

# DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

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**Chief adviser:** *Mary B. Lewis*

The Department of Psychology offers undergraduate programs leading to the Bachelor of Arts degree. The psychology curriculum is structured to meet the needs of four types of students interested in majoring in psychology: students who plan to find employment after obtaining the bachelor's degree, students who plan to go to graduate school in psychology, students who plan to enter a field other than psychology that requires further formal training and students who have a general interest in psychology. A pamphlet, "Majoring in Psychology at Oakland University," is available in the department office. Students planning to major in psychology should obtain a copy of this pamphlet, which offers suggested programs of study.

Course work more than 10 years old is not automatically accepted for credit toward the major. The department reserves the right to review such courses before accepting them for credit toward the major. An examination may be required to demonstrate proficiency in the areas covered by such courses.

## Requirements for the liberal arts major in psychology, B.A. program

To earn the Bachelor of Arts with a major in psychology, students must complete a minimum of 40 credits in psychology with a minimum GPA of 2.00 over all psychology courses and must satisfy the following three requirements:

1. PSY 100, 250 and 251 with a minimum course grade of 2.0.
2. Two of the following courses: PSY 215, 225, 235 and 245.
3. One course each from three of the following four groups:

**Basic processes:** PSY 311, 316, 317, 318, 319, 415

**Developmental:** PSY 321, 322, 323, 327, 425

**Social:** PSY 330, 333, 337, 338, 339, 435

**Personality and individual differences:** PSY 341, 342, 343, 344, 445.

Students planning to attend graduate school should complete one of the experimental courses (PSY 450, 452, 453 or 454).

## Departmental honors

Departmental honors may be awarded to graduates who have taken a 400-level experimental methods course (or equivalent), or who have done honors-level work resulting in a tangible product in PSY 494 or in PSY 487-489, and achieved a grade point average of 3.50 or above in psychology courses.

The student must have completed at least six psychology courses at Oakland University. It is also the student's responsibility to file an "Application for Departmental Honors in Psychology" form.

### Requirements for a modified major in psychology with a concentration in linguistics, B.A. program

Students with this modified major in psychology must have a minimum of 24 credits in psychology and 20 credits in linguistics including:

1. PSY 100, 250 and 251.
2. At least two 300-level PSY courses.
3. 16 credits in LIN courses, including: LIN 201, 303, 304, and either 403 or 404.
4. ALS 335.

### Requirements for the liberal arts minor in psychology

To earn a minor in psychology, students must complete a minimum of 24 credits in psychology with a minimum GPA of 2.00 over all psychology courses and must satisfy the following three requirements:

1. PSY 100 or 130, and PSY 250 with a minimum course grade of 2.0.
2. Two of the following courses: PSY 215, 225, 235 and 245.
3. One course each from two of the following four groups:

**Basic processes:** PSY 311, 316, 317, 318, 319, 415

**Developmental:** PSY 321, 322, 323, 327, 425

**Social:** PSY 330, 333, 337, 338, 339, 435

**Personality and individual differences:** PSY 341, 342, 343, 344, 445.

### Course Offerings

The department offers selected courses from this catalog as warranted by student needs and availability of faculty. Specific offerings for each term may be found in the *Schedule of Classes*.

#### **PSY 100 Foundations of Contemporary Psychology (4)**

An introduction both to basic principles and recent formulations in psychology. Topics include the central psychological processes of attending, perceiving, learning, thinking, remembering and study of social behavior, and the development and organization of personality. Required of psychology majors. *Satisfies the university general education requirement in the social science knowledge exploration area.*

#### **PSY 130 Positive Psychology (4)**

Scientific study of the strengths and virtues that allow individuals and communities to thrive. Understanding positive emotions such as contentment, happiness, hope; individual traits such as capacity for love and work, courage, compassion, resilience, creativity, curiosity, integrity, self-knowledge, moderation, wisdom; institutional strengths that foster justice, parenting, leadership, teamwork, purpose and tolerance. *Satisfies the university general education requirement in the social science knowledge exploration area.*

#### **PSY 200 Topics in Psychology (4)**

Offered occasionally on special topics of current interest that are not listed among regular offerings. Prerequisite: See individual listings in *Schedule of Classes*.

#### **PSY 215 Introduction to Basic Psychological Processes (4)**

A survey of the processes of learning, memory and thinking, including physiological factors underlying these processes. Prerequisite: PSY 100 or 130.

**PSY 225 Introduction to Life-Span Developmental Psychology (4)**

A survey of the principal cognitive, social and behavioral processes that operate across the lifespan. *Satisfies the university general education requirement for knowledge applications integration. Prerequisite for applications integration: completion of the university general education requirement in the social science knowledge exploration area.*  
Prerequisite: PSY 100 or 130.

**PSY 235 Introduction to Social Psychology (4)**

Overview of traditional and current trends in social psychology. Attention is given to developing theoretical approaches to attitudes, interpersonal processes and social perception.  
Prerequisite: PSY 100 or 130.

**PSY 245 Introduction to Individual Differences and Personality Psychology (4)**

A survey of basic research in individual differences and personality, including major areas such as gender, aggression, altruism, conflict and measurement of personality variables.  
Prerequisite: PSY 100 or 130.

**PSY 250 Introduction to Research Design (4)**

General introduction to design, function and interpretation of research in the social sciences. Provides necessary preparation to evaluate the empirically based content of psychology. Required if psychology majors.  
Prerequisite: PSY 100 or 130.

**PSY 251 Statistics and Research Design (4)**

The principal statistical procedures employed in social science research. An introduction to descriptive statistics, probability and inferential statistics necessary to carry out and interpret social science research.  
Prerequisite: PSY 250 with a grade of 2.0 or higher and MTH 012 with a minimum grade of 2.0 or placement in a higher mathematics course.

**PSY 305 Creativity and Innovation (4)**

Interdisciplinary approach to understanding cultural, societal, individual, cognitive and biological determinants of creativity and their application to innovation.  
Prerequisite: PSY 100 or 130.

**PSY 311 Sensation and Perception (4)**

Approaches to the basic sensory systems and perceptual processes. *Satisfies the university general education requirement for a writing intensive course in general education or the major, not both. Prerequisite for writing intensive: completion of the university writing foundation requirement.*  
Prerequisite: PSY 250 with a grade of 2.0 or higher.

**PSY 316 Cognitive Psychology (4)**

The information processing approach to problems in pattern recognition, selective attention, mental operations, short- and long-term memory, the psychology of reading, problem solving and probabilistic reasoning. *Satisfies the university general education requirement for a writing intensive course in general education or the major, not both. Prerequisite for writing intensive: completion of the university writing foundation requirement.*  
Prerequisite: PSY 250 with a grade of 2.0 or higher.

**PSY 317 Sleep and Dreams (4)**

A review of facts and theories regarding sleep and dreams with demonstrations of research techniques. Topics include psychological and biological viewpoints on sleep, dreams, dream interpretation and sleep disorders. *Satisfies the university general education requirement for a writing intensive course in general education or the major, not both. Prerequisite for writing intensive: completion of the university writing foundation requirement.*  
Prerequisite: PSY 250 with a grade of 2.0 or higher.

**PSY 318                    Physiological Psychology (4)**

Biological bases of behavior of humans and related mammalian species: basic neuroanatomy and neurophysiology, motivation, emotion, learning and memory, sleep and dreams, sensory-motor mechanisms, brain stimulation, psychopharmacology, hormones and behavior. *Satisfies the university general education requirement for a writing intensive course in general education or the major, not both. Prerequisite for writing intensive: completion of the university writing foundation requirement.*

Prerequisite: PSY 250 with a grade of 2.0 or higher.

**PSY 319                    Animal Behavior (4)**

Comparative psychological, ethological and sociobiological viewpoints on behavior of animals. Emphasis will be on vertebrate species including humans. Discussion of reproductive, aggressive and social behaviors, learning, communication, etc. Stresses an evolutionary perspective. *Satisfies the university general education requirement for a writing intensive course in general education or the major, not both. Prerequisite for writing intensive: completion of the university writing foundation requirement.*

Prerequisite: PSY 250 with a grade of 2.0 or higher.

