

# PSYCHOLOGY HANDBOOK

2025-2026



We strive to better understand human beings—from the brain, the mind, and the person, to how cultural and group identities, community context, and organizations impact a person. We're dedicated to maintaining an inclusive, respectful community that advances psychological science through high-quality research and provides a world-class education for our undergraduate students.

<https://psychology.msu.edu/>

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# WELCOME TO PSYCHOLOGY

Welcome to the Department of Psychology at Michigan State University! Psychology is one of the largest undergraduate majors on campus and has many exciting opportunities that are available to you. From our number of courses, to our experiential-learning activities, you should leave MSU with a very comprehensive degree!

This handbook is intended for students who have declared Psychology as their major during the 2025-2026 academic year. As a new student majoring in Psychology, you will need to understand and learn the requirements for your degree as well as the resources available to you on our campus. We hope that this handbook will help you navigate these requirements and available resources.

In addition to this handbook, you should utilize the Psychology and University websites. The Psychology Department website, <http://psychology.msu.edu/>, contains valuable information that will help you select PSY courses, careers, areas of interest to investigate, graduate schools, workshops, and fulfill degree requirements. The University website, <http://msu.edu/>, will offer you calendars, MSU News, course descriptions, people search, student information system - <https://student.msu.edu/>, and much more.

The official guide for degree requirements can be found in the Academic Programs Catalog or at <http://reg.msu.edu/AcademicPrograms/>.

We are here to help you in any way! We hope to see you at least once a semester. Don't miss out on advice and guidance for course selection and your career!

Undergraduate Advising Team



# OUR ADVISING TEAM



**Sarah Handspike**  
Director of Advising and  
Undergraduate Services



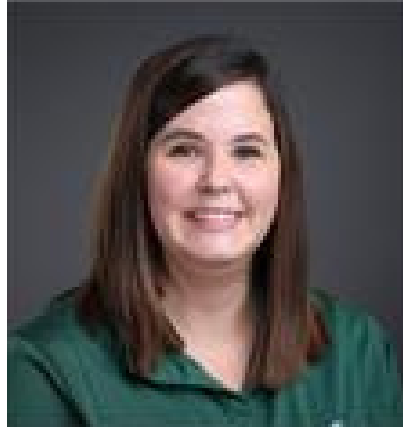
**Lindsay Spitzley**  
Assistant Director of Advising  
and Undergraduate Services



**Rachael Zaborowski**  
Academic Advisor and  
Coordinator of Student Transitions



**Noël Lugo**  
Academic Advisor and  
Coordinator of Undergrad Diversity  
Programs



**Samantha Sliwa**  
Academic Advisor



**Andrew Murray**  
Academic Advisor



**Kim Brown**  
Staff



**Audra Jeffrey**  
Staff

## OUR CONTACT



517-353-7271 or 517-353-0753



[psyugrad@msu.edu](mailto:psyugrad@msu.edu)



[psychology.msu.edu](http://psychology.msu.edu)



316 Physics Rd.  
Psychology Bldg, Rm. 100  
East Lansing, MI 48824

# ADVISING

Advising in the Psychology Department is done in many different formats. We offer appointments (in-person and Zoom), drop-in advising (Zoom), and various forms of group advising. Our appointments are scheduled on-line at <https://student.msu.edu/>. Step-by-step instructions for scheduling an appointment are on the PSY advising website: <https://psychology.msu.edu/undergraduates/advising.html>

\* For more information about the Student Information System and help please visit [SIS Help](#) | [Student Information System](#) | [Michigan State University \(msu.edu\)](#)

Drop-ins are available Monday – Friday from 1:00pm – 3:00pm during the academic year. In-person advising takes place in the Office of Advising and Undergraduate Services in Room 100 Psychology Building. Group advising takes place through seminars, workshops, and other events that you will have the option to participate in throughout the year. Notification of these events will be done through newsletters, emails, and on our social media.



# ADVISING

## Please see a Psychology advisor to discuss or review:

- BA or BS in Psychology, additional majors, second degrees, or minors
- Adding, dropping, or changing a major or degree
- Planning course schedules
- Opportunities: independent studies, internships, practicums, volunteering, employment, awards, scholarships, study abroad, and more...
- Progress in meeting requirements and potential graduation date
- Graduate or professional school planning
- Other academic and/or career needs

## Advisors: ([psyugrad@msu.edu](mailto:psyugrad@msu.edu))

- Sarah Handspike, Director of Advising and Undergraduate Services
- Lindsay Spitzley, Assistant Director of Advising and Undergraduate Services
- Rachael Zaborowski, Academic Advisor and Coordinator of Student Transitions
- Noël Lugo, Academic Advisor and Coordinator of Undergraduate Diversity Programs
- Andrew Murray, Academic Advisor
- Samantha Sliwa, Academic Advisor

## Office Staff:

- Audra Jeffrey ([jeffre22@msu.edu](mailto:jeffre22@msu.edu))
- Kim Brown ([brown826@msu.edu](mailto:brown826@msu.edu))



# PSYCHOLOGY OFFICE RESOURCES

There are reference materials, books that may be borrowed, handouts, free publications, and postings in Room 100 Psychology Building that are available to you and provide information about:

- Career Options
- Graduate Programs
- Independent Study Opportunities
- Additional Majors/Minors
- PSI CHI National Honor Society
- Psychology Club
- Psychology Service and Intern Fair
- Psychology-Related Job Postings
- Scholarships
- Service-Learning Opportunities
- Education Abroad Information
- Volunteer Opportunities
- .....and more all located on the PSY website: [psychology.msu.edu](http://psychology.msu.edu)

## E-MAIL

Due to the nature and quantity of e-mails that we receive, we encourage you to meet with us face-to-face or Zoom when you are looking for detailed information. We welcome e-mails that are simple in nature. For general questions, please e-mail the Psychology advisors at [psyugrad@msu.edu](mailto:psyugrad@msu.edu).



