PSYCHOLOGY, B.S.

As one of the most popular majors at Saint Louis University, training in psychology provides students with multiple avenues to explore their interests and develop their abilities through research, service and study. Students majoring in psychology learn how human behavior depends on biological factors, developmental status, cognitive processes and social conditions.

Psychological science encompasses various methods to address diverse topics, from brain function to cultural influences. The discoveries of psychology improve understanding of the human experience and the quality of life. For psychology B.S. students, developing the skills to conduct research is emphasized.

The Saint Louis University Department of Psychology (https://www.slu.edu/arts-and-sciences/psychology/)’s mission is to broadly educate students in the discipline of psychology and its applications. Faculty accomplish this by integrating empirical science, theory and practice focused on the evidence-based understanding of behaviors and experiences of individuals and groups, including the family, organizations and institutions.

SLU faculty encourage intellectual curiosity, critical thinking and ethical responsibility. A commitment to value-based, holistic education and an enthusiasm for psychology is realized in the products of research, in graduates and in service to others locally, nationally and globally. The faculty seeks to contribute to improving the human condition and promote human welfare through understanding past knowledge, discovering new knowledge and disseminating that knowledge through teaching, publications and service. The faculty educate students to be professionals and challenges them to be ethically responsible, be committed to serving others and respect human diversity in all its forms.

Program Highlights

- Psychology majors are mentored by individual faculty members who support students’ discernment of and successful progress toward professional goals.
- Psychology majors build evidence-based habits of mind and research skills through working with faculty and graduate students investigating a wide variety of psychological phenomena.
- Psychology majors can take science out of the ivory tower to foster social justice in diverse communities and neighborhoods as members of a social advocacy learning community, at nearby service-learning practicum sites, or through values-based research activities.

Curriculum Overview

The undergraduate psychology program offers students three options: a Bachelor of Arts (https://catalog.slu.edu/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/psychology/psychology-ba/), a Bachelor of Science and a minor in psychology (https://catalog.slu.edu/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/psychology/psychology-minor/). Each introduces students to the study of psychology while developing capacities for evidence-based reasoning, quantitative thinking and psychological inquiry.

Majors receive a strong education in preparation for entry-level employment, with strengths in understanding people and evidence-based reasoning. The B.S. degree further prepares students to enter graduate programs for professional training as psychologists, for which a Ph.D. is needed. Students may also use the B.S. degree in psychology as pre-professional training in medicine, physical therapy, occupational therapy, social work, education and law.

Fieldwork and Research Opportunities

Students may gain volunteer experience in a variety of practicum settings, including mental health, research, consulting, schools and community service organizations. In addition to completing multiple courses in research methodology and statistics, students may seek out opportunities as undergraduate research assistants working in a faculty member’s research lab.

Careers

SLU graduates have used their psychology degree as pre-professional training to go on to the fields of medicine, physical therapy, occupational therapy, social work, education and law. Strengths in understanding and reasoning about human behavior will also prepare students for entry-level positions in many additional fields.

An undergraduate degree in psychology can also prepare students to continue as graduate students with plans to become a psychologist, a profession that requires doctoral-level training.

Admission Requirements

Begin Your Application (http://www.slu.edu/apply.php)

Saint Louis University also accepts the Common Application.

Freshman

All applications are thoroughly reviewed with the highest degree of individual care and consideration to all credentials that are submitted. Solid academic performance in college preparatory coursework is a primary concern in reviewing a freshman applicant’s file.

To be considered for admission to any Saint Louis University undergraduate program, applicants must be graduating from an accredited high school, have an acceptable HiSET exam score or take the General Education Development (GED) test.

Transfer

Applicants must be a graduate of an accredited high school or have an acceptable score on the GED.

Students who have attempted fewer than 24 semester credits (or 30 quarter credits) of college credit must follow the above freshmen admission requirements. Students who have completed 24 or more semester credits (or 30 quarter credits) of college credit must submit transcripts from all previously attended college(s).

In reviewing a transfer applicant’s file, the Office of Admission holistically examines the student’s academic performance in college-level coursework as an indicator of the student’s ability to meet the academic rigor of Saint Louis University. Where applicable, transfer students will be evaluated on any courses outlined in the continuation standards of their preferred major.

International Applicants

All admission policies and requirements for domestic students apply to international students along with the following:

- Demonstrate English Language Proficiency (https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/office-admission/undergraduate/english-language-proficiency/)
Scholarships and Financial Aid

There are two principal ways to help finance a Saint Louis University education:

- **Scholarships**: Scholarships are awarded based on academic achievement, service, leadership and financial need.
- **Financial Aid**: Financial aid is provided through grants and loans, some of which require repayment.

Saint Louis University makes every effort to keep our education affordable. In fiscal year 2022, 99% of first-time freshmen and 90% of all students received financial aid and students received more than $445 million in aid University-wide.

For priority consideration for merit-based scholarships, apply for admission by December 1 and complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by March 1.

For information on other scholarships and financial aid, visit [www.slu.edu/financial-aid](https://www.slu.edu/financial-aid).

Learning Outcomes

1. Students will demonstrate comprehension of the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, historical trends, and empirical findings in psychology in their application to complex problems.
2. Students will demonstrate their ability to discern the quality of research conducted by others and apply their research knowledge in the execution of a self-generated research project, including design, analysis, interpretation, and presentation.
3. Students will demonstrate their abilities to recognize ethically and socially responsible behaviors and engage in such behaviors through applied research activities.
4. Students will demonstrate competence in writing and in oral and interpersonal communication skills through applied research activities.
5. Students will demonstrate their ability to manage, present, and reflect on a major collaborative psychology research project.

