

HANDBOOK FOR PSYCHOLOGY MAJORS

Department of Psychology

University of Texas at Arlington

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Based on the 2007-2009 catalog

Our Goal

The goal of this Handbook for Psychology majors is to empower the student to make decisions concerning his/her academic career. Let's look at the reasons for this goal. Numerous studies over the past century have shown that the satisfaction of an adult's life is directly related to the degree of control over his/her own life.

The Psychology program of UTA is not a lock-step regimen in which each course is dictated in a one-size-fits-all fashion. Nor is it a program where an advisor will tell you each semester what you should take. The advisors can recommend courses and try to prevent you from making errors.

Along with this freedom on the part of the student comes the responsibility for understanding the process of obtaining a degree. The courts have underlined this responsibility by a series of decisions that emphasize the student's liability for knowing the steps necessary to obtain a degree. Only the final, signed degree plan binds the university and the advisors. Some institutions emphasize this by requiring the students to sign a contract that says they have read the catalog and all supplementary materials.

Add to these points the frustration advisors and university administrators feel upon trying to explain to a senior why they will not graduate at the end of this semester due to their negligence on a point that is clearly spelled out for all to **read**, and you can see why we urge you to **read** this document completely and thoroughly and to ask questions until you understand. There may be a pop quiz.

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I. INTRODUCTION

As psychologists we are committed to the understanding and analysis of behavior. Although some of us are interested in knowledge for its own sake, as we increase our knowledge of human behavior we will be better able to help people understand themselves and to adapt to and control their own world.

The Department of Psychology at UTA offers many diverse opportunities for you as a student to increase your understanding of human behavior. In addition to acquiring new knowledge and skills through courses offered in psychology, you will have the opportunity to gain practical experience by participating in ongoing research. Student organizations, **Psi Chi** and the Psychology Society, encourage an active exchange of ideas among students. The atmosphere of open inquiry and free exchange of ideas gives you the opportunity to draw on diverse faculty and student interests in developing your own specialization and preparing for further study.

This handbook contains information about student organizations, curriculum, and research facilities and is intended to supplement information in the UTA undergraduate catalog. When you have questions or need help in planning your future studies in psychology, an academic advisor is available and may be contacted through the Department of Psychology office, 313 Life Science Building, 817/272-2281. A psychology intended major should read the current catalog carefully for information on course pre-requisites and descriptions. Additional information is available on the Web at www.uta.edu/psychology

II. ACADEMICS: DEGREES, COURSES, AND DISTINGUISHED SCHOLARS PROGRAM

The Department of Psychology offers programs leading to the Bachelor of Science degree and to the Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology.

The Bachelor of Science degree in psychology is intended for those students who plan to pursue graduate work in psychology or in other fields; however, **it is not required for preparation for graduate work**. This program is also suitable for pre-medical, pre-dental, and pre-law students (with due attention paid to the requirements of the corresponding professional schools as listed in the undergraduate catalog).

The Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology is for those students who wish to obtain a broad liberal arts education with a concentration in psychology, either as preparation for post-graduate training or as a terminal degree.

Students often agonize unnecessarily over the Bachelor of Science vs. the Bachelor of Arts option. In our 35 years of experience we have yet to hear of an employer or a post-baccalaureate school that views the B.S. vs. B.A. degree as an advantage, apart from the specific courses a student completes. The student should base his/her decision about which degree to complete on the basis of his/her aptitudes for mathematics and sciences.

The Department of Psychology offers over 40 undergraduate courses, including individual readings and research courses. Course titles range from Human Relations to Advanced Behavioral Neuroscience. On occasion, if a sufficient number of students express interest in a content area that is not represented in the catalog, a special course may be offered to satisfy this need. (See PSYC 4359).

Students should study carefully the degree requirements in the catalog and below. In order to have the most complete array of course options available, MATH 1302 or MATH 1315 (both are College Algebra),

Research Design and Statistics I (PSYC 2443) and Research Design and Statistics II (PSYC 2444) should be taken as early in the undergraduate sequence as possible; these courses **cannot** be taken concurrently.

The Department of Psychology offers a Distinguished Scholars Program for students who qualify. To qualify, the student must have completed 30 hours in residence at UTA, including 11 hours in psychology, with demonstrated academic excellence. The Distinguished Scholars Program presents an opportunity for the serious psychology student to work closely with a faculty advisor in developing an independent program of study and research. Many undergraduate students have had the results of their research published in scientific journals.