# HONORS COLLEGE



Members of the Honors College who have questions regarding course scheduling, career planning, and graduate school preparations can be seen by the Psychology advisors in the Office of Advising and Undergraduate Services.

Honors students should also meet with the Psychology Honors Faculty member prior to their junior year to discuss the Honors Thesis. Psychology Honors information can be found on the Psychology Department Undergraduate website, <https://psychology.msu.edu/undergraduates/honors-program.html>

Psychology Department Honors Faculty:

- Dr. Karl Healey (khealey@msu.edu)

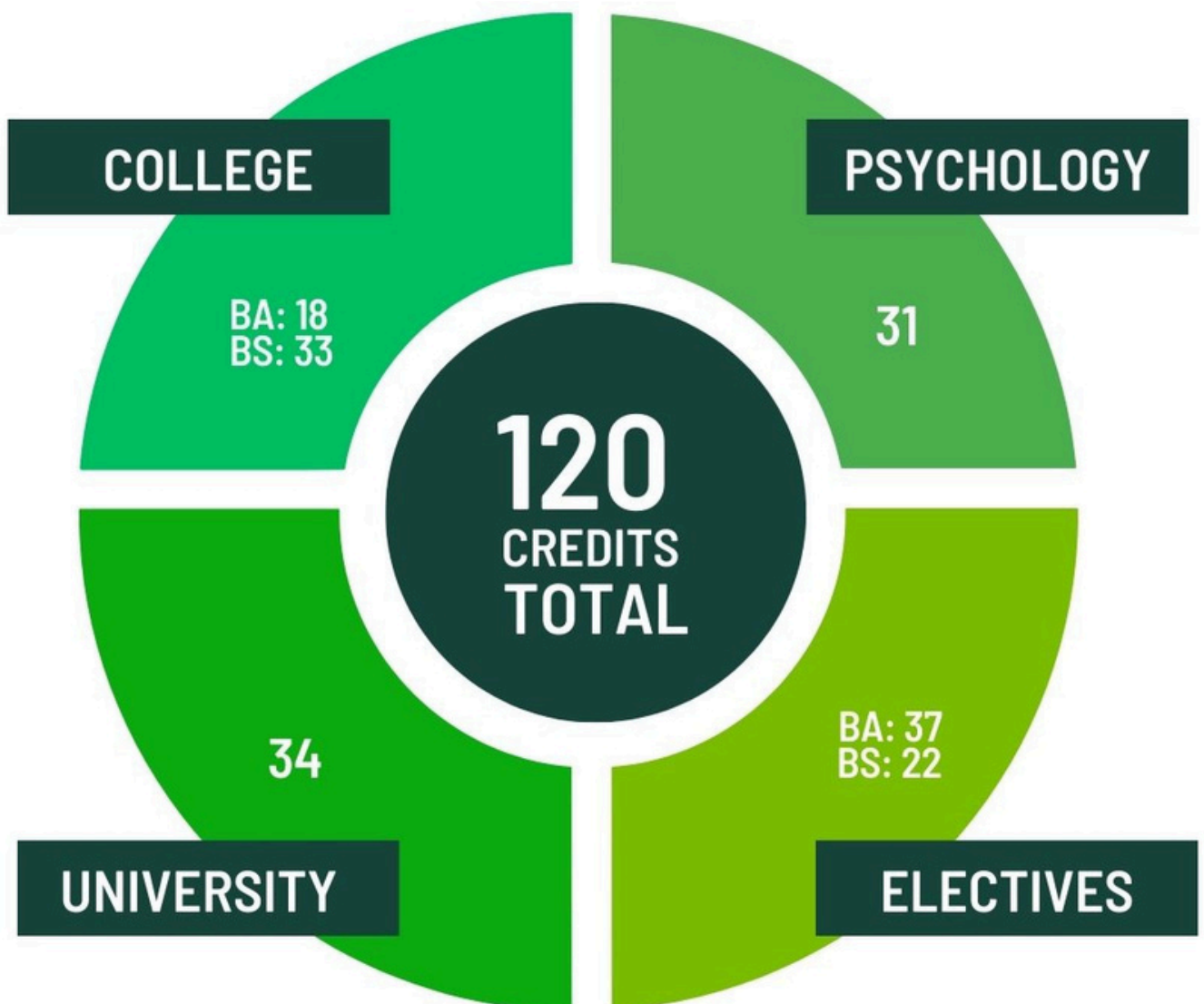
For questions regarding admission to the Honors College please direct your questions to the Honors College at <http://honorscollege.msu.edu/>.



# FRAMEWORK FOR PSYCHOLOGY DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

To ensure that you receive an appropriately broad and well-balanced education at MSU, psychology majors must satisfy the requirements of three separate units that represent three administrative levels: the University, the College of Social Science, and the Department of Psychology. You must meet the graduation requirements of each unit. In addition, you will need to choose elective coursework to achieve the minimum number of 120 credits for a degree. You must complete 30 of your total credits at the 300 or 400 level. An illustration of the degree framework is shown below.