Requirements

B.S. in psychology students must complete a minimum total of **36 credits** for the major.

PSY 2050 Foundations of Research Methods and Statistics, PSY 4060 Applications of Research Methods and Statistics, and PSY 4960 Advanced Research Methodology and Statistics must be taken from the student’s home department. The latter will count as the capstone course for the B.S. major.

Non-Course Requirements

**Mentoring Matters**: Attendance at two Mentoring Matters events, or equivalent, is required for all psychology majors. Completion is strongly recommended by the end of the second year after declaring the major.
Continuation Standards

Students who fail to earn C in PSY 1010 or whose SLU PSY GPA is below 2.0 will be placed on probation and have a maximum of 2 consecutive semesters to resolve either or both issues. Students who fail to earn a B- or better in PSY2050 within 3 consecutive semesters after declaring the major or who fail to complete PSY2010 prior to taking PSY4960 will be immediately dismissed from the program.

Roadmap

Roadmaps are recommended semester-by-semester plans of study for programs and assume full-time enrollment unless otherwise noted.

Courses and milestones designated as critical (marked with !) must be completed in the semester listed to ensure a timely graduation. Transfer credit may change the roadmap.

This roadmap should not be used in the place of regular academic advising appointments. All students are encouraged to meet with their advisor/mentor each semester. Requirements, course availability and sequencing are subject to change.

Course | Title | Credits
--- | --- | ---
**Year One**<br>Fall<br>PSY 1010 | General Psychology (1 satisfies CORE 3600) | 3<br>CORE 1000 | Ignite First Year Seminar | 2-3<br>CORE 1500 | Cura Personalis 1: Self in Community | 1<br>General Electives | 9<br>**Credits** | **15-16**
**Spring**<br>PSY 2010 | Disciplines & Practices in Psychology | 3<br>Psychology Breadth Requirement | 3<br>PSY First-Year Mentoring Matters (Participation) | 4<br>CORE 1600 | Ultimate Questions: Theology | 3<br>CORE 1900 | Eloquientia Perfecta 1: Written and Visual Communication | 3<br>General Electives | 6
**Credits** | **15-16**
**Year Two**<br>Fall<br>PSY 2050 | Foundations of Research Methods and Statistics | 4<br>Psychology Breadth Requirement | 3<br>CORE 1200 | Eloquientia Perfecta 2: Oral and Visual Communication | 3<br>CORE 1700 | Ultimate Questions: Philosophy | 3<br>General Electives | 3
**Credits** | **16**
**Spring**<br>Psychology Breadth Requirement | 3<br>PSY Second-Year Mentoring Matters (Participation) | 6<br>CORE 3800 | Ways of Thinking: Natural and Applied Sciences | 3<br>CORE 2500 | Cura Personalis 2: Self in Contemplation | 0
**Credits** | **18**

**Year Three**

**Fall**<br>PSY4060 | Applications of Research Methods and Statistics | 4<br>CORE 3400 | Ways of Thinking: Aesthetics, History, and Culture | 3<br>CORE 2800 | Eloquientia Perfecta 3: Creative Expression | 2-3<br>Psychology Breadth Requirement | 3<br>General Electives | 3
**Credits** | **15-16**

**Spring**<br>PSY 4960 | Advanced Research Methodology and Statistics (satisfies CORE 4000) | 4<br>Psychology Breadth Requirement | 3<br>General Electives | 6
**Credits** | **13**

**Year Four**

**Fall**<br>CORE 3500 | Cura Personalis 3: Self in the World | 1<br>Psychology General Elective | 3<br>Optional Psychology Elective | 3<br>General Electives | 6
**Credits** | **12**

**Spring**<br>Psychology Advanced Elective | 3<br>Optional Psychology Elective | 3<br>General Electives | 6
**Credits** | **12**

**Total Credits** | **120-122**

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1. A grade of "C" or better required for majors and minors (or program probation begins).
2. Spring only. Should be taken before PSY 4060. Must be taken prior to registering for PSY 4960 to avoid program dismissal.
3. See information in the program notes.
4. Spring only; during first year as a psychology major.
5. Required before PSY 4060. Grad of "B-" or better needed within 3 consecutive semesters after declaring the major and before PSY 4060.
6. Spring only; during second year as a psychology major.
7. Fall only; must be taken in consecutive semester before PSY 4960.
8. Advanced Research Methodology and Statistics (0,4 cr).
9. Spring only; must be taken in consecutive semester after PSY 4060.
If needed or desired.

**Program Notes**

The B.S. in psychology requires a minimum of 36 credit hours.

**Approved Psychology Breadth Requirements**

At least one course from each of the four topical areas listed must be taken.

### Topical Cluster 1: Cognitive Neuroscience

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSY 3100</td>
<td>Brain, Mind, &amp; Society</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY 3120</td>
<td>Cognitive Psychology</td>
<td>3</td>
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Select 3 credit hours with the "PSY Cog Neuro Cluster" attribute, such as:

### Topical Cluster 2: Developmental Psychology

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<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSY 3210</td>
<td>Developmental Psych: Child</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY 3230</td>
<td>Developmental Psychology: Adolescence</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select 3 credit hours with the "PSY Dev Cluster" attribute, such as:

### Topical Cluster 3: Social & Organizational Psychology

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<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSY 3300</td>
<td>Social Psychology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY 3410</td>
<td>Organizational Psychology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select 3 credit hours with the "PSY Soc Org Cluster" attribute, such as:

### Topical Cluster 4: Mental Health and Wellbeing in Applied Contexts

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<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSY 3460</td>
<td>Abnormal Psychology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY 3470</td>
<td>Occupational Health Psychology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select 3 credit hours with the "PSY Health Applied Cluster" attribute, such as: