

THE DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

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Advising Information

Students are encouraged to meet with their advisor each semester to confirm that their plan of study is accurate and complete. If necessary, changes and updates should be made in order to ensure that program requirements can be completed in a timely manner. Faculty advisors work with students to explore appropriate internships, cooperative education placements, and/or experiential learning opportunities that will enhance the student's academic program. In addition, advisors provide assistance in selecting elective courses that support the student's interests, career plans and plan of study.

Academic advising services for all freshmen Arts and Sciences majors are provided through Advising & Career Services on McMullen Hall first floor west. Upon declaring a specific major, Arts and Science majors will be assigned to a faculty advisor in their department for upper-division advising. Advising files for all upper-division students are maintained in the departmental office of the program in which the student is majoring. Although advisors are available to assist students in designing their Plans of Study, students are ultimately responsible for meeting degree requirements.

Students interested in applied psychology, developing knowledge in human relations, abnormal psychology, psychological testing and clinical psychology are encouraged to develop their skills in an internship in a human service agency.

A Bachelor's degree in Psychology can serve as a general Liberal Arts degree, as preparation for a career in Psychology, or as preparation for graduate school in Psychology or related fields.

As a general Liberal Arts degree, Psychology majors develop excellent interpersonal, research, writing, and analytical skills and are attractive to a wide variety of employers. Students may wish to take appropriate courses in other areas to enhance their skills and marketability. To prepare for a career in Psychology with a Bachelor's degree, students are encouraged to consult with faculty to take appropriate courses and to pursue internships in the Billings community.

Students who graduate with the Bachelor's degree in Psychology should be able to:

- Understand the major theories of Psychology, their historical and philosophical background, and their clinical significance.
- Understand the scientific process, especially the design of research questions, collection, analysis and interpretation of data.
- Demonstrate competency in collecting and analyzing data in a major research project.
- Work effectively in a professional psychology setting, e.g. research, mental health.
- Think critically, write and speak clearly on psychological topics.

Students intending to pursue graduate education should obtain a broad background in Psychology and maintain a high GPA. All Psychology majors, but particularly those considering graduate school, are encouraged to work closely with at least one faculty member in research, and to keep in mind that letters of recommendation are required for graduate school applications and most other types of employment.

- Psychology Bachelor of Arts Degree (<https://catalog.msubillings.edu/undergraduate/college-arts-sciences/department-psychology/ba-psychology>)

- Psychology Bachelor of Science Degree (<https://catalog.msubillings.edu/undergraduate/college-arts-sciences/department-psychology/bs-psychology>)
- Psychology Minor (<https://catalog.msubillings.edu/undergraduate/college-arts-sciences/department-psychology/minor-psychology>)
- Psychology Teaching Minor *Program placed on moratorium* (<https://catalog.msubillings.edu/undergraduate/college-arts-sciences/department-psychology/teaching-minor-psychology>)
- Applied Psychology Program of Study Associate of Arts Degree *Program placed on moratorium* (<https://catalog.msubillings.edu/undergraduate/college-arts-sciences/department-psychology/aa-applied-psychology>)

Psychology

- PSYX 100 Intro to Psychology. 3 Credits
Term Typically Offered: Fall, Spring, Summer
Presents an overview of the psychological functioning of the individual, including such topics as the biological bases of behavior, learning, cognition, motivation, developmental and social processes, psychological disorders and their treatment.
Lecture Hours 3
Department: Psychology
- PSYX 222 Psychological Statistics. 3 Credits
Term Typically Offered: Fall, Spring
Prerequisite(s): PSYX 100 and STAT 141.
Introduces the principles of psychological research and their applications to the analysis and statistical interpretation of experimental data.
Lecture Hours 3
Department: Psychology
- PSYX 223 Research Design and Analysis I. 3 Credits
Term Typically Offered: Fall, Spring
Prerequisite(s): PSYX 100.
Provides an opportunity for the student to learn about design, control, and measurement techniques through actual construction and implementation of a research plan. Includes laboratory exercises related to topics discussed Lab required.
Lecture Hours 3
Department: Psychology
- PSYX 224 Research Dsgn & Analysis I Lab. 1 Credit
Term Typically Offered: Fall, Spring
Lab Hours 1
Department: Psychology
- PSYX 230 Dev Psych: Dev Over Lifespan. 3 Credits
Term Typically Offered: Fall, Spring, Summer
Prerequisite(s): PSYX 100.
Provides a comprehensive overview of human development across the life-course. Contemporary theory and research are presented from a multi-disciplinary perspective that emphasizes the integration of biological, psychological, socio-cultural, and developmental influences over time. The course will cover common developments and challenges encountered at various life stages as well as the emergence of individual differences that account for our unique characteristics.
Lecture Hours 3
Department: Psychology
- PSYX 294 Seminar/Workshop. 1-8 Credits
Department: Psychology
- PSYX 298 Internship/Cooperative Educ. 1-9 Credits
Provides university credit for a sophomore work experience in the area of Psychology, supervised by faculty. Learning agreement must be completed prior to registration (restricted).
Department: Psychology

<p>PSYX 320 Research Methods III. 3 Credits Term Typically Offered: Spring Prerequisite(s): PSYX 222. Enables the student to conduct more advanced statistical analyses of the results of psychological research, through the use of both descriptive statistics, including measures of central tendency, dispersion, skewness, kurtosis, and correlation, and inferential statistics, including parametric statistics, such as the analysis of variance and nonparametric statistics. Lab required. Lecture Hours 3 Department: Psychology</p>	<p>PSYX 351 Physiological Psychology Lab. 1 Credit Term Typically Offered: Fall Prerequisite(s): PSYX 100. Lab Hours 1 Department: Psychology</p>
<p>PSYX 321 Research Methods III Lab. 1 Credit Term Typically Offered: Spring Lab Hours 1 Department: Psychology</p>	<p>PSYX 354 Sensation & Perception. 3 Credits Prerequisite(s): PSYX 100, PSYX 222 and PSYX 223. Covers the psychological and physiological aspects of sensory and perceptual experience in humans. Explores the historical and scientific backgrounds of sensation and perception. Laboratory exercises demonstrate psychophysics, measures of perceptual phenomena and sensory physiology. Lab required. Lecture Hours 3 Department: Psychology</p>
<p>PSYX 330 Child Psychology. 3 Credits Term Typically Offered: Fall, Spring, Summer Prerequisite(s): PSYX 100. Provides a comprehensive overview of child development prior to puberty. Contemporary theory and research will be presented from multiple perspectives that emphasize the integration of biological, cognitive, social, emotional, and cultural influences over time. Lecture Hours 3 Department: Psychology</p>	<p>PSYX 355 Sensation & Perception Lab. 1 Credit Lab Hours 1 Department: Psychology</p>
<p>PSYX 333 Psychology of Aging. 3 Credits Term Typically Offered: Spring Prerequisite(s): PSYX 100. Considers the various aspects of the aging process as they relate to the psychological functioning of people in later life. Theories, data, and applications are considered as they relate to the well being of older people. Lecture Hours 3 Department: Psychology</p>	<p>PSYX 358 Drugs and Behavior. 3 Credits Term Typically Offered: Spring Prerequisite(s): PSYX 100. Corequisite(s): PSYX 359. Explores the physiological and psychological effects of licit and illicit drugs, including drug-related topics in biology, neuroscience, history, and law. Shows how drug taking behavior helps us comprehend human behavior in a biological environment. Lecture Hours 3 Department: Psychology</p>
<p>PSYX 335 Psychology of Gender. 3 Credits Term Typically Offered: Fall Prerequisite(s): PSYX 100. Explores the factors that influence the development of differences in cognitive and social/emotional functioning between males and females and the effects of those differences on psychological functioning. Lecture Hours 3 Department: Psychology</p>	<p>PSYX 359 Drugs and Behavior Lab. 1 Credit Term Typically Offered: Spring Prerequisite(s): PSYX 100. Corequisite(s): PSYX 358. (1.5 lab/wk) Explores the effects of drugs on the brain and human behavior using statistical modeling and drug use surveys on national populations. Students will learn research techniques useful in the field of pharmacology and psychology. The lab supports topics covering the Drugs and Behavior course. Lab Hours 1 Department: Psychology</p>
<p>PSYX 340 Abnormal Psychology. 3 Credits Term Typically Offered: Fall, Summer Prerequisite(s): PSYX 100. Covers the various categories of mental disorders, as classified in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders. For each disorder, information about features, causes, and treatments is examined. Lecture Hours 3 Department: Psychology</p>	<p>PSYX 360 Social Psychology. 3 Credits Term Typically Offered: Spring Prerequisite(s): PSYX 100 or consent of instructor. Studies how the thought, feeling, and behavior of individuals are influenced by the actual, implied, or imagined presence of others. Emphasis is given to the symbolic interactionist perspective and the relationship between culture and cognitive processes. Lecture Hours 3 Department: Psychology</p>
<p>PSYX 350 Physiological Psychology. 3 Credits Term Typically Offered: Fall Prerequisite(s): PSYX 100. Presents the physiological basis of human and animal behavior. Primarily concerned with the structure and function of the central nervous system as it relates to the behavior of organisms. Laboratory will concentrate on the neuroanatomy of the brain and demonstrations of techniques used in the discipline. Lab required. Lecture Hours 3 Department: Psychology</p>	<p>PSYX 370 Psychology of Learning. 3 Credits Term Typically Offered: Spring (even years) Prerequisite(s): PSYX 100. Explores the facts and principles of learning, motivation and memory. Covers the historical and theoretical background of learning, motivation and memory. Laboratory exercises demonstrate learning, motivation and memory processes. Lab required. Lecture Hours 3 Department: Psychology</p>
	<p>PSYX 371 Psychology of Learning Lab. 1 Credit Term Typically Offered: Spring (even years) Lab Hours 1 Department: Psychology</p>

<p>PSYX 378 Intro to Clinical Psych. 3 Credits Term Typically Offered: Spring (odd years) Prerequisite(s): PSYX 100. Surveys the major approaches to psychotherapy, with emphasis on theoretical foundations. Also addresses the issues of treatment efficacy, common factors, eclecticism, and current controversies. Lecture Hours 3 Department: Psychology</p>	<p>PSYX 461 Indust & Organiz Psych. 3 Credits Term Typically Offered: Spring Prerequisite(s): PSYX 100 or consent of instructor. Introduces students to the field of Industrial/Organizational Psychology. Surveys research and practice of psychological principles to a work setting. Lecture Hours 3 Department: Psychology</p>
<p>PSYX 380 Memory & Cognition. 3 Credits Term Typically Offered: Fall Prerequisite(s): PSYX 100, PSYX 222 and PSYX 223. Considers such topics as language and thought, attention, visual information processing, and short term and long term memory. Laboratory replicates and extends classical experiences in the field. Lab required. Lecture Hours 3 Department: Psychology</p>	<p>PSYX 470 Psychological Testing. 3 Credits Term Typically Offered: Spring (odd years) Prerequisite(s): PSYX 100 and PSYX 222, or equivalent. Examines the conceptual foundations of psychological testing and surveys representative tests and measurement instruments. Lecture Hours 3 Department: Psychology</p>
<p>PSYX 381 Memory & Cognition Lab. 1 Credit Term Typically Offered: Fall Lab Hours 1 Department: Psychology</p>	<p>PSYX 482 Psycholinguistics. 3 Credits Prerequisite(s): LING 210. Explores the relationship between the human brain and language, including brain anatomy, first and second language acquisition, abnormal language acquisition and functions, and mental language processes. Lecture Hours 3 Department: Psychology</p>
<p>PSYX 382 Forensic Psychology. 3 Credits Term Typically Offered: Spring Prerequisite(s): PSYX 100 or consent of instructor. Applies psychology to the legal system. Topics include jury selection and decision-making, memory as evidence, eyewitness testimony, psychological assessment and the insanity defense, and psychological profiling of criminal behavior. Department: Psychology</p>	<p>PSYX 490 Undergrad Research Testing Lab. 1-6 Credits Department: Psychology</p>
<p>PSYX 385 Psychology of Personality. 3 Credits Term Typically Offered: Fall Prerequisite: PSYX 100 or consent of instructor. Surveys the major theories of personality, with secondary attention to the lives of the theorists who formulated them. Lecture Hours 3 Department: Psychology</p>	<p>PSYX 492 Independent Study. 1-8 Credits Prerequisite(s): enrollment in a major or minor program in Psychology and consent of the department chairperson. Provides outstanding students an individual opportunity to investigate material not covered by regular Psychology courses. Department: Psychology</p>
<p>PSYX 395 Field Work. 1-8 Credits Term Typically Offered: Fall, Spring Prerequisite(s): Junior standing with 2.50 GPA and consent of instructor. Provides the student an opportunity to apply academic study to actual work experiences. Offers added meaning to theories and principles learned in class as provided by concrete application on supervised and selected work assignments. Includes weekly case conference with instructor. Lecture Hours 1-8 Department: Psychology</p>	<p>PSYX 494 Seminar/Workshop. 1-8 Credits Department: Psychology</p>
<p>PSYX 400 History & System in Psychology. 3 Credits Term Typically Offered: Spring, Summer Prerequisite(s): PSYX 100. Covers the historical development of psychology and studies the development and the content of the major systems and ideas. Lecture Hours 3 Department: Psychology</p>	<p>PSYX 495 Practicum. 1-3 Credits Term Typically Offered: Fall, Spring Prerequisite(s): Psychology major, Junior or Senior standing and consent of department chairperson. Provides opportunity of direct use of psychological knowledge in an academic setting. A student may be enrolled in only one practicum during a given semester. If repeated, the second practicum must relate to services in a different course or serve a different function within the same course. Department: Psychology</p>
<p>PSYX 410 Cognitive Learning Theories. 3 Credits Prerequisite(s): PSYX 100. Studies the thought processes that underlie learning. Focuses on unseen mental events (such as thinking and memory) that occur during the learning process. Animals and humans use such processes to develop expectancies concerning behavior and its relationship to external events. Lecture Hours 3 Department: Psychology</p>	<p>PSYX 498 Internship/Cooperative Educ. 1-6 Credits Provides university credits for a work experience in the area of Psychology supervised by faculty. Learning agreement must be completed prior to registration (restricted). Department: Psychology</p>
	<p>PSYX 499 Senior Thesis. 3 Credits Term Typically Offered: Fall, Spring Prerequisite(s): PSYX 222, PSYX 223, PSYX 224, and Senior level standing in Psychology. Guides students through the process of carrying out a thesis project, including conducting a literature review, designing a study, collecting data, statistical analysis, writing a report, and making an oral presentation. Offered ONLY Online. Department: Psychology</p>