III. ADMISSION TO DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY DEGREE PROGRAMS

All students, whether freshmen or transfer, begin as either undecided (UND) or int-majors (INT). All beginning science students are advised by their respective departments. Psychology and PRE- Psychology students are advised by Laura Wolf, 320 Life Science Building or Ronda Miner, 321 Life Science Building.

Students who wish to apply for major status in psychology must first meet the University and College of Science requirements for admission to major status and the specific requirements of the Department of Psychology listed below.

1. Minimum GPA of 2.25 in at least eleven hours of psychology courses taken in residence which must include PSYC 2443 & 2444
2. At least six hours from the science or computer science courses listed in the psychology degree plans
3. Twelve hours of courses of the University core curriculum in disciplines other than science and psychology

Degreed Students: Students who have completed a baccalaureate degree and who seek the necessary deficiency courses to meet the requirements of a graduate program or who seek a second degree in psychology may become psychology majors upon admission to UT Arlington simply by requesting the change from an academic advisor.

Many students will find that it requires more than one academic year to meet the psychology admission requirements, depending on their choice of courses. For example, students who have not completed MATH 1302, 1315, or 1324 by the end of their first semester will require additional time to complete the requirements for admission to the major.

To be admitted to the psychology program, a student should meet with the departmental advisor when he/she has completed PSYC 2444. Some psychology intended students would like to take additional psychology courses before they are admitted to major status. The following is a list of psychology courses that have few prerequisites or only PSYC 1315 as a prerequisite (marked Intro). The catalog description of a specific course should be consulted for any additional prerequisites such as junior standing.

Course Number	Course Title	Prerequisite	Group
PSYC 1315	Intro to Psychology	None	Elective
PSYC 2317	Human Sexuality	None	Elective
PSYC 3301	Human Relations	None	Elective
PSYC 3302	Intro to I/O Psychology	Intro	Elective
PSYC 3303	Drugs & Behavior	None	Elective
PSYC 3304	Analysis & Management of Behavior	None	Elective
PSYC 3306	Psychology of Creativity	None	Elective
PSYC 3307	Understanding Psychology Through Film	None	Elective

PSYC 3310	Developmental Psychology	Intro	Group I
PSYC 3311	Adulthood & Aging	Intro	Group I
PSYC 3312	Social and Personality Development	Intro	Elective
PSYC 3313	Psychology of Cultural and Gender Studies	Intro	Group I
PSYC 3314	Personality	Intro	Group I
PSYC 3315	Social Psychology	Intro	Group I
PSYC 3316	Environmental Psychology	Intro	Group IV
PSYC 3317	Intro to Clinical & Counseling	Intro	Group IV
PSYC 3318	Abnormal Psychology	Intro	Group IV
PSYC 3319	Psychology of Adolescence.	Intro	Group I
PSYC 3320	Behavior & Motivation	Intro	Elective
PSYC 3322	Introduction to Behavioral Neuroscience	Intro	Group II
PSYC 3326	Animal Behavior	Intro	Group II
PSYC 4310	Behavior Therapy	Intro	Group I

IV. ADVISING

The Department of Psychology has *advisors* to answer general questions and to draw up degree plans, during posted office hours. Advising appointments should be made prior to registration. For individualized advice or career planning, choose times other than registration periods. Other faculty members are also available for advice or to discuss psychology careers during their posted office hours or by appointment.

All students must see an advisor before registering for classes at UTA. A Degree Plan Worksheet should be updated and kept by the student. The evaluation of transfer hours is done by the Admissions Office; however, the application of transfer hours is done by the advisor. Neither the Admissions Office nor the advisor can change a lower division course to an upper division course. The level of a course is determined by the institution offering the course

An official degree plan should be filed upon filing for graduation. The degree plan must be satisfied before a student can graduate. Usually only one (1) degree plan is necessary; updates are made by the graduation desk. It is each student's responsibility to consult with his or her advisor, to be knowledgeable about degree requirements, course offerings, course descriptions, and course pre-requisites, and to keep the Degree Plan Worksheet or personal copy of the official degree plan up-to-date.

For reasons of confidentiality, security, legal liability, and time, we will not advise students or give permissions and clearances by telephone, e-mail, or fax. Our experience in the past has shown that it takes an inordinate amount of time and messages back and forth to properly verify the necessary information and to give permissions or clearances. We also cannot give permissions, clearances, or information on the request of a parent, spouse, other relative, or friend.

