

PSYCHOLOGY, B.A.

As one of the most popular majors at Saint Louis University, 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 the B.A. in Psychology, translating and applying psychological science is emphasized. SLU also offers a B.S. in Psychology (<https://catalog.slu.edu/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/psychology/psychology-bs/>).

The SLU 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 program graduates, and in service to others locally, nationally and globally. The faculty seeks to improve 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 challenge them to be ethically responsible, to be committed to serving others and to 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, a Bachelor of Science (<https://catalog.slu.edu/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/psychology/psychology-bs/>) 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.A. degree further prepares students to enter graduate programs for professional training in psychology or related fields, such

as preparing for a therapist or counselor career. Students may also use the B.A. 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 various practicum settings, including mental health, research, consulting, schools and community service organizations. In addition, 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 (<https://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 or HiSET.

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 rigors 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/>)
- All academic records must include an English translation. An official course-by-course transcript evaluation may be required and accepted.

Tuition

Tuition	Cost Per Year
Undergraduate Tuition	\$54,760

Additional charges may apply. Other resources are listed below:

Net Price Calculator (<https://www.slu.edu/financial-aid/tuition-and-costs/calculator.php>)

Information on Tuition and Fees (<https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/student-financial-services/tuition/>)

Miscellaneous Fees (<https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/student-financial-services/fees/>)

Information on Summer Tuition (<https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/student-financial-services/tuition-summer/>)

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 2023, 99% of first-time freshmen and 92% of all students received financial aid (<https://www.slu.edu/financial-aid/>) and students received more than \$459 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 more information on scholarships and financial aid, visit the Office of Student Financial Services (<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 through an evidence-based psychology project.
3. Students will demonstrate their abilities to recognize ethically and socially responsible behaviors and engage in such behaviors through applied experiences and through an evidence-based psychology project.
4. Students will demonstrate competence in writing and in oral and interpersonal communication skills through an evidence-based psychology project.
5. Students will demonstrate their ability to manage, present and reflect on a major evidence-based psychology project.

Requirements

B.A. in psychology students must complete a minimum total of **34 credits** for the major.

PSY 2050 Foundations of Research Methods and Statistics and a capstone course should preferably be taken from the student's home campus. The capstone course must be taken from the student's home campus.

Code	Title	Credits
University Undergraduate Core (https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/academic-policies-procedures/university-core/)		32-35

Major Requirements

Psychology Introductory Courses

PSY 1010	General Psychology	3
PSY 2050	Foundations of Research Methods and Statistics	4

Required Breadth Courses

Select a minimum of one course in each of the four areas below: 12

Cognitive Neuroscience

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

PSY 3100	Brain, Mind, & Society
PSY 3120	Cognitive Psychology

Developmental Psychology

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

PSY 3210	Developmental Psych: Child
PSY 3230	Developmental Psychology: Adolescence

Social & Organizational Psychology

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

PSY 3300	Social Psychology
PSY 3410	Organizational Psychology

Mental Health and Wellbeing in Applied Contexts

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

PSY 3460	Abnormal Psychology
PSY 3470	Occupational Health Psychology

Capstone Course

PSY 4969	Critical Thinking About Psychology ^{* +}	3
or PSY 4965	Capstone Practicum Project	

Psychology Electives^{**}

Select 6 credit hours with the "Psychology Elective – BA" attribute, such as: 6

PSY 2010	Disciplines & Practices in Psychology
PSY 3130	Physiological Psychology
PSY 4140	Psychopharmacology

Psychology Advanced Elective

Select 3 credits with the "Psychology Advanced Elective" attribute, such as: 3

PSY 4340	African American Psychology
PSY 4480	Psychology and Law

Learning Through Applications

Select 3 credits with the "Applications of Psych Science" attribute.	3
General Electives	51-54
Total Credits	120

* PSY 4969 is the default capstone option for B.A. students. Students may alternatively contract individual practicum or research capstone projects with faculty, although these options may not always be available.

**PSY-ELE courses may only count with Dept. approval.

+ PSY 4965 Capstone Practicum Project (3 cr) is a capstone option only available for students on the St. Louis campus.

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 program probation and have a maximum of 2 consecutive semesters to resolve either or both issues.

Graduation Requirements

- Complete a minimum of 120 credits (excluding pre-college level courses numbered below 1000).
- Complete the University Undergraduate Core curriculum requirements.
- Complete major requirements: minimum of 30 credits required.
- Complete remaining credits with a second major, minor, certificate or electives to reach the minimum of 120 credits required for graduation.
- Achieve at least a 2.00 cumulative grade point average, a 2.00 grade point average in the major(s), and a 2.00 grade point average in the minor/certificate or related elective credits.
- Complete department- and program-specific academic and performance requirements.
- Complete at least 50% of the coursework for the major and 75% for the minor/certificate through Saint Louis University or an approved study-abroad program.
- Complete 30 of the final 36 credits through Saint Louis University or an approved study-abroad program.
- Complete an online degree application by the required University deadline.

