



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

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

Visit the department website [here](#)

North Classroom Building Room 5002

303-315-7045

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 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

Many psychology majors go on for advanced training in fields such as psychology, medicine, law, and business. With a bachelor's degree in psychology students go into a wide variety of business, educational, non-profit, government, and social service jobs. Here are some jobs/careers that graduates may pursue with bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees:

With a Bachelor's Degree

- Case Manager
- Community Relations Officer
- Human Resources
- Management training & sales
- Probation/parole officer

With a Master's Degree

- Professional research assistant
- Industrial/organizational psychologist
- Addictions counselor

With a Doctoral Degree

- Clinical psychologist
- College professor
- Health psychologist

Interested in learning more 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. Students completing the Psychology B.A. Degree are required to complete the following minimum program requirements:

1. Complete a minimum of 37 semester hours in Psychology with a grade of C- or better in each course and an overall 2.0 major GPA.
2. No grade below C- will be accepted toward the major requirements, nor will pass/fail grades.
3. Complete at least 16 upper-division (3000- to 4000-level) semester hours with CU Denver faculty.
4. PSYC 3939 does not count toward the 37 semester hours minimum nor the 16 semester hours of upper division requirements. It will count as psychology elective credit.
5. Topics courses (PSYC 3600) may count as a Group A or B elective. See major advisor for determination.

Courses	Credits	Notes
* Course prerequisites change regularly. Students are responsible for consulting advisors and the class schedule in the student portal for prerequisite information. *		
Required Courses	19 total	
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	
PSYC Group A Electives	6 total	
Choose one from PSYC 3222 Principles of Learning & Behavior or 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, 3265, 3385, 3724, 3810, 3822, 3832, 4054 or 4164	3	*May only use PSYC 3222 and PSYC 3144 for one of the group A options; cannot double count these courses.
PSYC Group B Electives	9 total	
Choose two from PSYC 3205 Human Development I: Child Psychology, PSYC 3305 Abnormal Psychology, or PSYC 3415 Experimental Social Psychology	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	*May only use PSYC 3205, 3305 and 3415 for one of the group B options; cannot double count these courses.
PSYC Elective	3 total	*Take one additional course from group A or B
Total Program Hours:	37	16 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	Milestones	Fall	CRS	Grade	✓	Spring	CRS	Grade	✓
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet your advisors Introduce yourself to faculty in your department Create an academic plan and check your Degree Audit with your advisors Visit campus resources 	ENGL 1020 – Core Composition I	3			ENGL 2030 – Core Composition II	3		
		CU Core Mathematics	3			CU Core Humanities	3		
		PSYC 1000	3			PSYC 1005	3		
		CU Core Arts	3			CU Core Science with Lab	4		
		General Elective	3			General Elective	3		
Year Two	Milestones	Fall	CRS	Grade	✓	Spring	CRS	Grade	✓
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet with your advisors to complete a 60-hour check Join a student club or organization Begin to research internships Visit the Career Center Explore additional major(s) or minors 	PSYC 2090	4			PSYC 2220	3		
		CLAS Communicative Skills	3			CLAS Science with Lab	4		
		CU Core Social Science	3			CU Core Cultural Diversity ^M	3		
		PSYC Upper Division elective (B)	3			CLAS Humanities	3		
		General Elective	3			General Elective	3		
Year Three	Milestones	Fall	CRS	Grade	✓	Spring	CRS	Grade	✓
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore research opportunities in your major Apply for internships Begin to research professional or graduate programs 	PSYC 3090	3			PSYC Upper-Division elective (A)	3		
		CU 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		
Year Four	Milestones	Fall	CRS	Grade	✓	Spring	CRS	Grade	✓
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See advisors for a grad check the semester before you plan to graduate Explore independent studies in your major Submit professional or graduate program applications 	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		
		General Upper-Division Elective	3			General Upper-Division Elective	3		

^M Can count for Core and Major Requirements