cortical specialization.

## **PSY 270. Statistical Methods in Psychology (3) I, II**

Prerequisites: Psychology 101; concurrent registration in Psychology 271; satisfaction of the Entry-Level Mathematics requirement; and qualification on the Mathematics Departmental Placement Examination, Part IA. **Proof of completion of prerequisites required:** Copy of ELM score or verification of exemption, and verification of registration in Psychology 271.

Quantitative methods in psychology. Measures of central tendency and variability, graphic methods and percentiles, linear correlation and regression, applications of the normal probability curve, and an introduction to statistical inference including analysis of variance and chi-square. Students with credit or concurrent registration in the following lower division statistics courses will be awarded a total of four units for the two (or more) courses: Psychology 270; Biology 215; Civil Engineering 160; Economics 201; Political Science 201; Sociology 201; Statistics 119 and 250.

## **PSY 271. Data Analysis in Psychology (1) I, II**

Two hours of activity in computer laboratory.

Prerequisite: Satisfaction of the Entry-Level Mathematics requirement and credit or concurrent registration in Psychology 270. **Proof of completion of prerequisite required:** Verification of registration in Psychology 270 or copy of transcript.

Statistical and graphic analysis and interpretation of psychological data using computer technology. Activities involve statistical software such as SPSS for Macintosh (Windows) as well as standard spreadsheets.

### **UPPER DIVISION COURSES (Intended for Undergraduates)**

**Note:** *To declare the psychology major, students must report in person to the Psychology Undergraduate Advising Office and provide the Undergraduate Coordinator with evidence of having completed the requirements. Informal transcripts may be used by the Psychology Undergraduate Office to determine declaration of the major. Students should declare the major as soon as they have completed the necessary requirements and should complete no more than 12 units of upper division psychology courses prior to declaring the major. Students who are planning to transfer to SDSU should visit the Psychology Undergraduate Office and develop a plan for declaring the major during the semester prior to enrolling.*

## **PSY 301. Introduction to Research Methods in Psychology (4) I, II**

Three lectures and two hours of activity.

Prerequisites: Psychology 101, 270, and 271. **Proof of completion of prerequisites required:** Copy of transcript. Open only to psychology majors.

Methods used to answer questions in psychology, including case study, observation, survey, experimental, and field study procedures. Class projects using these methods, interpreting results and report writing; critically evaluating research findings.

## **PSY 316. Behavior Modification (3) (Offered only at IVC)**

Prerequisite: Psychology 101. Recommended: Psychology 211.

Contingencies of reinforcement, stimulus control, response shaping, aversive control, and other basic principles of operant behavior applied to understanding and modification of human behavior.

## **PSY 319. Industrial and Organizational Psychology (3) I, II**

Prerequisites: Psychology 101 and 270. **Proof of completion of prerequisites required:** Copy of transcript.

Broad-based survey of various content areas of industrial (e.g. selection, appraisal) and organizational (e.g. motivation, leadership) psychology. Underlying psychological principles that influence human behavior in the workplace. Not open to students with credit in Psychology 320 or 321.

## **PSY 320. Personnel and Industrial Psychology (3) I, II**

Prerequisites: Psychology 319. **Proof of completion of prerequisites required:** Copy of transcript.

Psychological principles applied to industrial problems of selection, placement and training. Students who completed Psychology 321 prior to fall 2003 will be exempt from the Psychology 319 prerequisite during 2004-05 academic year.

## **PSY 321. Organizational Psychology (3) I, II**

Prerequisite: Psychology 319. **Proof of completion of prerequisites required:** Copy of transcript.

Human behavior in context of organizational life. Factors related to effectiveness of individuals and groups within organizations, including organization design, leadership and control, motivation, cooperation, and conflict. Not open to students with credit in Management 350 or Public Administration 340. Students who completed Psychology 320 prior to fall 2003 will be exempt from the Psychology 319 prerequisite during 2004-05 academic year.

## **PSY 331. Psychology of Infant and Child Development (3) I, II**

Prerequisite: Psychology 101 and 230. **Proof of completion of prerequisite required for Psychology 230:** Copy of transcript.

Psychological development of normal child from infancy through childhood focusing on physical, social, cognitive, and linguistic aspects of development. Not open to students with credit in Psychology 432 covering this topic.

## **PSY 332. Psychology of Adolescent and Early Adult Development (3) I, II**

Prerequisites: Psychology 101 and 230. **Proof of completion of prerequisite required for Psychology 230:** Copy of transcript.

Psychological development of normal individual from adolescence through early adulthood focusing on physical, social, and cognitive aspects of development.

## **PSY 333. Developmental Psychopathology (3)**

Prerequisites: Psychology 101 and 230. **Proof of completion of prerequisite required for Psychology 230:** Copy of transcript.

Cognitive, affective, and social aspects of abnormal development from childhood through adolescence. Consideration, within a developmental framework, of etiological theories and factors, problem expression and treatment issues. Not open to students with credit in Psychology 453 covering this topic.

