

Psychology

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[Click here for Psychology courses.](#)

The Bachelor of Arts in psychology program focuses on the scientific study of behavior, cognition, and emotion. Through in-depth exploration of psychological theory and research—including hands-on learning in research laboratories, internships, and community-based projects—students gain tools for understanding the complexities of behavioral phenomena. The psychology department helps students develop and appreciate the importance of critical thinking combined with empirical evidence in understanding human and animal nature. The department offers learning experiences that enrich students' understanding of functioning from behavioral, biological, cognitive, developmental, humanistic, organizational, psychodynamic, social, and sociocultural perspectives.

Requirements for the Major

Requirements for the major: 12 course units

All students must take four Core courses in sequence, three Foundation courses, three Specialized courses, one Psychology Option, and one Senior Experience course. It is permissible to take more than this minimum. Psychology majors may choose, during sophomore year, a primary specialization; each specialization requires one or two Foundation courses in addition to other course requirements. Specialized courses and a Senior Experience course will be chosen from options relevant to one's area of interest or specialization.. A student may opt not to have a specialization. Please see the [Psychology Department web page](#) for more detail, including specialization-specific requirements.

Specialization

Biopsychology

Required Foundation Course(s)

PSY 212/Biopsychology
PSY 214/Cognitive Psychology *or*
PSY 213/Learning and Memory

Cognitive Psychology

PSY 214/Cognitive Psychology
PSY 213/Learning and Memory

Counseling and Clinical Psychology

PSY 216/Personality Theory and Research
PSY 217/Abnormal Psychology

Developmental Psychology

PSY 220/Development across the Lifespan

Industrial/Organizational Psychology

PSY 267/Organizational Psychology

Social Psychology

PSY 218/ Psychology of Power, Oppression,
and Privilege

A. Core Courses: (Four required courses taken in sequence.)

PSY 101/General Psychology
PSY 121/Methods and Tools of Psychology
PSY 203/Design and Statistical Analysis

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PSY 299/Research Seminar (recommended to be taken in specialization, if applicable.)

B. Foundation Courses: (Choose at least three)

PSY 212/Biopsychology
PSY 213/Learning and Memory
PSY 214/Cognitive Psychology
PSY 216/Personality Theory and Research
PSY 217/Abnormal Psychology
PSY 218/Psychology of Power, Oppression, and Privilege
PSY 220/Development across the Lifespan
PSY 267/Organizational Psychology

C. Specialized Courses: (Select at least three 300-level courses from options relevant to one's area of interest or specialization, if applicable.)

D. Psychology Option: (Select one additional course at the 200-level or above; 300-level or above is encouraged.)

E. Senior Experience: (Select at least one 400-level course.)

Regulations and Other Requirements

In addition to the course work described above, the following regulations apply to the major program:

1. Experiential Learning Opportunities in Psychology (ELOPsy) include:
 - PSY 390/Collaborative Research Course
 - PSY 391/Independent Study in Psychology
 - PSY 393, 493/Independent Research and Senior Independent Research in Psychology
 - PSY 396, 496/Senior Honors Thesis in Psychology I and II
 - PSY 397/Instructional Internship in Psychology
 - PSY 399, 499/Internship in Psychology
 - PSY 492/ Senior Collaborative Research Course

Students may take any of the above-listed ELOPsy courses a maximum of three times (with the exception of PSY 396, 496, which may be taken once only, and 397, which may be taken twice only). Only three ELOPsy courses (PSY 390, 391, 393, 396, 397, 399, 492, 493, 496, 499) may count toward the major. One may count as the Psychology Option. A maximum of two may be applied to combined areas of Specialized Courses and Senior Experience.

Please see the [ELOPsy website](#) for specific course requirements, forms and deadlines.

2. Transfer majors must take at least seven psychology course units at The College of New Jersey.

Program Entrance, Retention, and Exit Standards

Every major program at the College has set standards for allowing students to remain in that program, to transfer within the College from one program to another, and to graduate from a program. The following are the standards for psychology programs. Minimum grades are noted in parentheses:

Entering freshmen and transfers are considered “pre-majors”.

While all pre-majors are assigned a Psychology advisor, they cannot advance in status to a “major” until they have successfully completed PSY 101/ General Psychology and PSY 121/ Methods and Tools (C+) and are in good academic standing (overall GPA of 2.0).

- Retention in the program is based on the following performance standards in these “critical content courses”: PSY 101/General Psychology and PSY 121/Methods and Tools of Psychology (C+); PSY 203/Design and Statistical Analysis and PSY 299/Research Seminar (C-).
- Transfer into the program from another program within the College requires completion of an application process that occurs once each semester. Please refer to our website for details. Internal transfers who are accepted to the department will initially be designated as pre-majors.
- Transfer students who wish to enter The College of New Jersey with a psychology major or double major must meet college transfer admission standards.
- Students must earn a C- or better in each course applied to the psychology major (with the exception of PSY 101 and PSY 121 as stipulated above). However, a psychology course for which the grade is D+ or D may be applied toward graduation as a free elective.
- In accordance with College policy, courses may only be repeated **once**.

Requirements for the Minor

A five-course minor in psychology is available. Requirements for the minor include:

1. Completion of PSY 101 and 121 (grade of C+ or higher in both courses).
2. Completion of three additional courses: two foundation and one specialized course. Psychology minors should take PSY 121 before taking upper-level psychology courses.
3. All grades C- or better (with the exception of PSY 101 and PSY 121 as stipulated above).

No more than three course units may be transferred from other institutions. One Experiential Learning Opportunity in Psychology (ELOPsy) course may count toward the Psychology minor.

Recommended course sequence

First Year

FSP	First Seminar	1 course unit
PSY	096/Orientation to Psychology	0 course units
PSY	101/General Psychology	1 course unit
PSY	121/Methods and Tools of Psychology	1 course unit
PSY	Choose one Foundation course	1 course unit

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WRI 102/Academic Writing (if not exempted)*	1 course unit
Foreign Language (if not exempted)**	2 course units
Liberal Learning (science: biology recommended)	1 course unit

**It is recommended that students exempted from these courses take other liberal learning courses.*

*** It is recommended that students exempted from these courses take other liberal learning courses. Note: Arabic 151 and 152; Chinese 151 and 152; Japanese 151 and 152; Persian 151 and 152; and Russian 151 and 152 are intensive courses and carry two course units of credit each. Students should take this into account when planning a normal four-course semester.*

Total for year

8 course units

If a student has earned transfer credit for PSY 101 (or its equivalent) or has earned a score of four or higher on the AP Psychology test, PSY 121 should be selected and an additional foundation course should be taken in the first year.

Sophomore Year

PSY 097/Exploring the Psychology Major	0 course units
PSY 203/Design and Statistical Analysis	1 course unit
PSY 299/Research Seminar	1 course unit
PSY Choose two Foundation courses	2 course units
Foreign Language (if not exempted)*	1 course unit
Liberal Learning courses	1-2 course units
Electives	1-2 course units

Total for year

8 course units

Psychology majors may choose an optional primary specialization in sophomore year by completing a Specialization Choice Sheet (available on the psychology department website) in consultation with her/his psychology advisor and submitting it to the psychology department main office. PSY 299 (Research Seminar) is recommended to be taken in the chosen specialization.

Junior Year

PSY 098/Exploring the Psychology Profession	0 course units
PSY Choose two Specialized courses	2 course units
PSY Psychology Option	1 course unit
Liberal Learning courses	1-2 course units
Electives	3-4 course units

Total for year

8 course units

Senior Year

PSY 099/Psychology Professional Seminar	0 course units
PSY Choose one Specialized course	1 course unit
PSY Senior Experience course	1 course unit
Liberal Learning courses	1-2 course units
Electives	4-5 course units

Total for year

8 course units

Psychology Major with Education as Professional Major

See advisors in education and in psychology departments. All psychology major requirements and regulations apply.

ECE 201/Infant through Adolescent Development for Early Childhood, ELE 201/Child and Adolescent Development, SPE 203/The Psychological Development of Children and Adolescents, or NUR 110/Development of Unitary Man and Environment Across the Life Span may count as PSY 220, a foundation course. However, a student cannot count BOTH PSY 220 and the equivalent (ECE 201, ELE 201, SPE 203 or NUR 110).

Experiential Learning Opportunities in Psychology (ELOPsy)

Experiential learning is a cornerstone of the undergraduate psychology program at TCNJ. We assert that learning through direct experience is one of the most powerful and transformative learning strategies. The Experiential Learning Opportunities in Psychology (ELOPsy) at TCNJ encourage direct student involvement in and exploration of psychological theory, research, and application. Such experiences are designed to target integrative learning objectives. Experiential Learning Opportunities in Psychology include:

PSY 399, 499/Internship and Senior Internship in Psychology

PSY 397/Instructional Internship in Psychology

PSY 391, 393, 493/Independent Research and Senior Independent Research in Psychology

PSY 390,492 Collaborative Research Course and Senior Collaborative Research Course

PSY 396, 496/Senior Honors Thesis in Psychology I and II

Students may take ELOPsy courses multiple times (with the exception of PSY 396, 496, which may be taken once only, and 397, which may be taken twice only). A maximum of one 300-level ELOPsy course may be counted as a specialized course in the psychology major and minor; one 300- or 400-level ELOPsy course may be counted as a psychology option in the psychology major; one 400-level ELOPsy course may be counted as a senior experience course in the psychology major (see specific psychology specialization requirements). Some ELOPsy courses may be taken for variable credit (PSY 397, 399, and 391/393). All other ELOPsy courses are one unit courses. Prerequisites and requirements for the ELOPsy courses vary. See the psychology department website (<http://psychology.department.tcnj.edu/internships/index.html>) for further information about these special opportunities.

Departmental Honors in Psychology

Departmental Honors in Psychology requires a minimum GPA in psychology of 3.3, a minimum grade of B in PSY 299, and completion of a year-long Honors Thesis (PSY 396, 496). Further information is available on the [psychology department website](#).