COURSE NUMBERING SYSTEMS AND COURSE LOADS

Before covering degree requirements we should discuss UTA's course numbering system, credit hours, classroom hours, and study hours.

Course numbers:

All courses at UTA are identified by a department abbreviation, a four-digit number, and a course title. As an example, let us use PSYC 3301, Human Relations. The first digit in the number tells the level of the course; 1 is freshman, 2 is sophomore, 3 is junior, 4 is senior. Courses numbered 1000 and 2000 are also known as lower division courses, and are generally not distinguished from each other. All transferred

community or junior college courses are lower division courses. Courses numbered 3000 and 4000 are also known as advanced or upper division courses. They are also not usually distinguished from each other and are offered only by universities and four-year colleges. By state law, we are not allowed to change the level of a transferred course from the level at which it was taken. The third and fourth digits identify the course within the department.

Courses with a first digit of five and six are graduate level courses and, by state law, may not be applied to an undergraduate degree. A first digit of zero has no level assigned and, except for EXSA, MILS, MUSI, and THEA courses, cannot be applied to a degree, even though they may be required for a student.

Classroom Hours and Course Load:

Students often ask how they should plan their course load and time. Or they assume that they can work at a job 30 – 40 hours per week while carrying a full load of course work and maintain a record of excellence as they did in high school or junior college.

Traditionally, credit for a lecture course in a long semester (fall or spring term) is the number of “classroom hours” that the course meets per week. A course that meets MWF for 50 minutes each day or TR for one hour and 20 minutes each day is three semester credits. On average the student should plan on two hours of study and preparation for each hour of classroom time. Thus a full-time student carrying 12 hours in a 14-week semester has committed himself/herself to 36 hours of class, study, and test time per week for 14 weeks or a total of 504 hours for the semester. Notice that a student carrying 12 hours and working 20 hours per week is committed to 56 hours per week plus time for commuting, eating, sleeping, etc. Dividing the 125 hours committed for a three-hour course by 5 yields the number of hours per week necessary for a short summer session; dividing by 11 yields the commitment for an 11-week summer session. Obviously some subjects will require more time, others less.

Individual study courses are calculated in the same way, but, there are no lecture hours. For a three hour reading or readings or research course (PSYC 4361 or 4381) the student has made a commitment for nine hours per week in the long semester.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS IN PSYCHOLOGY

The student should be aware that **not every course in the catalog is offered every semester** or at “convenient” times. Some are offered very infrequently; this is particularly true of some upper division courses. Summer offerings are always slim.

The degree requirements for the Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees are summarized below. Note that because of pre-requisites, it takes a **minimum** of four semesters to complete College Algebra, PSYC 2443 & 2444, and the junior-level laboratory courses.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS IN PSYCHOLOGY

SUMMARY OF REQUIREMENTS IN PSYCHOLOGY AND COURSE DISTRIBUTIONS

Bachelor of Arts:

44 hrs. of psychology
(33 hrs. must be advanced)

Bachelor of Science:

48 hrs. of psychology
(37 hrs. must be advanced)

CORE COURSES 11 semester hours

1315 INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY

Prerequisites: None

2443 RESEARCH DESIGN AND STATISTICS I

Prerequisites: PSYC 1315, C or better in Math 1302 & English 1302

Computer Literacy test or course

2444 RESEARCH DESIGN AND STATISTICS II

Prerequisites: C or better in PSYC 2443

LECTURE/LABORATORY COURSES 12 to 16 semester hours

Each one is a lecture plus lab worth four credit hours. Labs require a C or better in PSYC 2444.

Bachelor of Arts: Any 3 lecture/laboratory course combinations from 3 of the 4 groups

Bachelor of Science: 1 lecture/laboratory course from each of groups I, II, III and IV

Group I	3315* & 3144	SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY and LABORATORY
Group II	3322* or 4302 & 3142	BEHAVIORAL NEUROSCIENCE and LABORATORY
Group II	3326* & 3146	ANIMAL BEHAVIOR and LABORATORY
Group II	3420	EXPERIMENTAL ANALYSIS OF BEHAVIOR
Group III	3431	SENSORY AND PERCEPTUAL PROCESSES
Group III	4334* & 3145	COGNITIVE PROCESSES AND LABORATORY
GROUP IV	4357 & 3143	HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY WITH LAB

LECTURE COURSES 21 semester hours

GROUP I

Take **one** of the following group I lectures:

Pre-requisite: PSYC 1315 – Intro to Psychology

3310	DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY
3311	ADULTHOOD AND AGING
3313	PSYCHOLOGY OF CULTURAL AND GENDER STUDIES
3314	PSYCHOLOGY OF PERSONALITY
3315	SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY
3319	PSYCHOLOGY OF ADOLESCENCE

GROUP II

Take **one** of the following group II lectures:

Pre-requisite: PSYC 1315 – Intro to Psychology

- 3322 BEHAVIORAL NEUROSCIENCE
 - 3326 ANIMAL BEHAVIOR
 - 3329 BEHAVIORAL ENDOCRINOLOGY
 - 4325 DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOBIOLOGY
 - 4327 BEHAVIORAL GENETICS
 - 4329 ANIMAL LEARNING AND COGNITION
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GROUP III

Take **one** of the following group III lectures:

Pre-requisite: C or better in PSYC 2444 – Research Design and Statistics II

- 4332 THEORIES OF HUMAN LEARNING AND MEMORY
 - 4334 COGNITIVE PROCESSES
 - 4335 COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT
 - 4337 PSYCHOLOGY OF TESTING
 - 4339 PSYCHOLOGY OF JUDGMENT AND CHOICE
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GROUP IV

Take **one** of the following group IV lectures:

Pre-requisite: PSYC 1315 – Intro to Psychology

- 3316 ENVIRONMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY
 - 3317 INTRODUCTION TO CLINICAL AND COUNSELING
 - 3318 ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY
 - 4310 BEHAVIOR THERAPY
 - 4357 HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY
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SUBSTITUTIONS:

One of the following courses may be substituted for a lecture course in group I, II, III OR IV. **Only one substitution may be made on the degree plan.** The pre-requisite for these courses is PSYC 1315 – Intro to Psychology and 9 hours of psychology coursework.

- 4355 THE HISTORY OF PSYCHOLOGY
 - 4356 EVOLUTIONARY PSYCHOLOGY
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ELECTIVES:

At least nine additional hours of upper division (3000 or 4000 level) psychology coursework must be taken as electives. In addition to the courses in the groups listed above, the following courses may be used as advanced electives:

- 3301 HUMAN RELATIONS
- 3302 SURVEY OF INDUSTRIAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY
- 3303 DRUGS AND BEHAVIOR
- 3304 ANALYSIS MANAGEMENT OF BEHAVIOR
- 3306 PSYCHOLOGY OF CREATIVITY AND CREATIVE THINKING
- 3306 UNDERSTANDING PSYCHOLOGY THROUGH FILM
- 3312 SOCIAL AND PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT
- 3320 BEHAVIOR AND MOTIVATION
- 3351 PRACTICUM IN APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS
- 3355 INTERNSHIP IN PSYCHOLOGY
- 4301 ADVANCED NEUROSCIENCE

4302	NEUROPHARMACOLOGY
4303	PAIN RESEARCH AND MANAGEMENT
4306	MAJOR PERSONALITY DISORDERS
4333	COGNITIVE SCIENCE AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
4338	COGNITIVE NEUROPSYCHOLOGY
4359	SELECTED TOPICS ***
4398	HONORS THESIS
4X61	READINGS IN PSYCHOLOGY
4X81	RESEARCH IN PSYCHOLOGY

Requirements for a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology

English

Six hours of composition.

Literature

Three hours from English or modern and classical languages literature.

*Liberal Arts Elective***

Three hours above the freshman level of literature, or social and cultural studies designated as taught in the College of Liberal Arts, or fine arts or philosophy, or technical writing.

Modern and Classical Languages

14 hours in a single modern or classical language or eight hours in a language plus six hours from pre-approved list of language sub classes.

History

Six hours of American history, or three hours of American history and three hours of Texas history.

Computer Literacy

CSE 1301 or INSY 2303 or any equivalent course. Alternatively, the requirement may be met by the University computer competency test, however, the test yields no hours toward the degree plan.

Oral Communication Competency

COMS 1301, COMS 2305, COMS 3302 or equivalent courses approved by the Undergraduate Advisor.

*Mathematics**

Six hours: 1302 or 1315 and 1303 or 1316 or 3 hours of MATH or statistics approved by the Undergraduate Advisor, or 1324 and three additional hours of MATH or statistics approved by the Undergraduate Advisor.

Political Science

2311 and 2312 or any six hours meeting the legislative requirement.

