# Psychology-BA or BS

This is a general curriculum guide and is not applicable to every student. It is important to meet with your advisor.

## Psychology Major (36 credits)
### Required Core Courses (12 credits)
- **PSY 101 Introductory Psychology** (3)
- **PSY 300 SWS Research Methods in Psychology** (3)
  Prerequisites: PSY 101 or HNR 234, and STA 215, or STA 312 and WRT 150
- **PSY 301 Child Development** (3)
- **PSY 305 Infant and Early Childhood Development** (3)
- **PSY 331 Adolescent Development** (3)
- **PSY 364 Life Span Development** (3)
- **PSY 375 Comparative Psychology** (3)
- **PSY 380 History and Systems** (3)
- **PSY 381 Group Dynamics** (3)
- **PSY 400 Advanced Research in Psychology** (3)
  Prerequisites: PSY 101, PSY 300, and a course in relevant content area or permission of instructor
- **PSY 492 Advanced General Capstone** (3)
  Prerequisite: Senior standing

### Category Requirements (18 credits)
Choose one course from each of the following six categories; prerequisite for all courses: PSY 101 or HNR 234 unless otherwise noted.

#### Biological (3)
- **PSY 355 Psychology and Culture**
- **PSY 360 Social Psychology**
- **PSY 381 Group Dynamics**
- **PSY 445 Industrial/Organizational Psychology**

#### Developmental (3)
- **PSY 301 Child Development**
- **PSY 305 Infant and Early Childhood Development**
- **PSY 331 Adolescent Development**
- **PSY 364 Life Span Development**

#### Personality/Clinical (3)
- **PSY 303 Psychopathology**
- **PSY 324 Developmental Psychopathology**
  Prerequisite: PSY 301 or PSY 364
- **PSY 420 Theories of Personality**
- **PSY 452 Counseling Theories and Applications**
  Prerequisite: PSY 303

#### Social context (3)
- **PSY 355 Psychology and Culture**
- **PSY 360 Social Psychology**
- **PSY 381 Group Dynamics**
- **PSY 445 Industrial/Organizational Psychology**

#### Cognitive (3)
- **PSY 357 Psychology of Language**
  Prerequisite: none
- **PSY 361 Perception**
- **PSY 365 Cognition**

#### Elective PSY (3)

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## Degree: choose one (B.A. or B.S.)

Psychology majors complete the B.S. degree requirements as part of their major. Students who have completed a 3rd semester proficiency in a foreign language have the option of selecting the B.A. degree. It matters little to employers or graduate schools whether the degree is a B.S. or a B.A.

### Bachelor of Arts
- **Third semester language proficiency (201 level) is required for the B.A. degree. This may be fulfilled through language placement** ([http://www.gvsu.edu/ml/language-placement-the-opi-108.htm](http://www.gvsu.edu/ml/language-placement-the-opi-108.htm)) or by completing the courses listed below
  - **Language 101** (4)
  - **Language 102** (4) (*150 is a hybrid of 101 & 102 and is recommended for students with previous language background; students may move into Language 201 after completing Language 150)
- **Language 201** (4)

### Bachelor of Science
- **STA 215 Introduction to Statistics** (3)
  Prerequisite: MTH 110 or equivalent
- **PSY 300 Research Methods in Psychology** (3) (SWS)
  Prerequisites: PSY 101 or HNR 234, and STA 215 or STA 312, and WRT 150
- **PSY 400 Advanced Research in Psychology** (3)
  Prerequisites: PSY 101, PSY 300, and a course in relevant content area or permission of instructor

### Additional Elective Options
- **PSY 302 Psychology of Adjustment**
- **PSY 304 The Psychology and Education of the Exceptional Child**
  Prerequisite: PSY 301 or PSY 364
- **PSY 310 Behavior Modification**
- **PSY 315 Psychology of Sex Differences**
- **PSY 316 The Psychology of Human Intimacy and Sexuality**
- **PSY 325 Educational Psychology**
- **PSY 326 Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities**
- **PSY 349 Psychology Applied to the Media**
- **PSY 367 Health Psychology**
- **PSY 368 Psychology of Physical Disabilities**
- **PSY 377 SWS The Psychology of the Quest**
  Prerequisite: WRT 150 and Junior Standing
- **PSY 380 Special Topics in Psychology**
- **PSY 385 Psychology of Religion**
- **PSY 399 Independent readings**
- **PSY 490 Practicum**
- **PSY 499 Independent Study and Research**

## Sample Plan
It is imperative to meet with your faculty advisor and an advisor in the CLAS Academic Advising Center regularly.
The CLAS Academic Advising Center is located in C-1-140 MAK, 616-331-8585.
Online at: [http://www.gvsu.edu/clasadvising](http://www.gvsu.edu/clasadvising)
Your advisor in the CLAS Academic Advising Center is Brian Eikenhout (eikenhbr@gvsu.edu) or Heather Chafin (chafinhe@gvsu.edu).

| Year One | Year Three | *Students must complete a total of two courses with an SWS attribute
*You must have a total of 120 credits to graduate from Grand Valley State University (you are encouraged to complete an average of 15 credits per semester)
*Supplement major courses with general education courses when scheduling
*The block tuition rate is for 12-15 credits. You will pay additional tuition for any credits over 15
*A major GPA of 2.0 or higher is required.

| PSY 101 | PSY Category | PSY 101 |
| STA 215 | PSY Category | STA 215 |
| WRT 150 | PSY Category | WRT 150 |

| Year Two | Year Four |
| PSY 300 | PSY Elective |
| PSY Category | PSY Elective |
| PSY Category | PSY 400 |
| PSY Category | PSY 492 |

1 Students who self-place into WRT 098 should take this course in the fall semester and then take WRT 150 in the winter semester of their first year. Students who self-place into WRT 150 should normally take this course in the winter semester of their first year.

Students will not need to take WRT 150 if they have earned credit for the course through AP/Dual Enrollment. A grade of C or better is required in WRT 150 in order to satisfy the WRT 150 requirement at GVSU.

If you have received a minimum score of 3 on the Advanced Placement (AP) Test in Psychology, or have CLEP or Dual Enrollment credit for Introductory Psychology, you may take one 300-level (not PSY 300) course for which introductory psychology is the prerequisite during the second semester of your Freshman year.

NOTES:
- Psychology majors are strongly encouraged to choose a minor that provides knowledge and skills relevant to their chosen career.
- For those planning on pursuing a Ph.D. in psychology, research experience is crucial. Two years of research experience are highly recommended. PSY 499 is just one way to gain research experience. Consult with your faculty advisor to plan the types of research experience that would be most relevant to you. A minor in Applied Statistics can be useful.
- For those planning on pursuing employment directly after graduation or continuing on for a master’s of social work degree, practical field experience through volunteering and the PSY 490 Practicum can be very valuable.

Guide for Declaring the Psychology Major
1. Log into myBanner from the GVSU homepage
2. Once logged in select “Student”, “Student Records”, and then, “Change Major”
3. Click on the “Change Major 1/Program” box
4. Click on the down arrow in the box next to “New Major 1/Program,” from here scroll down and choose “Psychology-BA” OR “Psychology-BS” depending on your degree
5. Click “Submit” and then “Change to New Program”

General Education Overlap

| General Education Categories fulfilled by courses required in the Psychology major: |