## Psychology Degree Credit Distribution



# UNIVERSITY REQUIREMENTS

The following is a brief summary of University requirements; however, the Academic Programs catalog <http://reg.msu.edu/AcademicPrograms/> is the official source for University policy.

- Complete a minimum of 120 credits with a 2.0 or better cumulative MSU GPA.
- Achieve a 2.0 or better Psychology cumulative GPA at MSU.
- Complete a minimum of 30 credits at MSU with a minimum of 27 credits on the East Lansing campus after junior status.
- Earn a minimum of 20 credits while in the major.
- Courses used to satisfy specific degree requirements may not be taken for CR/NC.
- No more than 10 of a student's last 30 credits may be transferred in. **PRIOR APPROVAL IS REQUIRED.**
- A maximum of 60 credits can be accepted from a community college.

Note: Before taking a course at another institution, you should clearly understand the MSU Policy on transferability of courses. For more detailed information, please go to <http://transfer.msu.edu/> and consult with your academic advisor.

## **MATHEMATICS REQUIREMENT**—Complete one of the following:\*3 options

1. Complete two of the following courses:

- Mathematics 101, 102 or 103\*

2. Complete both of the following:

a. Mathematics 103 (MTH 103A and MTH 103B together equal MTH 103) and

b. One of the following courses: Mathematics 114, 124, 132, 152H, or 201; or Statistics and Probability 200 or 201. Students who place into any course in 2.b via the Mathematics Placement Exam need only complete the course in 2.b in order to fulfill the University Mathematics requirement.

3. Complete one of the following:

- Mathematics 116

\*The psychology major requires college algebra (MTH 103) or algebra placement waiver. The Psychology BS degree also requires calculus (MTH 124 or 132).

# UNIVERSITY REQUIREMENTS

**WRITING REQUIREMENT**—The Tier I writing requirement is fulfilled by successful completion of WRA 101 or 195H. The Tier II portion of your writing requirement is fulfilled by the completion of a designated 300-400 level course in your major. These course titles are followed by a “W”.

**INTEGRATIVE STUDIES REQUIREMENT**—The Integrative Studies requirement includes the completion of coursework in the Arts & Humanities, the Social Sciences, and the Biological and Physical Sciences.

**Integrative Studies in Arts and Humanities—8 credits**

IAH 201-210

IAH 211+

**Integrative Studies in Social Science—8 credits**

ISS 2XX

ISS 3XX

**Integrative Studies in Biological and Physical Sciences—8 credits**

ISB 2XX

ISP 2XX

2 Credits of ISB/ISP Lab

\*Psychology majors pursuing the B.S. degree may choose to complete the University Alternative Science Track (see page 11 for details).

**DIVERSITY REQUIREMENT**—Must include at least two courses in National, International and Diversity from the following combinations: N&I; N&D; or I&D. The letter will be found after the IAH/ISS course title.



# COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCE

## REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL STUDENTS

### CSS EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING REQUIREMENT

All students within the College of Social Science must complete an experiential learning requirement. The experiential learning requirement may be satisfied either within or outside the requirements of the major. The requirement may be met by completing a 3 or 4-credit experiential learning course, approved by the College of Social Science Committee on Curriculum and Academic Policy or its designee. A list of approved courses is maintained by the College of Social Science on their website. Many students complete this requirement by successfully completing a study abroad, a study away, an internship, or by conducting research with a faculty member for credit. Please consult the CSS website for specific lists and details: <https://socialscience.msu.edu/undergraduate/current-students/curriculum.html>

### CSS BREADTH REQUIREMENT

The College of Social Science requires each student to complete a breadth requirement. The requirement can be fulfilled by completing any of the following: (1) any minor in the College of Social Science, with a maximum of two courses from the student's primary major counting towards requirements of the minor; (2) a second degree or additional major within the College of Social Science; (3) a second degree or additional major in a college other than the College of Social Science; or (4) a minor outside of the College of Social Science. A maximum of two courses from the student's primary major may count towards requirements of the minor. If you wish to add one of the College of Social Science minors, please complete the minor form on the PSY website: <https://psychology.msu> Please consult the CSS website for specific lists and details: <https://socialscience.msu.edu>. For minors that are not included on the form above, please see the advisor from the dept/college offering the minor.

# SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, MATHEMATICS (STEM)

## REQUIREMENTS FOR PSYCHOLOGY BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Complete the following mathematics courses, which will satisfy the university mathematics requirement or the department STEM 15 credit requirement, but not both:

A. One of the following courses or placement waiver:

|     |      |                                  |
|-----|------|----------------------------------|
| MTH | 103  | College Algebra                  |
| MTH | 103B | College Algebra II               |
| MTH | 116  | College Algebra and Trigonometry |

B. One of the following courses:

|     |      |                      |
|-----|------|----------------------|
| LB  | 118  | Calculus I           |
| MTH | 124  | Survey of Calculus I |
| MTH | 132  | Calculus I           |
| MTH | 152H | Honors Calculus I    |

Complete the following Natural Science requirement. These courses may satisfy the university alternative track science requirement, or the departmental STEM 15 credit requirement, but not both.