Fine Arts

Three hours of designated courses in from architecture, art, dance, music, or theatre arts listed on the approved list of classes. http://www.uta.edu/provost/facultysupport/forms/fine_arts_final_list.pdf

*Social/Cultural Studies***

Three hours of designated courses in social or cultural anthropology, archaeology, social/political/cultural geography, sociology, classical studies, or linguistics.

http://www.uta.edu/provost/facultysupport/forms/cultural_final_list.pdf for university approved list.

Natural Science

Eleven hours, including eight hours from one of: BIOL 1333, 1334, 1282; CHEM 1445 and 1446; GEOL 1425 and an additional four-hour GEOL course with laboratory; PHYS 1401 and 1402 or any sequence listed in Other Science in the Bachelor of Science degree in psychology, plus three hours in Science approved by the Undergraduate Advisor.

Major

44 hours to include 1315; 2443; 2444; three four-hour lab/lecture courses; one three-hour lecture course from each of the Groups I, II, III; and IV (4355 or 4356 may be substituted for one of the lectures in Groups I, II, III; or IV. Only one substitution may be made.) plus nine hours of upper division psychology elective courses.

Lab/Lectures (twelve hours) 3 from any group. Pick from 3 of the 4 groups.

- I. 3315 & 3144.
- II. 3322 & 3142; 3326 & 3146; 3420.
- III. 3431; 4334 & 3145.
- IV. 4357 & 3143.

Lectures (three hours) 1 from each group

- I. 3310, 3311, 3313, 3314, 3315, 3319.
- II. 3322, 3326, 3329, 4325, 4327, 4329.
- III. 4332, 4334, 4335, 4337, 4339.
- IV. 3316, 3317, 3318, 4310, 4357.

Psychology Electives (nine hours) Advanced electives 3000/4000 levels.

General Electives

Sufficient hours to complete the total required for the degree.

Total

120 hours, of which at least 36 must be 3000/4000 level.

* Prerequisites may add hours to the total required for the degree.

** Psychology majors may not use psychology courses to meet this requirement.

Requirements for a Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychology

English

Six hours of composition.

Literature

Three hours from English or modern and classical languages literature.

Liberal Arts Elective**

Three hours above the freshman level of literature, or social and cultural studies designated as taught in the College of Liberal Arts, or fine arts or philosophy, or technical writing.

History

Six hours of American history, or three hours of American history and three hours of Texas history.

Computer Literacy

CSE 1301 or INSY 2303 or any equivalent course. Alternatively, the requirement may be met by the University computer competency test, however, the test yields no hours toward the degree plan.

Oral Communication Competency

COMS1301, COMS2305, COMS3302 or equivalent courses approved by the Undergraduate Advisor.

Modern and Classical Languages*

Six hours from the Cultural Studies List in the Handbook for Psychology Majors or levels III and IV of a modern or classical language.

Mathematics*

1323 or 1325 and 1426, plus three hours of MATH or statistics above the freshman level approved by the Undergraduate Advisor.

Political Science

2311 and 2312 or any six hours meeting the legislative requirement.

Fine Arts

Three hours of designated courses in from architecture, art, dance, music, or theatre arts listed on the approved list of classes. http://www.uta.edu/provost/facultysupport/forms/fine_arts_final_list.pdf

Social/Cultural Studies**

Three hours of designated courses in social or cultural anthropology, archaeology, social/political/cultural geography, sociology, classical studies, or linguistics.

http://www.uta.edu/provost/facultysupport/forms/cultural_final_list.pdf for university approved list.

Other Natural Science

A total of 16 hours including two of the following sequences, or 15 hours including one of these sequences plus an additional seven hours in the same discipline: BIOL 1441 and 1442, or CHEM 1441 and 1442, or GEOL 1425 and an additional 4-hour GEOL course with laboratory, or PHYS 1443 and 1444, or PHYS 1441 and 1442.

Major

48 hours to include 1315; 2443; 2444; one four-hour lab/lecture from each of the Groups I, II, III and IV; one three-hour lecture course from each of the Groups I, II, III and IV; (4355 or 4356 may be substituted for one of the lectures in Groups I, II, III or IV. Only one substitution may be made) plus nine hours upper division (3000/4000 level) psychology elective coursework.

Lab/Lectures (four hours) 1 from each group

- I. 3315 & 3144.
- II. 3322 & 3142; 3326 & 3146; 3420.
- III. 3431; 4334 & 3145.
- IV. 4357 & 3143.

Lectures (three hours) 1 from each group

- I. 3310, 3311, 3313, 3314, 3315, 3319.
- II. 3322, 3326, 3329, 4325, 4327, 4329.
- III. 4332, 4334, 4335, 4337, 4339.
- IV. 3316, 3317, 3318, 4310, 4357.

Psychology Elective (nine hours) Advanced Electives (3000/4000 level)

Electives

Sufficient hours to complete the total required for the degree.

Total

128 hours, of which at least 36 must be 3000/4000 level.

* Prerequisites may add hours to the total required for the degree.

** Psychology majors may not use psychology courses to meet this requirement.

Substitutes for 2313 and 2314 of Foreign Language

CULTURAL STUDIES

ANTH 2322	GLOBAL CULTURE
ANTH 3328	CIVILIZATIONS
ANTH 3331	CULTURE AND PERSONALITY
ANTH 3333	NORTH AMERICAN INDIANS
ANTH 3336	ANTHROPOLOGY OF RELIGION
ANTH 3346	CULTURES OF THE AMERICAN SOUTHWEST
ANTH 3369	MEDICAL ANTHROPOLOGY
ART 3302	ART OF ANTIQUITY
ART 3305	EARLY CHRISTIAN & BYZANTINE
ART 3320	MESOAMERICAN
ART 4302	GREEK AND ROMAN PAINTING
ART 4303	ROMAN ART
ART 4304	THE ETRUSCANS
ART 4317	THE ART OF OTHER TRADITIONS
CLASS 2303	CLASSICAL ROOTS OF ENGLISH VOCABULARY
CLASS 3310	INTRODUCTION TO GREEK CIVILIZATION
CLASS 3320	INTRODUCTION TO ROMAN CIVILIZATION
CLASS 3323	TOPICS IN CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY

ENGL 3301, 3306	RUSSIAN LITERATURE IN TRANSLATION
ENGL 4380	CLASSICAL LITERATURE
ENGL 4381	MEDIEVAL LITERATURE
ENGL 4388	MAJOR FIGURES IN COMPARATIVE LITERATURE
HIST 2301, 2302	HISTORY OF CIVILIZATION
HIST 3365, 3366	AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY
HIST 3367	AMERICAN INDIAN HISTORY
HIST 3368	HISTORY OF THE MEXICAN AMERICAN
HIST 3374	ANCIENT GREECE
HIST 3375	ANCIENT ROME
HIST 3380	HISTORY OF ANCIENT SPORT
HIST 4359, 4360	HISTORY OF RUSSIA
HIST 4365	HISTORY OF SPAIN & PORTUGAL
HIST 4366, 4367	LATIN AMERICAN HISTORY
HIST 4368	HISTORY OF MEXICO
HIST 4374, 4375	AFRICAN HISTORY
HIST 4376, 4377	AFRICAN DIASPORA
HIST 4379	HISTORY OF MODERN CHINA
HUMA 2301	HUMANITIES
PHIL 3301	HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY: ANCIENT PHILOSOPHY
PHIL 3302	HIST. OF PHIL.: ROMAN & MEDIEVAL PHILOSOPHY
PHIL 3315	ORIENTAL PHILOSOPHY & RELIGION
POLS 3316	DICTATORSHIP & DEMOCRACY IN LATIN AMERICAN POLITICS
POLS 3317	MEXICAN POLITICS & U.S.-MEXICO RELATIONS
POLS 3318	POLITICAL SYSTEMS OF EAST ASIA
POLS 4327	POLITICAL IDEAS, ANCIENT AND MEDIEVAL
POLS 4361	POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT OF RUSSIA
POLS 4362	RUSSIA & THE SUCCESSOR STATES TODAY
SOCI 3326	SOCIOLOGY OF LANGUAGE

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES

Occasionally we see a student who is surprised to discover that after four or more years of academic work that the University does not know that he or she is going to graduate; he/she failed to file a degree plan. Let's review the requirements for graduation and the steps the student must take to graduate.

UTA requires a student to complete the program of work specified on an approved degree plan with a minimum Grade Point Average of 2.25 and with a minimum of a 2.25 GPA in the major. Grades of 'F' do not count toward completion, but grades of 'D' through 'A' and 'P' do count as passing

A degree plan in Psychology may be completed when a student has completed PSYC 1315, 2443 & 2444, at least six hours from the science or computer science courses listed in the psychology degree plans and twelve hours of courses of the University core curriculum in disciplines other than science and psychology.

A degree plan should be completed no later than three months before the beginning of the semester in which the student wants to graduate. The signed degree plan is a contract between the university and the student that a degree will be awarded when all the work on the degree plan is completed satisfactorily.

