

# Psychology (BA)

## Degree Requirements

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### General Education Requirements (36 Hours)

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#### Area I - Written Composition (2 Courses, 6 Hours)

- A. 3 hours: EH 101
- B. 3 hours: EH 102

#### Area II - Humanities & Fine Arts (5 Courses, 15 Hours)

No more than six hours from any one discipline.

- 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
- D. 3 hours from: AFR 101, ARH 100, ARH 103, ARH 123, ARH 203, ARS 101, CLA 110, DRA 110, EH 215, EH 216, EH 225, EH 226, EH 235, EH 236, JHS 101, JOU 252, LG 101, LG 102, LG 111, LG 112, LG 121, LG 122, LG 131, LG 132, LG 141, LG 142, LG 151, LG 152, LG 153, LG 171, LG 172, LG 173, LG 201, LG 202, LG 211, LG 212, LG 213, LG 221, LG 222, LG 231, LG 232, LG 234, LG 241, LG 242, LG 251, LG 252, LG 271, LG 272, LG 273, LGS 101, LGS 102, LGS 106, LGS 107, LGS 110, LGS 111, LGS 171, LGS 172, LGS 201, LGS 202, LGS 206, LGS 207, LGS 210, LGS 211, LGS 271, LGS 272, MUL 101, PHL 110, PHL 120, PHL 121, PHL 131, PHL 220, PHL 231, PHL 240, REL 100, REL 200, REL 201

#### 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
- B. 8-10 hours from: AN 121 & AN 121L, BLY 101 & BLY 101L or BLY 121 & BLY 121L, BLY 102 & BLY 102L or BLY 122 & BLY 122L, BMD 110, BMD 111, CH 101 & CH 101L, CH 103 & CH 103L, CH 131 & CH 131L, CH 132 & CH 132L, GEO 101 & GEO 101L, GEO 102 & GEO 102L, GY 111 & GY 111L, GY 112 & GY 112L, MAS 134 & MAS 134L, PH 101 & PH 101L, PH 104 & PH 104L, PH 114 & PH 114L, PH 115 & PH 115L, PH 201 & PH 201L, PH 202 & PH 202L

#### Area IV – History, Social & Behavioral Sciences (4 Courses, 12 Hours)

No more than six hours from any one discipline.

- A. 3 hours from: HY 101, HY 102, HY 121, HY 122, 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 121, HY 122, 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, LG 141 & LG 142, LG 151 & LG 152 or proficiency test or LG 153, LG 171 & LG 172 or LG 173, LGS 171 & LGS 172

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:

AN 121 & AN 121L, BLY 101 & BLY 101L or BLY 121 & BLY 121L, BLY 102 & BLY 102L or BLY 122 & BLY 122L, BMD 110, BMD 111, CH 101 & CH 101L, CH 103 & CH 103L, CH 131 & CH 131L, CH 132 & CH 132L, GEO 101 & GEO 101L, GEO

102 & GEO 102L, GY 111 & GY 111L, GY 112 & GY 112L, MAS 134 & MAS 134L, PH 101 & PH 101L, PH 104 & PH 104L, PH 114 & PH 114L, PH 115 & PH 115L, PH 201 & PH 201L, PH 202 & PH 202L, ST 210, MA 113- 299 (except 201 and 202).

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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 or HY 121 & HY 122).

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)**

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#### **Psychology Core Basic (4 Courses, 12 Hours)**

- A. 15 hours: PSY 120, PSY 220, PSY 320, PSY310

#### **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)**

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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).

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#### **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.

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## Additional Information

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### Accelerated Bachelor'S To Master'S Program In Psychology (ABM)

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. Applicants must transmit a personal statement and have two referees submit a letter of recommendation to the graduate program coordinator.

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 7 graduate credits per semester for 2 semesters (14 hours) while they are also taking undergraduate courses. Of these 14 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 Psychology (Behavioral and Brain Sciences) Master's program. ABM students who are in good standing will be accepted into the Psychology Master's program.

Completion of the Master of Science (Behavioral 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 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

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

### First Year - Spring Semester

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

### Second Year - Fall Semester

Course ID	Course Description	Hours
Foreign Language I	**Area V, A	3
Minor Course	Choose a course from your minor	3
English Literature	**Area II, B	3
Elective	Choose a course	3
*ST 210	Introduction to Statistics	3
Total Hours		15

**Second Year - Spring Semester**

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

**Third Year - Fall Semester**

Course ID	Course Description	Hours
Psychology Core Developmental	PSY 350, PSY 456 (Pick 1)	3
PSY 320	Research Design/Analysis II	3
Minor Course	Choose a course from your minor.	3
Elective	Choose a course.	3
Social/Behavioral Science Elective	**Area IV, B	3
	Total Hours	15

**Third Year - Spring Semester**

Course ID	Course Description	Hours
Psychology Core Capstone	PSY 412 (W) or PSY 414 (W)	3
Psychology Core Experimental/Learning	PSY 416, PSY 420 or PSY 317#, PSY 428, PSY 475 (Pick 2)	3
Psychology Core Personality/Social	PSY 340, PSY 435, PSY 440 (Pick 2)	3
Minor Course	Choose a course from your minor.	3
Minor Course	Choose a course from your minor.	3
	<b>#You may take either PSY 420 or PSY 317 but not both.</b>	
	Total Hours	15

**Fourth Year - Fall Semester**

Course ID	Course Description	Hours
PSY 310	Biopsychology	3
Psychology Core Experimental/Learning	PSY 416, PSY 420 or PSY 317#, PSY 428, PSY 475 (Pick 2)	3
Psychology Course/ Personality/Social	PSY 340, PSY 435, PSY 440 (Pick 2)	3
Minor Course	Choose a course from your minor.	3
Minor Course	Choose a course from your minor.	3
<b>#You may take either PSY 420 or PSY 317 but not both.</b>		
Total Hours		15

**Fourth Year - Spring Semester**

Course ID	Course Description	Hours
Psychology Elective	Choose a course from your minor.	3
Psychology Elective	Choose a course from your minor.	3
Humanities Elective		3
Elective		3
Elective		3
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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3. To meet the needs of those students who are taking psychology courses as part of their liberal arts education.

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.

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## Accelerated Bachelor's To Master's Program In Psychology (ABM)

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### Program Procedures

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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.

## Graduate Study In Psychology

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The Department of Psychology accepts applicants to the Master of Science program (Behavioral and Brain Sciences) 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 (Behavioral and Brain Sciences) 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. 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/](http://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 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 and have completed at least 21 hours of psychology courses, including at least one course in statistics and one in experimental methods. 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 submit official GRE scores and have a minimum combined score of 300 (verbal + quantitative).

Applicants to the Doctor of Philosophy in Clinical and Counseling Psychology should see [www.southalabama.edu/ccp/](http://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.