Psychology Degree

Psychology focuses on the study of behavior of humans and other animals. It involves both pure and practical application of science to matters of everyday life.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this program, the student will be able to:

• differentiate between scientifically derived knowledge versus myth and conjecture within the field of psychology;

• compare and contrast the major theoretical orientations in psychology;

• define basic psychological terminology regarding behavior, cognition, and emotion, and be able to express it clearly when writing or speaking about psychology;

• evaluate psychological data using the scientific method, draw reasonable conclusions, recognize the ethical implications of these conclusions, and apply these to personal, community, and scientific problems;

• employ psychological principles that lay the foundation for life-long personal growth and development of interpersonal and social skills;

• demonstrate appropriate interpersonal and social skills in interactions with a diverse population using principles of equity, justice, and inclusion.

Career Opportunities

The Psychology degree is designed to facilitate students’ successful transfer to four-year programs that prepare them for advanced study in a variety of graduate programs. Psychologists with graduate degrees and professional certificates have a broad range of employment opportunities including, but not limited to, clinical practice, research, and teaching. Clinical psychologists work in a variety of settings and with a wide range of clients. Research psychologists work in a range of fields associated with the study of human behavior, including biomedical, sports psychology, and cognitive neuroscience.

Requirements for Degree: 18 Units

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The Associate in Arts degree in Psychology for Transfer provides students with a major that fulfills the general requirements of the California State University for transfer. Students with this degree will receive priority admission with junior status to the California State University system.

The Associate in Arts degree in Psychology for Transfer (A.A.T.) may be obtained by the completion of 60 transferable, semester units with a minimum of a 2.0 GPA,
(Psychology A.A. for Transfer Degree continued)

including (a) the major or area of emphasis described in the Required Program outlined below (earning a C or better in these courses), and (b) either the Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC) or the California State University General Education-Breadth Requirements.

Student Learning Outcomes
Upon completion of this program, the student will be able to:

- differentiate between scientifically derived knowledge versus pseudoscience within the field of psychology.
- compare and contrast the major theoretical perspectives in psychology.
- define basic psychological terminology regarding behavior, cognition, and emotion, and be able to express it clearly when writing or speaking about psychology.
- evaluate psychological data, use the scientific method, draw reasonable conclusions, recognize the ethical implications of these conclusions, and apply these to personal, community, and scientific problems.
- employ psychological principles that lay the foundation for life-long personal growth and development of interpersonal and social skills.
- demonstrate appropriate interpersonal and social skills in interactions with a diverse population using principles of equity, justice, and inclusion.

Career Opportunities
The Psychology degree is designed to facilitate students’ successful transfer to four-year programs that prepare them for advanced study in a variety of graduate programs, as well as a variety of careers such as nursing, sales and marketing, teaching, and law enforcement. Psychologists with graduate degrees and professional certificates have a broad range of employment opportunities including, but not limited to, clinical practice, research, and teaching. Clinical psychologists work in a variety of settings and with a wide range of clients. Research psychologists work in a range of fields associated with the study of human behavior, including biomedical, sports psychology, and cognitive neuroscience.

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'Or any course not used previously

Associate in Arts for Transfer Degree Requirements: The Psychology Associate in Arts for Transfer (A.A.T.) Degree may be obtained by completion of 60 transferable, semester units with a minimum 2.0 GPA, including (a) the major or area of emphasis described in the Required Program, and (b) either the Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC) or the California State University General Education-Breadth Requirements.