**PSY 321                    Child Development (4)**

Theory and principles of child development from birth to puberty. Selected topics include maturational processes, learning and motivation, intelligence, self concept and child-rearing practices. *Satisfies the university general education requirement for a writing intensive course in general education or the major, not both. Prerequisite for writing intensive: completion of the university writing foundation requirement.*

Prerequisite: PSY 250 with a grade of 2.0 or higher.

**PSY 322                    Adolescence and Youth (4)**

The transition to adulthood, as influenced by physiological change, intellectual growth, and social attitudes. Topics include the quest for identity, juvenile delinquency, drug use, the youth culture, relationships between generations, and vocational choice. *Satisfies the university general education requirement for a writing intensive course in general education or the major, not both. Prerequisite for writing intensive: completion of the university writing foundation requirement.*

Prerequisite: PSY 250 with a grade of 2.0 or higher.

**PSY 323                    Adulthood and Aging (4)**

Psychological change, from young adulthood to death. Topics include potentials for psychological growth and sources of crisis, changes in intellectual processes, attitudes toward aging, retirement and the needs of the aged. *Satisfies the university general education requirement for a writing intensive course in general education or the major, not both. Prerequisite for writing intensive: completion of the university writing foundation requirement.*

Prerequisite: PSY 250 with a grade of 2.0 or higher.

**PSY 327                    Socialization in the Family (4)**

Some areas of research and theory on socialization processors. Areas of focus: attachment and separation, conscience development, sex-role identity, ego-identity, etc. Role of principal agents, e.g., family, peers, school. *Satisfies the university general education requirement for a writing intensive course in general education or the major, not both. Prerequisite for writing intensive: completion of the university writing foundation requirement.*

Prerequisite: PSY 250 with a grade of 2.0 or higher.

**PSY 330                    Social Cognition (4)**

The theory and research explicating thinking processes underlying social phenomena such as impression formation, persuasion, conformity, compliance, stereotyping and causal perception. Areas of focus include attitude formation and change, attribution theory, the role of affect in cognition, schema theory and theories of nonverbal behavior. *Satisfies the university general education requirement for a writing intensive course in general education or the major, not both. Prerequisite for writing intensive: completion of the university writing foundation requirement.*

Prerequisite: PSY 250 with a grade of 2.0 or higher.

**PSY 333                    Motivation (4)**

The nature of physiological and behavioral mechanisms that control an organism's reaction to the demands of its environment. *Satisfies the university general education requirement for a writing intensive course in general education or the major, not both. Prerequisite for writing intensive: completion of the university writing foundation requirement.*

Prerequisite: PSY 250 with a grade of 2.0 or higher.

**PSY 337                    Interpersonal Processes and Group Behavior (4)**

Group structure, function and process. Focus on how individuals affect the behavior of people in groups; how the group, in turn, affects the behavior of the individual. Topics include leadership, cohesion, group therapy, crowds and mobs. *Satisfies the university general education requirement for a writing intensive course in general education or the major, not both. Prerequisite for writing intensive: completion of the university writing foundation requirement.*

Prerequisite: PSY 250 with a grade of 2.0 or higher.

**PSY 338                    Health Psychology (4)**

The application of theory and research in psychology to the enhancement of health and prevention and treatment of illness. The interaction between biological, social and psychological factors in health and medical problems is emphasized. *Satisfies the university general education requirement for a writing intensive course in general education or the major, not both. Prerequisite for writing intensive: completion of the university writing foundation requirement.*

Prerequisite: PSY 250 with a grade of 2.0 or higher.

**PSY 339                    Emotion (4)**

Understanding of human emotion from both a historical and theoretical viewpoint. Contemporary theoretical positions will be compared in terms of the roles cognition, behavior and psychological changes play in the emotional experience. *Satisfies the university general education requirement for a writing intensive course in general education or the major, not both. Prerequisite for writing intensive: completion of the university writing foundation requirement.*

Prerequisite: PSY 250 with a grade of 2.0 or higher.