A. One of the following courses:

|    |      |                                            |
|----|------|--------------------------------------------|
| BS | 161  | Cell and Molecular Biology                 |
| BS | 162  | Organismal and Population Biology          |
| BS | 181H | Honors Cell and Molecular Biology          |
| BS | 182H | Honors Organismal and Population Biology   |
| LB | 144  | Biology I: Organismal Biology              |
| LB | 145  | Biology II: Cellular and Molecular Biology |

B. One of the following courses:

|     |      |                                   |
|-----|------|-----------------------------------|
| CEM | 141  | General Chemistry                 |
| CEM | 151  | General and Descriptive Chemistry |
| CEM | 181H | Honors Chemistry I                |
| LB  | 171  | Principles of Chemistry I         |

# SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, MATHEMATICS (STEM)

## REQUIREMENTS FOR PSYCHOLOGY BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Complete a minimum of 15 credits in STEM courses from the list below. Note: The College of Social Science requires only 12 credits for a BS degree, but the Department of Psychology requires an additional 3 credits of STEM for a total of 15 credits.

|          |          |          |
|----------|----------|----------|
| ANTR 350 | CSD 213  | LB270    |
| ANTR 355 | CSE 102  | MTH 114  |
| BLD 204  | CSE 231  | MTH 116  |
| BMB 200  | CSE 232  | MTH 124  |
| BS 161   | EPI 390  | MTH 126  |
| BS 162   | HNF 150  | MTH 132  |
| BS 171   | HNF 310  | MTH 133  |
| BS 172   | HNF 385  | MTH 152H |
| BS 181H  | IBIO 150 | MTH 153H |
| BS 182H  | IBIO 313 | MTH 234  |
| BS 191H  | IBIO 320 | MGI 141  |
| BS 192H  | IBIO 328 | MGI 201  |
| CEM 141  | IBIO 341 | MGI 301  |
| CEM 142  | IBIO 365 | MGI 302  |
| CEM 143  | KIN 216  | NEU 300  |
| CEM 151  | KIN 217  | NEU 301  |
| CEM 152  | KIN 330  | NEU 302  |
| CEM 161  | LB 117   | PHM 211  |
| CEM 162  | LB 118   | PHM 350  |
| CEM 181H | LB 119   | PSL 250  |
| CEM 182H | LB 144   | PSL 310  |
| CEM 185H | LB 145   | STT 180  |
| CEM 251  | LB 155   | STT 200  |
| CEM 252  | LB 171   | STT 201  |
| CEM 255  | LB 171L  | STT 231  |
| CMSE 201 | LB 172   | STT 421  |
| CMSE 201 | LB 172L  | STT 422  |

# DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

## REQUIREMENTS

Complete a minimum of 31 credits in Psychology with a minimum 2.0 PSY GPA.

**Required:** PSY 101 Introductory Psychology  
PSY 295 Data Analysis in Psychological Research  
PSY 395 Design and Measurement in  
Psychological Research

**Choose one:** PSY 200 Cognitive Psychology  
PSY 209 Brain and Behavior

**Choose two:** PSY 235 Social Psychology  
PSY 236 Personality Psychology  
PSY 238 Developmental Psychology: Lifespan  
PSY 244 Developmental Psychology: Infancy  
Through Childhood  
PSY 255 Industrial and Organizational Psychology  
PSY 270 Community Psychology  
PSY 280 Psychological Disorders



# DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

## REQUIREMENTS

Choose one: PSY 401 Expertise and Skill (W)  
PSY 409 Psychobiology of Behavioral  
Development (W)  
PSY 410 Neurobiology of Learning and Memory (W)  
PSY 411 Hormones and Behavior (W)  
PSY 413 Lab in Behavioral Neuroscience (W)  
PSY 424 Child and Family Psychopathology (W)  
PSY 444 Developmental Psychology:  
Adolescence Through Youth (W)  
PSY 455 Advanced Topics in Org. Psychology(W)  
PSY 493\* Issues in Psychology (W)  
(W) indicates a Tier II Writing course.

**\*PSY 493 expanded descriptions and prerequisites are available on the psychology undergraduate website and from the course listing. Each section of PSY 493 covers a different topic. Students should read descriptions of 400 level writing courses. Most of these courses do have prerequisites and are offered in varying semesters.**

# DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

## REQUIREMENTS

**Required:** Psychology electives can include taking extra PSY courses from any of the previous psy courses, 300-level PSY courses, or departmental Experiential Learning opportunities. (9 credit minimum)

### PSY Elective Examples:

**PSY 301 Cognitive Neuroscience**

**PSY 302 Sensation and Perception**

**PSY/NEU 310 Psy and Biology of Human Sexuality**

**PSY 316 Children's Exposure to Domestic Violence**

**PSY 317 Sexual Assault: Context, Interventions and**

**PSY 320 Health Psychology**

**PSY 333 The Neurobiology of Food Intake & Overeating**

**PSY 339 Psychology of Women**

**PSY 342 Stereotypes, Prejudice, and Discrimination**

**PSY 371/372 Psychological Innovations and Research I & II**

**PSY 381/382 Internship in Psychology**

**PSY 399 Psychology Service and Engagement**

**PSY/LIN 463 Introduction to Cognitive Science**

**PSY 490/491 Special Problems in Psychology (Independent Study)**

**PSY 492 Advanced Topics in Psychology**

**PSY 497H Senior Honors Project**

**PSY 498H Development of Research Proposal**

**PSY 499H Senior Honors Thesis**



# GENERAL ELECTIVES

General electives are any courses that do not meet specific course requirements. This is your chance to explore and expand your knowledge in other areas of interest. Psychology majors usually have 22-37 credits of general electives depending on the degree selected (BA vs BS). These courses count toward the 120 minimum credits required for graduation. Elective courses taken at the 300+ level, also satisfy the upper level requirement. Excess credits from University, College, or PSY requirements are also considered general electives. When completing electives, you can take a diversity of courses from all different disciplines. If you would rather have them more focused, you may choose to complete a minor, additional major, or work towards a second degree.