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		
Fall		
PSY 1010	General Psychology (! satisfies CORE 3600) ¹	3
CORE 1000	Ignite First Year Seminar	2-3
CORE 1500	Cura Personalis 1: Self in Community	1
General Electives		9
Credits		15-16
Spring		
Psychology Breadth Requirement ²		3
Psychology First-Year Mentoring Matters (Participation) ³		
CORE 1600	Ultimate Questions: Theology	3
CORE 1900	Eloquentia Perfecta 1: Written and Visual Communication	3
General Electives		6
Credits		15
Year Two		
Fall		
PSY 2050	Foundations of Research Methods and Statistics (! satisfies CORE 3200) ⁵	4
Psychology Breadth Requirement ³		3
CORE 1200	Eloquentia Perfecta 2: Oral and Visual Communication	3
CORE 1700	Ultimate Questions: Philosophy	3
General Electives		3
Credits		16
Spring		
Psychology General Elective ⁴		3
Psychology Breadth Requirement ³		3
Psychology Second-Year Mentoring Matters (Participation) ⁵		
CORE 2500	Cura Personalis 2: Self in Contemplation	0
CORE 3800	Ways of Thinking: Natural and Applied Sciences	3
General Electives		6
Credits		15
Year Three		
Fall		
PSY Learning Through Applications ⁶		3
Psychology Breadth Requirement		3
CORE 3400	Ways of Thinking: Aesthetics, History, and Culture	3
CORE 2800	Eloquentia Perfecta 3: Creative Expression	3
General Electives		6
Credits		18
Spring		
Psychology BA Capstone ⁷		3
General Electives		12
Credits		15
Year Four		
Fall		
CORE 3500	Cura Personalis 3: Self in the World	1
Psychology Advanced Elective		3

General Electives	9
Credits	13
Spring	
General Electives ⁸	12
Optional Psychology Elective ⁸	1-3
Credits	13-15
Total Credits	120-123

¹ A grade of "C" or better required for majors and minors (or program probation begins).

² See information in the program notes.

³ Spring only; during first year as a psychology major.

⁴ Recommended elective PSY 2010 Disciplines & Practices in Psychology (3 cr).

⁵ Spring only; during second year after declaring major.

⁶ A maximum of 3 total credits is needed to fulfill the Learning Psychology Through Applications requirement. These credits may be distributed across semesters, where appropriate.

⁷ PSY 4969 and PSY 4965 are the default capstone option for B.A. students. Students may alternatively contract individual practicum or research capstone projects with faculty, although these options may not always be available.

⁸ If needed or desired.

Program Notes

The B.A. in Psychology requires a minimum of 34 credits.

Approved Psychology Breadth Requirements

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

Topical Cluster 1: Cognitive Neuroscience

Code	Title	Credits
Select 3 credit hours with the "PSY Cog Neuro Cluster" attribute, such as:		
PSY 3100	Brain, Mind, & Society	3
PSY 3120	Cognitive Psychology	3

Topical Cluster 2: Developmental Psychology

Code	Title	Credits
Select 3 credit hours with the "PSY Dev Cluster" attribute, such as:		
PSY 3210	Developmental Psych: Child	3
PSY 3230	Developmental Psychology: Adolescence	3

Topical Cluster 3: Social and Organizational Psychology

Code	Title	Credits
Select 3 credit hours with the "PSY Soc Org Cluster" attribute, such as:		
PSY 3300	Social Psychology	3
PSY 3410	Organizational Psychology	3

Topical Cluster 4: Mental Health and Wellbeing in Applied Contexts

Code	Title	Credits
Select 3 credit hours with the "PSY Health Applied Cluster" attribute, such as:		
PSY 3460	Abnormal Psychology	3
PSY 3470	Occupational Health Psychology	3

Madrid

Students can complete all or part of the psychology major at SLU's campus in Madrid, with the exception of Foundations of Research Methods and Statistics (PSY 2050) and the capstone.

Learn More (<https://www.slu.edu/madrid/academics/degrees-and-programs/psychology.php>)

2+SLU

2+SLU programs provide a guided pathway for students transferring from a partner institution.

Psychology, B.A. (STLCC 2+SLU) (<https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/office-admission/undergraduate/2plusslu/stlcc/psychology-ba/>)