**PSY 341                    Abnormal Psychology (4)**

The psychodynamics of abnormal behavior, clinical types, methods of investigation and principals of psychotherapy. *Satisfies the university general education requirement for a writing intensive course in general education or the major, not both. Prerequisite for writing intensive: completion of the university writing foundation requirement.*

Prerequisite: PSY 250 with a grade of 2.0 or higher.

**PSY 342                    Coping Strategies in the Normal Personality (4)**

Characteristics of healthy personality in the following dimensions: need gratification, reality contact, interpersonal relationships and growth. *Satisfies the university general education requirement for a writing intensive course in general education or the major, not both. Prerequisite for writing intensive: completion of the university writing foundation requirement.*

Prerequisite: PSY 250 with a grade of 2.0 or higher.

**PSY 343                    Psychopathology of Childhood (4)**

The psychopathology of children and adolescents, emphasizing dynamic and cognitive-perceptual-motor variables. *Satisfies the university general education requirement for a writing intensive course in general education or the major, not both. Prerequisite for writing intensive: completion of the university writing foundation requirement.*

Prerequisite: PSY 250 with a grade of 2.0 or higher.

**PSY 344                    Behavior Analysis (4)**

Theory and research on the analysis of behavior as it has developed from Pavlov to Skinner and Bandura. Includes a consideration of the application of principles of behavior analysis to individual and

social behavior. *Satisfies the university general education requirement for a writing intensive course in general education or the major, not both. Prerequisite for writing intensive: completion of the university writing foundation requirement.*  
Prerequisite: PSY 250 with a grade of 2.0 or higher.

**PSY 358 History and Systems of Psychology (4)**

How psychology came to be as it is. The beginning to the great experiments and the schools of psychology, the schools to World War II, World War II to the present. Researchers, experiments, theories. *Satisfies the university general education requirement for a writing intensive course in general education or the major, not both. Prerequisite for writing intensive: completion of the university writing foundation requirement.*  
Prerequisite: PSY 100 and two psychology courses other than PSY 251.

**PSY 362 Statistical Analysis on Computers (4)**

The principal computer packages used by social science researchers in analyzing data. A study of MINITAB serves to review basic concepts and introduce the logic of structuring data sets. The remainder of the course will focus on the BMDP and SPSS packages.  
Prerequisite: PSY 251 with a grade of 2.0 or higher.

**PSY 370 Psycholinguistics (4)**

Identical with ALS 335. *Satisfies the university general education requirement for a writing intensive course in the major. Prerequisite for writing intensive: completion of the university writing foundation requirement.*

**PSY 371 Work with the Elderly (4)**

Introduction to community and institutional work with the elderly. Field placement is combined with readings and lectures on psychosocial services for the elderly.  
Prerequisite: PSY 250 with a grade of 2.0 or higher, and 323 or permission of instructor.

**PSY 374 Psychology of Women (4)**

Examines gender differences resulting from the socialization of girls and women and the psychological impact of life events experienced exclusively or differentially by women. Topics include role conflicts, gender stereotypes, achievement and employment. Identical with WGS 374.  
Prerequisite: PSY 100 or 130.

**PSY 381 Tests and Measurement (4)**

Theories of measurement and evaluation. Examination of construction and interpretation of tests of ability, achievement, interests and special aptitudes. Objective tests of personality. *Satisfies the university general education requirement for a writing intensive course in general education or the major, not both. Prerequisite for writing intensive: completion of the university writing foundation requirement.*  
Prerequisite: PSY 251 with a grade of 2.0 or higher.

**PSY 399 Field Experience in Psychology (4)**

The application of psychological concepts and methods in a work setting. Includes job placement with a classroom component, readings and discussion of relevant literature. May not be repeated for credit. *Satisfies the university general education requirement for the capstone experience.*  
Prerequisite: junior/senior standing. Minimum of 16 credits in the major including PSY 250 with a grade of 2.0 or higher, two courses between 310 and 349, and permission of instructor.

