

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Psychology is an extremely broad discipline, studying everything from brain and neurologic functions to social and environmental influences on behavior and thought. Here at CU Denver, our undergraduate programs cover aspects of all the following: experimental psychology, biopsychology, animal behavior, developmental psychology, social psychology, cognitive psychology, personality, industrial/organizational psychology, and abnormal psychology. The psychology major is designed to help students achieve the following learning goals:

- **Knowledge Base of Psychology:** Students will recognize, explain, and distinguish the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in Psychology.
- **Research Methods in Psychology:** Students will demonstrate the statistical, organizational, writing, and analytical skills necessary to interpret and conduct meaningful and valid research in Psychology.
- **Critical Thinking Skills:** Students will use skeptical inquiry and scientific thinking skills to interpret and solve problems related to behavior and mental processes.
- **Application of Psychology:** Students will apply psychological principles to solve personal, social, and/or organizational problems.
- **Values in Psychology:** Students will evaluate evidence, tolerate ambiguity, act ethically, recognize and respect diversity, and/or reflect other values that are the underpinnings of psychology as a discipline.

The Department of Psychology strives to provide the highest quality, state-of-the-art educational experience for our undergraduate students. Our faculty members bring alive for students the subject matter and methodologies of psychology and prepare students to become sophisticated consumers and evaluators of information. Our students can collaborate with our faculty members on research projects at the intersection of psychological science and areas such as health and wellness, drug abuse, aging, stress, depression and child development, and marital relationships—research that is often focused on problems of contemporary urban life.

## ACADEMIC ADVISING

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) supports students to graduation using a dual-advising system. CLAS students have two academic advisors with whom they should meet regularly to discuss academic and degree progress: a CLAS Academic Advisor and a major/faculty advisor.

*For questions related to CU Denver Core Curriculum, CLAS, general graduation requirements, university/college academic policies, or campus resources contact:*

### CLAS Academic Advising

[clas\\_advising@ucdenver.edu](mailto:clas_advising@ucdenver.edu)

Find your CLAS Advisor [here](#)

North Classroom (NC) Building 1030  
303-315-7100

*For questions related to major requirements, major course prerequisites, or evaluation of transfer coursework in your major contact:*

### Professor Mitch Handelsman

[mitchell.handelsman@ucdenver.edu](mailto:mitchell.handelsman@ucdenver.edu)

Visit the department website [here](#)

North Classroom Building Room 5002  
303-315-7050

## GENERAL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS & POLICIES

*All CU Denver CLAS students are required to complete the following minimum general graduation requirements to be eligible to apply for graduation:*

1. Complete a minimum of 120 semester hours passed
2. Achieve a minimum 2.0 CU cumulative grade point average (GPA)
3. Complete a minimum of 45 upper-division (3000- to 4000-level) semester hours
4. Complete all CU Denver Core, college, and major requirements
5. Residency: complete a minimum of 30 CLAS hours at CU Denver

*Credits exceeding the following maximum hour restrictions will not be applied toward the minimum 120 hours required for graduation:*

- 56 semester hours in major department/prefix courses
- 16 semester hours Pass/Fail
- 12 semester hours of Independent Study
- 9 semester hours of internship credit
- 8 semester hours of physical education credit

## CAREER RESOURCES

Are you interested in learning about career and occupational options for this major? Visit the CU Denver Career Center located in the Tivoli Student Union (TV) Suite 267 to speak with a career counselor. The Career Center also provides *Career Briefs*, overviews of careers related to specific CU Denver majors, which include related links and resources to the particular field and show potential jobs related to the major. Access Career Briefs [here](#).

## PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS & POLICIES

**Students are responsible for meeting with the major/faculty advisor in the department to confirm major requirements.** In addition to completing all CU Denver Core and CLAS requirements, students completing the Psychology B.A. Degree are required to complete the following minimum program requirements:

1. Psychology BA major requirements include at least 37 and not more than 56 semester hours in psychology.
2. Of these, at least 16 hours must be in upper-division courses taught by CU Denver faculty.
3. No grade below C- (1.7) will be accepted toward the major requirements, nor will pass/fail grades.
4. A minimum GPA of 2.0 is required for courses applying toward Psychology major requirements.
5. PSYC 3939, Internship/Cooperative Education, does NOT count toward the 37-hour minimum or the 16-hour upper-division requirement, but it does count as elective psychology credit.
6. Topics courses (PSYC 3600): See your advisor to determine if they count as Group A or Group B courses.