Some of the more popular departments Psychology majors select electives from are:

|      |                                                          |
|------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| ADV  | Advertising                                              |
| CEP  | Counseling, Educational Psychology and Special Education |
| COM  | Communication                                            |
| EAD  | Educational Administration                               |
| FW   | Fisheries and Wildlife                                   |
| HDFS | Human Develop and Family Studies                         |
| IDES | Interior Design                                          |
| JRN  | Journalism                                               |
| KIN  | Kinesiology                                              |
| MI   | Media and Information                                    |
| SOC  | Sociology                                                |
| SW   | Social Work                                              |
| TE   | Teacher Education                                        |

# DEGREE ENHANCEMENTS

## MINORS

MSU has several minors as an option for students to enhance their academic record. If you are interested, a list of current available minors can be found on the Registrar's Office website

<https://reg.msu.edu/AcademicPrograms/Programs.aspx?PType=MNUN>.

Completed minors are listed on your final transcript. The MSU minors can be taken in addition to the CSS Interdisciplinary minor that is required.

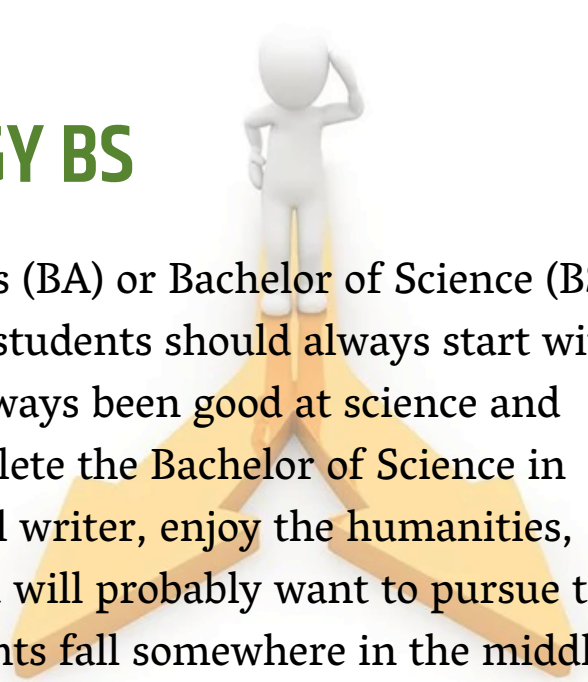
## ADDITIONAL MAJOR

Another option available to psychology majors is completing an additional major in another discipline. An additional major is noted on your final transcript. Most disciplines offer an additional major, though the requirements for each can be very different. Most additional majors range between 30-60 credits. You should contact the academic advisor in the discipline you are interested in for more information and to sign up.

## SECOND DEGREE

Second degrees are available for students wanting two diplomas. The University requires students pursuing a second degree to do a minimum of 30 credits beyond their first degree. Department and college requirements are usually required to be completed. A second degree can be added by meeting with an advisor in the area of interest.

# PSYCHOLOGY BA VS. PSYCHOLOGY BS



Students can choose to pursue a Bachelor of Arts (BA) or Bachelor of Science (BS) degree in Psychology. When choosing a degree, students should always start with what they are most interested in. If you have always been good at science and math, and you like it, you will most likely complete the Bachelor of Science in Psychology. If you have always been a successful writer, enjoy the humanities, and like learning about people and cultures, you will probably want to pursue the Bachelor of Arts. It seems easy, but many students fall somewhere in the middle.

Many students ask which is better for jobs and graduate school. There is not one good answer for everyone. The answer depends on how well you would do in each of the areas. Some students think that the B.S. is the only way to graduate school, but if you can only get low grades in those courses, you may significantly hurt your chances for admission. If your future graduate program does not require or recommend those courses, you could have just lowered your GPA for no reason.

Most graduate programs want a diversity of courses. They also want students to show that they can do well in challenging courses. This can be done through either the B.A. or the B.S. degree in Psychology. It is most important to do well in the most challenging courses that you can handle. It is also important to look ahead to see what courses are recommended by the graduate programs or career you are pursuing. If the programs or career you are looking into are more scientific in nature, you will probably want the courses in the B.S. degree. The best way to determine which degree is best for you is by meeting with a Psychology advisor.

## **CHANGING BA OR BS STATUS**

Psychology students who would like to change their degree status from Bachelor of Arts (BA) to Bachelor of Science (BS) or from BS to BA should meet with a Psychology advisor to determine the impact of the change. The Psychology advisor can submit a request to the College of Social Science to have this changed.

NOTE: Check [student.msu.edu](http://student.msu.edu) within two weeks to verify that the degree change has gone through as requested.



# PSYCHOLOGY UNDERGRADUATE NEWS AND SOCIAL MEDIA

## Website

The Psychology Undergraduate website should be your go-to site for important details regarding your psychology degree, advising information, opportunities to get involved, campus resources, career planning, honors program, SONA research participation, and course syllabi. We recommend bookmarking this page for easy access to helpful and important information. Take some time to explore the website to become familiar with the opportunities that you have as an undergraduate student in psychology. There are many opportunities to get involved in research, internship programs, and study abroad/study away. This page also has easy access to scheduling advising appointments, updated drop-in hours schedule, and an archive of monthly newsletters.