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<td>This course provides a broad overview of general principles of psychology. Topics include the scientific method, statistics, biological determinants, as well as general processes of behavior, such as development, learning, language, intelligence, perception, motivation, emotion, personality, and mental health. This course is not open to students who have taken PSYC 480. (C-ID PSY 110)</td>
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<td>This course explores human behavior, emphasizing the practical aspects of psychology in everyday life utilizing both psychological theory and research. Topics include personality, stress and coping, self-understanding, communication, interpersonal relationships, gender, sexuality, psychological disorders and their treatment, personality, personal values, and positive psychology. (C-ID PSY 115)</td>
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<td>This course examines the physiological determinants of behavior and cognition. The role of genetics, neural development, neural communication and pathways, brain structures, neurotransmitters, drugs, endocrine system, and sensory systems in typical and atypical behavior and cognition are addressed. Current theories related to the role of neural and biological processes in the etiology and treatment of psychological disorders, motor disorders, and other central nervous pathologies are presented. Ethical standards for human and animal research are discussed. (C-ID PSY 150)</td>
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<td>PSYC 311</td>
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<td>Corequisite: PSYC 310 General Education: CSU Area B3; IGETC Area 5C Course Transferable to UC/CSU Hours: 54 hours LAB</td>
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|     | This course involves the applied study of the nervous system, focusing on its anatomy, physiology, biochemistry, and impact on behavioral and mental processes. It provides a foundation in the principles of the scientific method and practical experience in its application to the study of biological psychology. Specific topics include anatomy, physiology, and organization of the nervous system, with special emphasis on the brain; anatomy and physiology of the neuron; physiology of nerves and nerve conduction; the biochemistry of the synapse; anatomy and physiology of sensory systems; and psychophysical examination of sensation and perception. Brain dissection procedures, interactive computer simulations, and lab experiments with data collection and analysis are utilized.
PSYC 320 Social Psychology 3 Units
Prerequisite: PSYC 300 with a grade of "C" or better
General Education: AA/AS Area V(b); CSU Area D9; IGETC Area 4I
Course Transferable to UC/CSU
Hours: 54 hours LEC
This course analyzes human behavior in relation to the social environment, including the power of the situation, other individuals, and the social group. Emphasized topics include aggression, prejudice, attraction, altruism, attitude change, conformity, gender roles, cultural norms, person perception, and social cognition. (C-ID PSY 170)

PSYC 330 Introductory Statistics for the Behavioral Sciences 3 Units
Prerequisite: MATH 120, MATH 125, MATH 129, or MATH 133 with a grade of "C" or better.
General Education: AA/AS Area II(b); CSU Area B4; IGETC Area 2
Course Transferable to UC/CSU
Hours: 54 hours LEC
This course focuses upon the concepts and applications of descriptive and inferential statistics in psychology and other behavioral sciences. Topics include descriptive statistics, probability and sampling distributions, parametric and nonparametric statistical methods, hypothesis testing, statistical inference and power, correlation and regression, chi-square, t-tests, and analysis of variance procedures. Application of both hand computation and statistical software to data in a social science context is emphasized to include the interpretation of the relevance of the statistical findings. (Competency: Mathematics)

PSYC 335 Research Methods in Psychology 3 Units
Prerequisite: PSYC 300 and PSYC 330, STAT 300 or STAT 305 with a grade of "C" or better. 
Advisory: ENGRD 310 or ENGRD 312
Course Transferable to UC/CSU
Hours: 36 hours LEC; 54 hours LAB
This course covers the planning and execution of research studies in the behavioral sciences. Crucial topics include hypothesis formation, review of the professional literature, research design, collection of data, statistical analysis, and scientific report writing. (C-ID PSY 200)

PSYC 340 Abnormal Behavior 3 Units
Prerequisite: PSYC 300, 305, or 480 with a grade of "C" or better
Advisory: Eligible for ENGRD 310 or ENGRD 312 AND ENGRW 300; OR ESLR 340 AND ESLW 340.
General Education: AA/AS Area III(b); CSU Area D9; CSU Area E1; IGETC Area 4I
Course Transferable to UC/CSU
Hours: 54 hours LEC
This course explores the broad questions of normality and abnormality. Topics include the investigation of specific mental, emotional, and behavioral difficulties and current approaches to psychological intervention including present community mental health practices. It considers the contribution of social, biological, and psychological factors to the development and persistence of behavior disorders. This class is not open to students who have taken PSYC 481. (C-ID PSY 120)

PSYC 342 Introduction to Applied Behavior Analysis 3 Units
Prerequisite: PSYC 300 or 305 with a grade of "C" or better
General Education: AA/AS Area III(b); CSU Area E1
Course Transferable to CSU
Hours: 54 hours LEC
This course focuses on basic behavioral principles that describe relations between operant behavior and the social and physical environment. Behavior is examined as a part of the natural world and in everyday situations. The primary focus is on principles of operant conditioning, such as reinforcement, extinction, differential reinforcement, and punishment, as they are related to naturally occurring events. Additional topics include experimental and intervention procedures of applied behavioral analysis. It also covers practical applications including self management, institutional settings, schools, child behavior management, as well as treatment of developmental disorders such as Autism and Asperger’s disorders.