Degree Requirements	Credits	Notes
<b>* Course prerequisites change regularly. Students are responsible for consulting advisors and the class schedule in the student portal for prerequisite information. *</b>		
CU Denver Core Curriculum Requirements	34 - 40	<a href="#">CU Denver Core Curriculum Requirements</a>
CLAS Graduation Requirements	15 - 29	<a href="#">CLAS Graduation Requirements</a>
PSYC Major Requirements	37	16 semester hours must be upper-division
<b>PSYC Required Courses</b>		
PSYC 1000 Introduction to Psychology I	3	
PSYC 1005 Introduction to Psychology II	3	
PSYC 2090 Statistics and Research Methods	4	
PSYC 2220 Biological Basis of Behavior	3	
PSYC 3090 Research Methods in Psychology	3	
PSYC 4511 History of Psychology	3	
<b>PSYC Group A Electives</b>		*The two Group A electives must be different courses.
Choose one from PSYC 3222 Principles of Learning & Behavior <b>or</b> PSYC 3144 Human Cognition	3	*Group A electives must include one of these two courses. See department list for other Group A electives.
Choose one from PSYC 3104, 3144, 3222, 3254, 3262, 3263, 3264, 3265, 3385, 3724, 3810, 3822, 3832, 4054 or 4164	3	
<b>PSYC Group B Electives</b>		*The three Group B electives must be different courses.
Choose two from PSYC 3205 Human Development I: Child Psychology, PSYC 3305 Abnormal Psychology, <b>or</b> PSYC 3415 Experimental Social Psychology other than the ones taken above	6	*Group B electives must include two of these three courses. See department list for other Group B electives.
Choose one from PSYC 3145, 3205, 3215, 3235, 3305, 3405, 3415, 3505, 3610, 3611, 3612, 3615, 4455, 4485, 4500, 4730	3	
<b>PSYC Major Elective</b>	3	*Take one additional course from group A or B
<b>Estimated General Electives</b>	14 - 34	General Elective credits will vary based on Core & CLAS Requirements. Consult with CLAS Advisor.
<b>Total Minimum Program Hours:</b>	<b>120</b>	45 semester hours must be upper-division

### SAMPLE ACADEMIC PLAN OF STUDY

The following academic plan is a *sample* pathway to completing degree requirements for this major. Students should tailor this plan based on previously completed college coursework (e.g., AP, IB, CLEP, dual/concurrent enrollment, and transfer credit), course availability, and individual preferences related to course load, schedules, or add-on programs such as minors or double-majors.

Year One	<b>Fall</b>	CRS	<b>Spring</b>		CRS
	ENGL 1020 – Core Composition I	3		ENGL 2030 – Core Composition II	3
	CU Denver Core Mathematics – MATH 2830 <i>recommended</i>	3		CU Denver Core Arts	3
	PSYC 1000	3		PSYC 1005	3
	CU Denver Core Humanities / First-Year Seminar	3		CU Denver Core Biol/Phys Science with Lab	4
	General Elective	3		General Elective	3
	<b>Total Credit Hours</b>	<b>15</b>		<b>Total Credit Hours</b>	<b>16</b>
Year Two	<b>Fall</b>	CRS	<b>Spring</b>		CRS
	PSYC 2090	4		PSYC 2220	3
	CLAS Communicative Skills	3		CLAS Biol/Phys Science with Lab	4
	CU Denver Core Social Science	3		CU Denver Core Cultural Diversity <sup>M</sup>	3
	PSYC Upper Division elective (B)	3		CLAS Humanities	3
	General Elective	3		General Elective	3
	<b>Total Credit Hours</b>	<b>16</b>		<b>Total Credit Hours</b>	<b>16</b>
Year Three	<b>Fall</b>	CRS	<b>Spring</b>		CRS
	PSYC 3090	3		PSYC Upper-Division elective (A)	3
	CU Denver Core International Perspectives	3		General Elective	3
	CLAS Foreign Language Semester I	5		CLAS Foreign Language Semester II	5
	PSYC Upper-Division elective(B)	3		CLAS Social Science	3
	<b>Total Credit Hours</b>	<b>14</b>		<b>Total Credit Hours</b>	<b>14</b>
Year Four	<b>Fall</b>	CRS	<b>Spring</b>		CRS
	PSYC Upper-Division elective (A)	3		PSYC 4511	3
	PSYC Upper-Division elective (B)	3		PSYC Upper-Division elective (A or B)	3
	General Upper-Division Elective	3		General Upper-Division Elective	3
	General Upper-Division Elective	3		General Upper-Division Elective	3
	General Upper-Division Elective	3		General Upper-Division Elective	3
	<b>Total Credit Hours</b>	<b>15</b>		<b>Total Credit Hours</b>	<b>15</b>