## **PSY 340. Social Psychology (3) I, II**

Prerequisites: Psychology 101; completion of the General Education requirement in Foundations II.B., Social and Behavioral Sciences required.

The major problems and findings concerning group behavior and group membership, the socialization of the individual, and processes of social interaction.

## **PSY 344. Psychology and Culture (3)**

Prerequisite: Psychology 101.

Impact of culture in each of psychology's major areas, theories, and empirical findings.

## **PSY 350. Abnormal Psychology (3) I, II, S**

Prerequisites: Psychology 101; completion of the General Education requirement in Foundations II.B., Social and Behavioral Sciences required.

Causes and treatment of abnormal behavior with emphasis on major behavior disorders.

## **PSY 351. Psychology of Personality (3), I, II, S**

Prerequisites: Psychology 101; completion of the General Education requirement in Foundations II.B., Social and Behavioral Sciences required.

Major theoretical approaches to individual differences and the study of the person. Techniques of personality assessment. Selected research findings.

**PSY 355. Psychology of Human Sexual Behavior (3)**

Prerequisite: Psychology 101.

Evaluation of behavioral and physiological data of normal, aberrant, and dysfunctional human sexual behavior, including description of available treatment methods.

**PSY 360. Behavioral Neuroscience (3)**

Prerequisites: Psychology 101 and 260. **Proof of completion of prerequisites required:** Copy of transcript.

Biological and physiological underpinnings of behavior: genetics, hormones, transmitters, plasticity/regeneration, development, and metabolism/nutrition. Analysis of their role in normal behavior, psychopathology, neurological disorders, and treatment of behavioral disturbances.

**PSY 361. Neuropsychology (3)**

Prerequisites: Psychology 101 and 260. **Proof of completion of prerequisites required:** Copy of transcript.

Characterization of human brain-behavior relationships derived from neuropsychometric studies of healthy, neuropsychiatric and brain damaged populations. Emphasis on functional neuroanatomy and the effects of abnormal brain development and disease on processes such as cognition, memory, language, visual-spatial, and other functions.

**PSY 362. Cognitive Neuroscience (3)**

Prerequisites: Psychology 101 and 260. **Proof of completion of prerequisites required:** Copy of transcript.

Functional organization of the human brain, including sensorimotor and cognitive systems and their functional interactions; development and evolution; normal and pathological plasticity. Approaches applied to healthy human brain, such as neuroimaging and event-related potentials.

**PSY 365. Drugs and Behavior (3)**

Prerequisite: Psychology 260.

Fundamentals of regulation, administration, tolerance, dependence, and physiological activity of drugs. Effects of stimulants, depressants, opiates, psychedelics, and psychotherapeutic drugs on the nervous system and on cognitive, personality, and behavioral functioning.

**PSY 370. Psychological Testing and Measurement (3) I, II**

Prerequisite: Grade of B or better in Psychology 270 or equivalent statistics course. **Proof of completion of prerequisite required:** Copy of transcript.

Measurement theory and the basic principles of testing. Selection, construction and critical evaluation of group tests of intelligence, personality, aptitude, interest and achievement.

**PSY 380. Cognitive Psychology (3)**

Prerequisite: Psychology 101. Recommended: Psychology 211.

Theory and research on attention, learning, memory, thinking, understanding, and language.

**PSY 388. Sensation and Perception (3)**

Prerequisites: Psychology 101 and 260.

Theory and research in sensory and perceptual processes.

**PSY 407. Health Psychology (3) I, II**

Prerequisites: Psychology 211 and 270. **Proof of completion of prerequisites required:** Copy of transcript.

Behavioral components of major illnesses and causes of death and disability. Primary prevention of health problems through behavior change and psychological features of the health care system.

**PSY 410. Laboratory in Experimental Psychology (5) I, II**

Two lectures and six hours of activity.

Prerequisites: Psychology 211, a grade of B or better in Psychology 270 or equivalent statistics course, and Psychology 271. **Proof of completion of prerequisites required:** Copy of transcript.

Understanding of experimental design, quantitative methods, and experimental reports as they are applied to all areas of psychology.

**PSY 446. Advanced Topics in Social Psychology (3)**

Prerequisite: Psychology 340. **Proof of completion of prerequisite required:** Copy of transcript.

Selected areas in social psychology. May be repeated with new content. See Class Schedule for specific content. Maximum credit six units.

**PSY 452. Introduction to Counseling and Therapy (3)**

Prerequisite: Psychology 350 or 351. **Proof of completion of prerequisite required:** Copy of transcript.

Theory, methods, and research in psychological approaches to personality and behavior change. Not open to students with credit in Counseling and School Psychology 660.

**PSY 456. Psychology of Death and Bereavement (3)**

Latest psychological research and clinical practice in the area of death and dying, geared to assisting the student in appropriate ways of aiding both the dying and the bereaved in coming to terms with death.

**PSY 457. Psychological Factors in Alcoholism (3)**

Prerequisites: Six units of psychology and upper division standing. Theoretical and empirical approaches to alcoholism: causes and treatment.

**PSY 460. Advanced Topics in Physiological Psychology (3)**

Prerequisite: Psychology 260 or six units of biology. Selected areas within physiological psychology. See Class Schedule for specific content. May be repeated with new content. Maximum credit six units.

**PSY 470. Intermediate Statistics for Psychological Research (3)**

Prerequisites: Grade of B or better in Psychology 270 and 271; grade of B or better in Psychology 301 or 410.

Theoretical foundations of statistics including probability theory, distribution theory, and statistical inference. Model-based statistical comparisons. Application of statistical theory to psychological research questions.

**PSY 491. Academic or Psychological Counseling Experiences (3) Cr/NC**

Prerequisites: Upper division psychology major with a 3.0 minimum grade point average and consent of the psychology undergraduate coordinator.

Individual supervision of academic or psychological counseling experiences, geared to the acquisition of counseling and communication skills. May be repeated with the approval of the psychology undergraduate coordinator. Maximum credit six units. No more than 12 units of courses numbered Psychology 491, 495, 497, 499 may be counted toward the major.

**PSY 492. Responsible Conduct in Scientific Research (1) Cr/NC**

Prerequisite: At least one introductory level science course. Responsible conduct in scientific research. Topics include conflict of interest, plagiarism, reporting of scientific results, authorship, responsible use and care of animals, responsible use of human subjects.

**PSY 495. Readings and Practice in Companionship Therapy (3) Cr/NC I, II**

Prerequisites: Psychology 350 and three units from Psychology 230, 340, or 351. **Proof of completion of prerequisites required:** Copy of transcript.

Students are paired with troubled or potentially troubled clients from selected community agencies, supervised by both the instructor and the agency. Assigned readings, small group meetings, written reports required. May be repeated with new client and agency. Maximum credit six units. No more than 12 units of courses numbered Psychology 491, 495, 497, 499 may be counted toward the major.

**PSY 496. Selected Topics in Psychology (1-4)**

Prerequisite: Psychology 101. Intensive study in specific areas of psychology. See Class Schedule for specific content. Limit of nine units of any combination of 296, 496, 596 courses applicable to a bachelor's degree. Maximum credit six units.

**PSY 497. Senior Project (1-3) I, II**

Prerequisites: Twelve units of psychology and consent of instructor. Individual investigation and APA-style report on a research project. Maximum credit six units. No more than 12 units of courses numbered Psychology 491, 495, 497, 499 may be counted toward the major.

**PSY 498. Undergraduate Honors Thesis (3-6)**

Prerequisites: Psychology 410, 3.5 overall GPA, 3.75 GPA in major, and consent of honors coordinator.

Directed research in psychology and completion of honors thesis. Required of students graduating with a Certificate of Recognition of Psychology Honors Thesis.

**PSY 499. Special Study (1-3) Cr/NC I, II**

Individual study, including library or laboratory research and a written report. Maximum credit six units. No more than 12 units of courses numbered Psychology 491, 495, 497, 499 may be counted toward the major.

**UPPER DIVISION COURSES  
(Also Acceptable for Advanced Degrees)****PSY 501. History of Psychology (3)**

Limited to graduate students or psychology majors with senior standing.

The historical background of modern psychology.

**PSY 502. Philosophical Issues in Psychology (3)**

Prerequisite: Six units of psychology.

Mind-brain relationship and other topics at the interface of psychology and philosophy.

**PSY 547. Applied Social Psychology (3)**

Prerequisite: Psychology 340.

Problems, methods, and ethical issues related to applied social psychology. Applications to various settings to include educational system, business and industry, health settings, legal system, mass communication, and the environment.

**PSY 561. Advanced Neuropsychology (3)**

Prerequisite: Psychology 360 or 361 or grade of B or better in Psychology 260.

Biological bases of neuropsychological function and dysfunction, relationships between brain structure and function, neuropsychological assessment tools.

**PSY 564. Seminar in Psychopharmacology and Behavioral Disorders (3)**

Prerequisite: Grade of B or better in Psychology 260.

Drugs as cause and cure of behavioral problems. A review of drugs commonly used to change behavior in primary schools, psychiatric centers, in-home programs and mental hospitals. (Formerly numbered Psychology 764.)

**PSY 587. Advanced Principles of Learning and Cognition (3)**

Prerequisites: Psychology 211, 270, and 380.

Empirical data, basic principles and theoretical positions of major theorists in learning and cognitive psychology.

**PSY 596. Selected Topics in Psychology (1-3)**

Prerequisites: Psychology 101 and consent of instructor.

Intensive study in specific areas of psychology. See Class Schedule for specific content. Limit of nine units of any combination of 296, 496, 596 courses applicable to a bachelor's degree. Maximum credit of six units of 596 applicable to a bachelor's degree. Maximum combined credit of six units of 596 and 696 applicable to a 30-unit master's degree.

**GRADUATE COURSES  
Refer to Bulletin of the Graduate Division.**

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