Only one degree plan needs to be made unless the student changes degrees (B.A. to B.S. or vice versa) or changes the minor. The student should keep track of progress either on a Degree Plan Worksheet or on his/her copy of the official Degree Plan. One semester prior to graduation, the student must complete the online graduation application. The student will receive notification in the mail that the application has been accepted or that there are deficiencies that must be completed in order to graduate. The Dean of Science office (206 Life Science) will notify you as to when and where graduation ceremonies take place, where to obtain cap and gown, and how to obtain invitations and tickets for friends and relatives.

V. STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

The [UTA Psychology Society](#) is open to all psychology majors and minors as well as others with an interest in psychology. Membership in the Psychology Society helps the student to become an active, contributing member of the department. Numerous programs, speakers, field trips, and social activities are scheduled throughout the year. Involvement in the activities is a good way to get to know your fellow students in the

department and to meet the faculty in a non-classroom setting. The Psychology Society regularly discusses topics such as careers in psychology available to students with a bachelor's degree, selection of graduate schools, and improvement of the curriculum. The Psychology Society maintains an office in room 322 Life Science Building which is available to all members for study and interaction between classes. Contained in the office are assorted graduate school catalogs, the official newspaper of the American Psychological Association, and an array of professional bulletins and brochures. All undergraduates are urged to make the Psychology Society an important part of their college life.

Psi Chi is the National Honor Society in Psychology. It was founded to encourage and stimulate scholarship and advance the science of psychology. In the fall of 1980 a local chapter of **Psi Chi** was chartered at UTA. Membership in **Psi Chi** is open to graduate and undergraduate men and women who are making the study of psychology one of their major interests and who meet the minimum qualifications. The minimum qualifications for membership are:

1. the completion (in residence) of 9 semester hours in psychology
2. forty-five college hours completed
3. major or minor standing in psychology
4. an overall G.P.A. of 3.00; psychology G.P.A. of 3.5
5. high standards of personal behavior
6. three-fourths vote of those present at a regular meeting of the chapter
7. payment of the initiation fee

Psi Chi serves two major goals. The first is to provide academic recognition to its initiates by the mere fact of membership. The second is to nurture academic excellence by encouraging professional growth through programs designed to augment and enhance the regular curriculum, and by providing practical experience and fellowship through affiliation with the chapter. **Psi Chi** sponsors research paper competitions at annual regional and national psychological conventions. Winners of these competitions have often gone on to become leaders in the profession. **Psi Chi** maintains an office in room 324 Life Science. Additional information and applications for the Psychology Society and **Psi Chi** can be obtained in the Psychology Office in 313 Life Science.

VI. RESEARCH AND FACILITIES

The physical facilities and equipment necessary for support of study and research in psychology are comparable to those required of any scientific discipline. In addition to the usual classrooms, seminar rooms, lecture halls and offices, the UTA Department of Psychology has excellent laboratory and computer facilities. Well over 25,000 sq. ft. of space is dedicated to research. The Department of Psychology provides facilities for research in the areas of animal learning, cognition, human development, human learning and memory, perception, physiological psychology, psychophysiology, quantitative methods, and social psychology. Resources available include main frame computers and PCs, video recording equipment, standard small animal appetitive and aversive conditioning chambers, tachistoscopes, physiographs with cardiovascular biofeedback accessories, physiological apparatus for brain stimulation and lesion studies, as well as standard equipment for stimulus presentation and response measurement.

The Department of Psychology offers seven specialized laboratory courses: Laboratory in Behavioral Neuroscience, Experimental Analysis of Behavior, Animal Behavior Laboratory, Sensory and Perceptual Processes, Social Processes Laboratory, Cognitive Processes Laboratory, and Health Psychology Laboratory. Basic laboratory techniques and appropriate data analysis are taught in these courses. You will perform some standard experiments and may have the opportunity to design and implement your own experimental project. In addition, it is possible for an undergraduate with good academic standing to perform substantial independent research via independent study courses and the Honors Thesis.

There are many other opportunities for research participation. The faculty sometimes uses undergraduate research assistants. If you are interested in working as a research assistant you should leave your name at the Department of Psychology Office and contact personally as many faculty members as possible. Working as a research assistant not only allows you to develop practical skills, it can also lead to the development of research ideas that could turn into an Honors Thesis. There are also opportunities to do research by taking PSYC 4181, 4281, or 4381 with permission of a professor.