PSYC 354 The Psychology of Family Life and Intimate Relationships in a Diverse Society 3 Units
Advisory: Eligible for ENGRD 310 or ENGRD 312
Course Transferable to CSU
Hours: 54 hours LEC
This course is a study of family life and intimate relationships from historical, sociological and psychological viewpoints. Topics include elements for building and maintaining intimate relationships, the structure and functions of the family, sexuality, parenting, gender roles, partner selection, conflict, crisis, divorce, and starting over. (C-ID SOCI 130)

PSYC 356 Human Sexuality 3 Units
Advisory: Eligible for ENGRD 310 or ENGRD 312 AND ENGRW 300; OR ESLR 340 AND ESLW 340.
General Education: AA/AS Area III(b); AA/AS Area VI (effective Summer 2014); CSU Area D4; CSU Area D9; CSU Area E1; IGETC Area 4D; IGETC Area 4I
Course Transferable to UC/CSU
Hours: 54 hours LEC
This course offers a balanced scientific understanding of the biopsychosocial perspective on human sexual behavior from birth through adulthood. It provides factual, up-to-date, nonjudgmental information designed to dispel myths, and to facilitate problem identification and possible solutions. Sexuality is explored from historical, cultural, psychological, physiological, sociological, and legal viewpoints. (C-ID PSY 130)

PSYC 358 Principles of Interpersonal Relations 3 Units
Advisory: Eligible for ENGRD 310 or ENGRD 312 AND ENGRW 300; OR ESLR 340 AND ESLW 340.
General Education: AA/AS Area III(b); CSU Area E1
Course Transferable to CSU
Hours: 54 hours LEC
This course introduces the principles involved in effective interpersonal relationships. Topics include interpersonal feedback, self-disclosure, listening, the role of emotions, conflict resolution, personal values, and self-awareness. Emphasis is on methods to enhance relationships at home, work, and school.
PSYC 359  Stress Management and Health  3 Units
General Education: AA/AS Area III(b); CSU Area E1
Course Transferable to CSU
Hours: 54 hours LEC
This course examines the connection between stress, stress response, coping, and health. It covers various types of stressors, stress responses, and coping strategies, and the scientific research in these areas. Topics include the impact of stress on physical, cognitive, behavioral, and emotional health. This course focuses on developing healthy ways to cope with stress, including cognitive-behavioral techniques, mindfulness, and relaxation techniques.

PSYC 361  Psychology of Women in a Multicultural Society  3 Units
General Education: AA/AS Area V(b); AA/AS Area VI; CSU Area D3; CSU Area D4; CSU Area D9; CSU Area E1; IGTC Area 4C; IGTC Area 4D; IGTC Area 4I
Course Transferable to UC/CSU
Hours: 54 hours LEC
This course is a study of the psychological effects of society upon women. Emphasis is on the exploration of gender roles, sex roles, stereotypes, as well as the sociocultural, intrapersonal, and interpersonal factors in the development of women.

PSYC 365  Issues of Diverse Populations  3 Units
Same As: HSER 330
Prerequisite: ENGWR 102 and ENGRD 116 with a grade of “C” or better; OR ESLR 320 and ESLW 320 with a grade of “C” or better; OR placement through assessment process.
General Education: AA/AS Area V(b); AA/AS Area VI; CSU Area E1
Course Transferable to CSU
Hours: 54 hours LEC
This course is a study of the values, problems, issues, concerns and counseling needs of diverse populations by race, ethnicity, class, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical/cognitive/emotional/developmental ability, and age. It also explores the cognitive and emotional aspects of prejudice as it relates to institutional and individual discrimination. This course is not open to students who have completed HSER 330.

PSYC 370  Human Development: A Life Span  3 Units
Advisory: ENGWR 102 and ENGRD 116 with a grade of “C” or better; OR ESLR 320 and ESLW 320 with a grade of “C” or better.
General Education: AA/AS Area V(b); AA/AS Area III(b); CSU Area D9; CSU Area E1; IGTC Area 4I
Course Transferable to UC/CSU
Hours: 54 hours LEC
This course examines human development across the lifespan, from conception through death, by focusing on the main domains in developmental psychology (physical, cognitive, and socio-emotional) as well as the interaction among these domains. Emphasis is placed on development as an on-going process, with an effort to encourage the practical application of the knowledge acquired. This course is designed to provide a foundation for careers in educational, social, psychological, and medical fields as well as a better understanding of one’s own developmental process. (C-ID PSY 180)