PSY Undergraduate Website: <https://psychology.msu.edu/undergraduates/index.html>

## Social Media

The Psychology Undergraduate Team manages a Facebook and Instagram page to keep students updated on news and events in the department. Use the account details below to like and follow us so that you never miss an opportunity!

- Instagram: msu\_psyugrad



## Newsletter

We send out a PSY Newsletter to all PSY students twice a month, typically on the 1st and 15th of each month. This is a great place for you to stay up to date with advising drop-in hours, experiential learning opportunities, scholarships, and events from our department and across campus. The newsletter comes to your MSU email address; make sure that the PSY advisors emails are not going to your junk box! We try to be conscious of the number of emails that you receive daily; the newsletter is our way of sending you important announcements and opportunities without overloading your inbox. Please read the newsletter to take full advantage of the opportunities available to you!

# EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING FOR CREDIT

An internship or practicum provides an opportunity to explore career possibilities and to develop communication and organizational skills. Many employers expect college graduates to have practical, work-related experience. Learning about the world of work and making contacts in your chosen field are essential tools for landing your first job. Instructor permission is required for these courses. More information and applications can be found on the Undergraduate website under Get Involved.

## MSU ADOLESCENT DIVERSION PROGRAM PSY 371/372 (6 cr.)

The MSU Adolescent Diversion Program

(<https://msuadolescentprograms.wordpress.com/>) is a two-semester commitment in which the student is trained and then mentors an adolescent involved in the juvenile justice system. This opportunity is offered every semester and the semesters have to be consecutive. Contact **Sean Hankins, Director**, at 517-355-9519 [hankinss@msu.edu](mailto:hankinss@msu.edu).

## STUDY ABROAD

Study abroad is another way to look at the world differently. This can benefit your career, your degree, and in many cases, you personally. When students study abroad they choose to step outside of what they “know” and expose themselves to new thoughts, ideas, and cultures. Psychology students are encouraged to go on programs where they can take courses to meet a variety of degree requirements. For more information on programs, search the study abroad database at <http://studyabroad.msu.edu/>.



# EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING FOR CREDIT- INTERNSHIPS

## PSYCHOLOGY HUMAN SERVICES SUMMER INTERNSHIP, PSY 381/382(6-15 cr.)

This course is a two-semester commitment. PSY 381 is in the spring and is a training and theory 3cr. course. In PSY 382, students apply theory to practice. This internship is offered online in the summer for 3-12 cr. Internships are required to be in the human services field. This is a great opportunity to learn theories of human behavior, examine social problems, and “engage in strengths-based client centered service delivery”. Application materials are available on the undergraduate website. Contact Lindsay Spitzley [spitzlin@msu.edu](mailto:spitzlin@msu.edu).

## GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY INTERNSHIP, PSY 382 (3-12 cr.)

This internship is for students who desire experience in an area related to the field of Psychology. This can be very broad because Psychology touches on many fields, but all areas need department approval to ensure they follow the goals of the program.

Students who have an interest in pursuing an internship (or who have already secured an internship) should self-enroll in the D2L page: PSY 382: Course Information and Planning, utilizing the link below. This D2L page will navigate students through the process of learning about what an internship is, what PSY 382 general internship program encompasses, how to find an internship and ultimately how to get enrolled in PSY 382 for an approved internship experience in order to earn academic credit. This internship is now available for Fall, Spring and Summer.

Self Register here: <https://apps.d2l.msu.edu/selfenroll/course/2207471>

\*Once registered in the D2L page students will be able to navigate through this self-paced course to gain access to the documents required to be completed in order to be approved for enrollment.

# RESEARCH WITH FACULTY

Another opportunity for credit is independent study. Independent studies are important for students planning to apply for graduate school. This experience gives students great opportunities to work with faculty and graduate students in the research environment. Research credit can be earned through PSY 490/491 or it can be done as a volunteer.

## **PSY 490 Special Problems in Psychology (Fall, Spring, Summer)**

- Description: Students work under the direction of a faculty member on an experimental, theoretical, or applied problem. This is a graded course.
- Restrictions: As specified by the faculty member of record. A maximum of 1-8 credits can be taken in a semester with a combined total of 12 credits for the degree. Needs instructor and department approval.

## **PSY 491 Participation in Psychological Project (Fall, Spring, Summer)**

- Description: Students participate in a psychological project under direction of a faculty member. This is a pass/no grade (P/N) course.
- Restrictions: As specified by the faculty member of record. A maximum of 1-8 credits can be taken in a semester with a combined total of 12 credits for the degree. Needs instructor and department approval.

## HOW TO LOCATE RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

There are opportunities in the Department of Psychology for students to get involved in research in a faculty member's lab, either as a volunteer or for credit (via PSY 490 or PSY 491). There are a number of ways to identify these opportunities.

- View listings on the Psychology website:

<https://psychology.msu.edu/undergraduates/undergrad-research.html>

- Contacting faculty to learn of additional independent study opportunities:

You can identify which faculty members are doing research in an area of interest to you. Go to the Psychology undergraduate website <http://psychology.msu.edu>. Select research areas of interest to identify faculty doing research in a given topic area. Click on each one to learn more about their particular research. For each one that provides a "vita" (extensive resume) link, open the link to learn more about that faculty member's background, research, and recently published articles.

# CAREER OPTIONS FOR PSYCHOLOGY GRADUATES

Graduates of our department can compete effectively with other students who have obtained a general/liberal arts education, as well as those who have opted for more specialized curricula. Your performance as a psychology major and your willingness to prepare for a variety of career options will influence your attractiveness to employers and eventual career placement. Preparing for the job market and then building your career takes planning and effort over a long period of time. You should take steps each semester, beginning with your freshman year, toward this end. Strive to incorporate the following into your undergraduate experience from a combination of course selections and other activities: **Oral & Written Communication Skills, Teamwork, Critical Thinking, Problem Solving, Leadership, Research Methodology, Computer Literacy, and Work Experience.** Find data regarding MSU PSY careers at the MSU Destination survey here: [https://careernetwork.msu.edu/outcomes/#!Psychology%20\(CSS\)](https://careernetwork.msu.edu/outcomes/#!Psychology%20(CSS))

## CAREER AREAS PSYCHOLOGY GRADUATES

|                         |                                 |                              |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Child/Youth/Elder Care  | Human Resources                 | Residential Services         |
| Community Services      | Human Services                  | Retail Management            |
| Consulting Services     | Manufacturing/Production        | Retail/Wholesale Sales       |
| Court/Juvenile Services | Market Research                 | Social Services              |
| Customer Services       | Government/Legislative Services | Special Populations Services |
| Employee Relations      | Personal/Human Resources        | Student/Alumni Services      |
| Employment Services     | Private/Nonprofit Management    | Substance Abuse Services     |
| Financial Services      | Public Relations/Media Services | Volunteer Services           |



# GET INVOLVED

## STUDENT GROUPS

- The Psychology Club is open to all students interested in the field of psychology. Interested students should come to the regularly scheduled meetings. Check out posted meeting dates at the Psychology Club website <http://msupsyclub.weebly.com/>. Contact Andrew Murray([murraya8@msu.edu](mailto:murraya8@msu.edu)), Samantha Sliwa([brocket7@msu.edu](mailto:brocket7@msu.edu)) or [psyclub@msu.edu](mailto:psyclub@msu.edu).
- PSI CHI, the National Honor Society in Psychology, membership is by invitation only. Contact Dr. Katie Clements ([vadnais3@msu.edu](mailto:vadnais3@msu.edu)) or [secretaryofpsichi@gmail.com](mailto:secretaryofpsichi@gmail.com) for more information.

## VOLUNTEERING

The Center for Community Engaged Learning (CCEL) provides volunteer opportunities in a variety of contexts. Explore volunteer positions and apply online. Contact them at 517-353-4400, or go to: <https://communityengagedlearning.msu.edu>.

## STUDENT LIFE

Get involved on campus. Become a leader. Check out over 500 student organizations in Room 101 Student Services Building, <http://studentlife.msu.edu/>.



# GRADUATE SCHOOL

If you have been a high-achieving, conscientious student and are motivated to dedicate yourself to a much higher level of scholarly reading, writing, and research in a specific field, you may be a good candidate for graduate school. You must be able to demonstrate your commitment to academic success by what you have achieved in your undergraduate program. Graduate school is not something you just fall into because you haven't chosen what to do next with your life or because you are worried about employment opportunities or salary. A graduate degree does not guarantee you a job or a high salary.

Graduate study in psychology consists of advanced training in a specific area. It should be viewed as professional training for a career, not just an extension of undergraduate courses. Consider very carefully why you want to go to graduate school and what your expectations are. You will also need to know which area of psychology you want to pursue.

Competition for admission is intense. Only the most qualified students are admitted. About 38 percent of psychology majors go on to some form of graduate study (MSU Destination Survey, 2016) <https://psychology.msu.edu/students/undergrad/career-planning>. For a good program, meeting the minimum standards for admission is not usually sufficient; you must do more. For example, the minimum GPA for entering most Ph.D. programs is a 3.2, but students who are actually admitted have a much higher GPA (generally a 3.5 or higher). Some programs place more emphasis on the GPA earned during the junior and senior years. Your undergraduate GPA and coursework, Graduate Record Exam scores <http://www.ets.org/gre>, letters of reference, research and clinical experiences, and personal statement must show that you will be a successful graduate student.

Due to the breadth and diversity of courses in the psychology degree, students can apply to graduate school within the field of psychology or choose to apply to other related programs. Programs that are very popular that are not within our psychology department are: School Psychology, Social Work, Human Resources and Labor Relations, Applied Behavioral Analysis, Counseling, Sport Psychology, Student Affairs, Public Policy and Public Health. Many Psychology majors also choose to go on to professional programs like law and medical school.

Additional information on many of these graduate programs can be found on their website. Check out our Career Connection flyers in the PSY office to learn more about what is needed for these programs. There are also graduate school books that can be checked out of our lending library.

Meeting with advisors and faculty is imperative for finding out how to apply to graduate school and to decide whether or not it is a good option for your career plans. Understanding how to get there and what it entails takes time and a lot of planning. Don't wait until it is too late!

# STUDENT RESOURCES

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                               |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>CAREER SERVICES NETWORK</b><br>113 Student Services Bldg.<br><a href="http://careernetwork.msu.edu/">http://careernetwork.msu.edu/</a><br>517-355-9510                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <b>RESOURCE CENTER FOR PERSON WITH DISABILITIES</b><br>120 Bessey Hall<br><a href="http://rcpd.msu.edu">http://rcpd.msu.edu</a><br>517-884-7273               |
| <b>CENTER FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGED LEARNING</b><br>345 Student Services Bldg.<br><a href="http://servicelearning.msu.edu/">http://servicelearning.msu.edu/</a><br>517-353-4400                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <b>COUNSELING &amp; PSYCHIATRIC SERVICES</b><br>3rd Floor, Olin Health Center<br><a href="http://caps.msu.edu">http://caps.msu.edu</a><br>517-355-8270        |
| <b>OFFICE OF FINANCIAL AID</b><br>252 Student Services Bldg.<br><a href="http://finaid.msu.edu/">http://finaid.msu.edu/</a><br>517-353-5940                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <b>OFFICE OF REGISTRAR</b><br>150 Administration Bldg.<br><a href="http://reg.msu.edu/">http://reg.msu.edu/</a><br>517-355-3300                               |
| <b>CSS STUDENT AFFAIRS</b><br>201 Berkey Hall<br><a href="https://socialscience.msu.edu/undergraduate/current-students/advising-affairs.html">https://socialscience.msu.edu/undergraduate/current-students/advising-affairs.html</a><br>517-355-6676                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <b>TRIO STUDENT SUPPORTIVE SERVICES (SSS) PROGRAM</b><br>209 Bessey Hall<br><a href="http://oss.msu.edu">http://oss.msu.edu</a><br>517-353-5210               |
| <b>OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSPERSON</b><br>129 N. Kedzie Hall<br><a href="http://msu.edu/unit/ombud/">http://msu.edu/unit/ombud/</a><br>517-353-8830                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <b>PRE-HEALTH RESOURCES</b><br>108 Natural Science Bldg.<br><a href="https://prehealth.natsci.msu.edu/">https://prehealth.natsci.msu.edu/</a><br>517-355-8419 |
| <b>THE WRITING CENTER</b><br>300 Bessey Hall<br><a href="http://writing.msu.edu">http://writing.msu.edu</a><br>517-432-3610                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <b>TESTING OFFICE</b><br>207 Student Services Bldg.<br><a href="http://testingoffice.msu.edu/">http://testingoffice.msu.edu/</a><br>517-355-8385              |
| <b>UNIVERSITY ADVISING &amp; AFFAIRS</b><br><a href="https://nssc.msu.edu/">https://nssc.msu.edu/</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brody Neighborhood<br/>160 Brody Hall, 517-884-6670</li> <li>• East Neighborhood<br/>C130 Hubbard Hall, 517-884-3501</li> <li>• North/Union Neighborhood<br/>200 Union Building, 517-884-4050</li> <li>• River Trail/McDonel Neighborhood<br/>C101 McDonel Hall, 517-884-4080</li> <li>• South Neighborhood<br/>Holden Hall, 517-884-6680</li> </ul> | <b>DEPARTMENT OF STUDENT LIFE</b><br>101 Student Services Bldg.<br><a href="http://studentlife.msu.edu/">http://studentlife.msu.edu/</a><br>517-355-8286      |

# WEB RESOURCES

## PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS AND SCHEDULING

Please note that you bear ultimate responsibility for knowing and fulfilling graduation requirements. It is therefore essential that you use all of the University publications available to you. These include the:

- Academic Programs: [reg.msu.edu/AcademicPrograms](http://reg.msu.edu/AcademicPrograms) for rules and procedures.
- Description of Courses: [reg.msu.edu/Courses/search.asp](http://reg.msu.edu/Courses/search.asp) for course information and prerequisites.
- Schedule of Courses: <https://student.msu.edu> to plan schedules and look up section numbers, and schedule classes.

## CAREER INFORMATION

- MSU Handshake: <https://msu.joinhandshake.com/login> Utilize Handshake to make appointments with career advisors and career peers as well as search for job and internship positions.
- O\*NET Resource Center: <http://onetcenter.org/> for descriptions of careers—nature of the work, salary information, and much more.
- Dictionary of Occupational Titles (DOT): [occupationalinfo.org/](http://occupationalinfo.org/) for descriptions of numerous occupations.
- United Way Volunteer Opportunities anywhere in the USA: <https://www.unitedway.org/get-involved/volunteer#> You can locate volunteer opportunities in your hometown or nearby that you could possibly do over the summer.
- Career Services Network: <http://careernetwork.msu.edu/> for MSU career information and services.
- College of Social Science Career Consultant: <http://socialscience.msu.edu/about-us/overview/career-services/>.

## PSYCHOLOGY INFORMATION

- MSU Psychology Website: [psychology.msu.edu](http://psychology.msu.edu)
- American Psychological Association: [apa.org](http://apa.org)
- Psychopathology Information: [psychopathology.org](http://psychopathology.org)
- Industrial/Organizational Psychology: [siop.org](http://siop.org), [aom.org/](http://aom.org/), [shrm.org](http://shrm.org)
- Community Psychology: [scra27.org](http://scra27.org)
- Cognitive Psychology: <http://www.cognitivesciencesociety.org/>, [psychologicalscience.org](http://psychologicalscience.org), <http://www.psychonomic.org/>
- Behavioral Neuroscience: [isdp.org](http://isdp.org)
- Social Psychology: [socialpsychology.org](http://socialpsychology.org), [sesp.org](http://sesp.org)

# **EVENTS AND PROGRAMS**

**Undergraduate Seminars and Workshops  
starting in September**

**Psychology Club and PSI CHI Meetings**

**Annual Research Interest Panel  
Fall 2025**

**PSYCHFEST  
Fall 2025**

**20th Annual Graduate School Presentation Day  
Fall 2025**

**20th Annual Service and Internship Fair  
Spring 2026**



**Watch for dates and more information on these upcoming events in e-mail  
announcements and department newsletters!**