SOME SUGGESTIONS TO STUDENTS THINKING ABOUT GRADUATE SCHOOL

It is important to be realistic about graduate programs. The acceptance rate for applicants to clinical/counseling programs is lower than that for applicants to medical schools. The acceptance rate for other graduate programs is a bit higher. Graduate programs are not interested in whether you have a Bachelor of Arts or a Bachelor of Science; in fact, most are not interested in whether you have majored in psychology. They are interested in how well you have done in your undergraduate work, your grades in specific psychology courses, your GRE score, and your letters of recommendation. All students preparing to enter graduate programs in psychology should include among their choices of psychology courses as many of the following as their program allows: 2443, 2444, 3315, 3322, 4329, 4332, 4355, 4356, and 4381 or 4398. You need to maintain a minimum 3.0 GPA to qualify for application to a graduate program. A higher GPA may be required for some programs.

The options for further study in psychology beyond the bachelor's degree level include training through the master's, doctoral, and post-doctoral levels in a wide range of areas. One of the first steps necessary in order to apply to graduate school is to take the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) and the GRE Advanced Test in Psychology. You should take the GREs **early** in your senior year so that scores will be available to those schools where you are making application. Usually the exams are given several times during the year at different locations. It is a good idea to find out early when they will be given because an application deadline must be met and a fee paid. Write to the Educational Testing Service, Princeton, NJ 08450, or ask at the UTA Graduate School, 333 Davis Hall, or at the Assessment Services, 201 Davis Hall, for information on the GRE. Study the available test guides for preparation. It is beneficial if you know the name and addresses of the schools to which you are applying because the testing service includes the option of sending your scores to two or three schools at no charge. Scores requested after the testing date will entail additional charges.

GRE scores are one of the typical requirements for Graduate School admission. Other tests may be required before you are considered for a particular program. A student's grade point average, research accomplishments, and work history are major considerations at most schools. Letters of recommendation will be required. Before you ask a faculty member to write a letter of recommendation it is a good idea to write a brief resume of your accomplishments as a student.

Some graduate programs offer only master's programs while others may offer a master's degree as part of the doctoral program. Different schools offer different specialties. All schools have information on a Web site; you should be familiar with it before contacting the school. The areas of concentration offered by psychology programs in the United States and information about criteria for acceptance are listed in Graduate Study in Psychology, a publication of the American Psychological Association. It is available from the Order Department, American Psychological Association, 1200 Seventeenth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036. The Department of Psychology Advising office also has copies available for your use.

Financial assistance for graduate students is available in several forms such as teaching and research assistantships or fellowships. Each school has its own policy regarding qualification and payment. Sometimes there are special application deadlines for applicants wanting financial assistance, so be certain to check the catalogs (available in The UTA Library) and write to the schools which interest you. A helpful hint when applying is to write directly to the Department of Psychology of the school for specific program information. A separate letter should be written to the Graduate Admissions Office because there are often general graduate admission requirements in addition to the specific ones required by the Department of Psychology. Get as much information as possible and choose carefully where you apply. Since many schools require that you pay a non-refundable application fee, the process can be expensive as well as time consuming. Another source book for information about Graduate School is Preparing for graduate study: Not for seniors only!, which may be obtained from the American Psychological Association. A copy of this document is available for use in the Department of Psychology office and in the Psychology Society office.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS WITH A BACHELOR'S DEGREE

Although the majority of positions open to psychologists require advanced degrees, there are a number of careers open to individuals who hold Bachelors' degrees. This information is available at the Office of Counseling and Career Development, 216 Davis Hall, and in a pamphlet "After Graduation: Career Opportunities."

Both privately run and state clinics of various types hire psychology majors, and frequently these jobs or volunteer positions are available before graduation. For example, openings are often available in birth control and family planning clinics, drug and alcohol abuse clinics, weight control clinics and crisis hotlines. Jobs are available in halfway type hostels for runaways, in nursing homes, and child development centers. Some of our graduates are now working in law enforcement and government. Others are working with autistic children and in mental health and retardation centers. Psychology majors, particularly those with good quantitative skills, may find employment in research or consulting firms.

Of course, there are a wide range of positions available which do not require any special expertise in psychology. Large corporations often take psychology majors into their management training programs. Ask at the Office of Counseling and Career Development, 216 Davis Hall, for job placement information. A web site for information about psychology is the Encyclopedia of Psychology <http://www.psychology.org/> with over 2,000 links.