PSYC 372  Child Development  3 Units
Same As: ECE 312
Advisory: ENGWR 102 and ENGRD 116 with a grade of “C” or better; OR ESLR 320 and ESLW 320 with a grade of “C” or better.
General Education: AA/AS Area V(b); CSU Area D9; CSU Area E1; IGTC Area 4I
Course Transferable to UC/CSU
Hours: 54 hours LEC
This course is a study of the growth and development of children from the prenatal stage through adolescence. For each stage of development, the physical, cognitive, linguistic, social-moral, and emotional aspects of development, with attention to both typical as well as atypical development in each area, are discussed. Included are the influences of culture, family, and the interaction of maturational and environmental factors. This material is designed as a foundation for early care and education, teaching, and parenting. This course is not open to students who have completed ECE 312. (C-ID CDEV 100)

PSYC 373  Child Psychology  3 Units
Advisory: ENGWR 102 or 103, and ENGRD 116 with a grade of “C” or better; OR ESLR 320 and ESLW 320 with a grade of “C” or better; OR placement through assessment process.
General Education: AA/AS Area V(b); CSU Area D9; CSU Area E1; IGTC Area 4I
Course Transferable to UC/CSU
Hours: 54 hours LEC
This course introduces the science of child psychology through the analysis of developmental theories and research. Key developmental events across the main domains in developmental psychology (physical, cognitive, socio-emotional) are examined from conception through adolescence. Questions about development are investigated, with an emphasis on the role of the scientific method. Typical and atypical psychological development research is explored as well as the influences of culture, society, family, and physical environments on children's behavior and mental processes. This course provides a scientific foundation for future studies in social sciences, including psychology.

PSYC 374  Psychology of Aging: Adult Development and Aging  3 Units
Same As: GERON 302
Advisory: Eligible for ENGRD 310 or ENGRD 312 AND ENGWR 300; OR ESLR 340 AND ESLW 340
General Education: AA/AS Area V(b); CSU Area E1
Course Transferable to UC/CSU
Hours: 54 hours LEC
This course covers the physical, psychological, and social aspects of the aging process including the interactions between the elderly and the rest of society. Topics include an analysis of stereotypes, social bonds, environmental factors, sexuality, physical health, mental health, death, and bereavement. This course is not open to students who have completed GERON 302.
PSYC 378  Communicating with and Validating Older Adults  3 Units

Same As: GERON 330
Prerequisite: GERON 302 or PSYC 374 with a grade of “C” or better
Advisory: ENGW 102 and ENGRD 116 with a grade of “C” or better; OR ESLW 320 and ESLW 320 with a grade of “C” or better.
Enrollment Limitation: Current tuberculosis clearance
General Education: AA/AS Area III(b)
Course Transferable to CSU
Hours: 54 hours LEC

This course introduces the basic theory, techniques, and experiences for communication with, validation of, and stimulation of the elderly at different cognitive levels in long-term care. After the first class session, this course is held off campus in a long-term care setting. This course is not open to students who have completed GERON 330.

PSYC 379  Reminiscence Therapy  3 Units

Same As: GERON 334
Prerequisite: GERON 302 or PSYC 374 with a grade of “C” or better
Advisory: ENGW 102 and ENGRD 116 with a grade of “C” or better; OR ESLW 320 and ESLW 320 with a grade of “C” or better.
Enrollment Limitation: Current tuberculosis clearance
General Education: AA/AS Area III(b)
Course Transferable to CSU
Hours: 54 hours LEC

This course introduces the basic theory and techniques of reminiscence therapy and provides experience in planning, facilitating, and evaluating reminiscence groups with the elderly in an institutional setting. After the first class session, this course is held off campus in a long-term care setting. This class is not open to students who have completed GERON 334.

PSYC 383  Introduction to Organizational Psychology  3 Units

Advisory: PSYC 300, 330, and 335
General Education: AA/AS Area V(b); CSU Area D9
Course Transferable to CSU
Hours: 54 hours LEC

This course provides an overview of the field of organizational psychology, focusing on motivation, leadership, organizational assessment, personnel selection, training, and the application of psychological research techniques in the work environment.

PSYC 390  Psychology of Death and Dying  3 Units

Advisory: ENGW 102 and ENGRD 116 with a grade of “C” or better; OR ESLW 320 and ESLW 320 with a grade of “C” or better.
General Education: AA/AS Area III(b); CSU Area D9; CSU Area E1; IGETC Area 41
Course Transferable to UC/CSU
Hours: 54 hours LEC

This course investigates beliefs, attitudes, anxieties, and behaviors associated with dying and death. Information about suicide, life-threatening illnesses, bereavement, and euthanasia are presented.

PSYC 400  Introduction to Chemical Dependency  3 Units

Same As: HSER 340
Advisory: ENGW 102 or 103, and ENGRD 116 with a grade of “C” or better; OR ESLW 320 and ESLW 320 with a grade of “C” or better.
Enrollment Limitation: Current tuberculosis clearance
General Education: AA/AS Area III(b); CSU Area E1
Course Transferable to CSU
Hours: 54 hours LEC

This course examines the physiological effects of chemical dependency on the individual. It includes an analysis of the effects of substance abuse on the family; the sociological, economic conditions contributing to substance abuse; and a description of community efforts at prevention and treatment. This course is not open to students who have completed HSER 340.

PSYC 401  Physiology and Pharmacology: Alcohol & Other Drugs  3 Units

Same As: HSER 341
Prerequisite: ENGW 102 or ESLW 320 and HSER 340 or PSYC 400 with a grade of “C” or better.
Course Transferable to CSU
Hours: 54 hours LEC

This course is a study of the chemical composition of alcohol and the mechanism of action of alcohol and other psychoactive drugs, including opiates, stimulants, depressants, psychotherapeutics, and psychedelics. It also includes the social and psychological implications of tolerance, habituation, and substance abuse of the user and abuser. This course is not open to students who have completed HSER 341.

PSYC 402  Alcoholism: Intervention, Treatment & Recovery  3 Units

Same As: HSER 342
Prerequisite: HSER 341 or PSYC 401 with a grade of “C” or better.
Course Transferable to CSU
Hours: 54 hours LEC

This course is a study and evaluation of techniques used in the treatment of chemical dependency. Topics include intervention, individual and group counseling, detoxification, twelve-step program, therapeutic communities, and aftercare programs. This course is not open to students who have completed HSER 342.

PSYC 415  Studying in London: Psychological Elements of British Life and Culture  3 Units

General Education: AA/AS Area V(b); CSU Area D9
Course Transferable to CSU
Hours: 54 hours LEC

This course, offered in a London study abroad program, surveys elements in British history and culture that have influenced the science of psychology. Special emphasis is given to the influences of Sigmund Freud, Charles Darwin, Sir Francis Galton, and the events of World War II to current psychological theories. Additionally, the course examines the psychology behind various elements of British life including the monarchy, popular society, counter culture, art, and history. Field trips are required.
PSYC 480  Honors General Principles  3 Units
Prerequisite: Placement into ENGWR 480 through the assessment process.
General Education: AA/AS Area V(b); CSU Area D9; IGETC Area 4I
Course Transferable to UC/CSU
Hours: 54 hours LEC

This course is for psychology majors, behavioral science majors, and other students who desire a challenging, issues-oriented introduction to the general principles of psychology. Topics include the scientific method, statistics, biological determinants, and general processes of behavior, such as development, learning, language, intelligence, perception, motivation, emotion, personality, and mental health. Emphasizing critical thinking in a seminar style, the focus is on thorough analysis and evaluation of psychological theories and research studies as they relate to practical, everyday issues. This course is not open to students who have completed PSYC 300. (C-ID PSY 110)

PSYC 481  Honors Abnormal Behavior  3 Units
Prerequisite: Assessment into ENGWR 480, and completion of PSYC 300 or PSYC 480 with a grade of “C” or better.
General Education: AA/AS Area III(b); CSU Area D9; CSU Area E1; IGETC Area 4I
Course Transferable to UC/CSU
Hours: 54 hours LEC

This course is for psychology majors, behavioral science majors, and others who desire a challenging, critical thinking, and issues-oriented exploration of normality and abnormality. Examination of the origins, symptoms and treatment of psychological disorders through first-person accounts, role of multicultural factors, and various theoretical stances. The focus is on thorough analysis and evaluation of biopsychosocial theories and research studies as they relate to the development and persistence of behavior disorders and treatment approaches. This course is not open to students who have taken PSYC 340. (C-ID PSY 120)

PSYC 495  Independent Studies in Psychology  1-3 Units
Course Transferable to CSU
Hours: 54-162 hours LAB

Independent Study is an opportunity for the student to extend classroom experience in this subject, while working independently of a formal classroom situation. Independent study is an extension of work offered in a specific class in the college catalog. To be eligible for independent study, students must have completed the basic regular catalog course at American River College. They must also discuss the study with a professor in this subject and secure approval. Only one independent study for each catalog course will be allowed.