**PSY 415 Seminar in Basic Psychological Processes (4)**

Advanced seminar in a special topic related to cognition, perception, conditioning or physiological processes. *Satisfies the university general education requirement for the capstone experience.*  
Prerequisite: PSY 215, 250 with a grade of 2.0 or higher, and permission of instructor.

**PSY 425 Seminar in Developmental Psychology (4)**

Advanced seminar in a special topic related to developmental psychology, such as theories of development. *Satisfies the university general education requirement for the capstone experience.*

Prerequisite: PSY 225, 250 with a grade of 2.0 or higher, and permission of instructor.

**PSY 435 Seminar in Social Psychology (4)**

Advanced seminar in a special topic related to social psychology, such as attitudes, attributions or theories of social influence. *Satisfies the university general education requirement for the capstone experience.*

Prerequisite: PSY 235, 250 with a grade of 2.0 or higher, and permission of instructor.

**PSY 445 Seminar in Individual Differences and Personality Psychology (4)**

Advanced seminar in a special topic related to individual differences and personality psychology, such as theories of personality, aggression or religion. *Satisfies the university general education requirement for the capstone experience.*

Prerequisite: PSY 245, 250 with a grade of 2.0 or higher, and permission of instructor.

**PSY 450 Advanced Experimental Psychology: Basic Psychological Processes (4)**

Issues in learning, perception, thinking, physiological psychology, and animal behavior, with independent research project. *Satisfies the university general education requirement for the capstone experience.*

Prerequisite: PSY 251 with a grade of 2.0 or higher and permission of instructor.

**PSY 452 Advanced Experimental Psychology: Developmental (4)**

Issues in design and methodology of psychological research with application to the developmental area. Independent project required. *Satisfies the university general education requirement for the capstone experience.*

Prerequisite: PSY 251 with a grade of 2.0 or higher and permission of instructor.

**PSY 453 Advanced Experimental Psychology: Social (4)**

Theory and techniques of survey research, field experiments, laboratory experiments and field studies. Experience in data collection; independent project required. *Satisfies the university general education requirement for the capstone experience.*

Prerequisite: PSY 251 with a grade of 2.0 or higher and permission of instructor.

**PSY 454 Advanced Experimental Psychology: Individual Differences and Personality (4)**

Issues in design and methodology of psychological research on personality. Independent research project required. *Satisfies the university general education requirement for the capstone experience.*

Prerequisite: PSY 251 with a grade of 2.0 or higher and permission of instructor.

**PSY 460 Senior Seminar in Psychological Science (4)**

This team-taught seminar will bring to bear the understandings of various subdisciplines in psychology on a complex behavioral issue (e.g. child rearing, academic achievement, hostility and helping). The members of the department representing the relevant subdisciplines will lead the seminar discussion.

Prerequisite: PSY 251 with a grade of 2.0 or higher and PSY 358.

**PSY 470 Apprentice College Teaching (4)**

Supervised participation in teaching undergraduate psychology courses. Discussion of teaching objectives and methods. May be repeated for a total of 8 credits. Only 4 credits may be offered to fulfill major requirements.

Prerequisite: permission of instructor.

**PSY 483-485 Readings and Research Projects (2 or 4 each)**

Individual readings or laboratory research on a topic agreed upon by a student and a member of the psychology faculty. May be repeated for additional credit. Not more than 8 credits of readings and

research project may be counted toward fulfillment of the major in psychology. *Each satisfies the university general education requirement for the capstone experience.*

Prerequisite: permission of instructor.

**PSY 487-489      Research Apprenticeship (4 each)**

Student will be mentored by faculty in design and implementation of a research project. May be repeated for additional credit. Not more than 8 credits earned in the research apprenticeship may be counted toward fulfillment of the major in psychology.

Prerequisite: permission of instructor.

**PSY 494      Honors Independent Studies (4)**

Independent honors research projects in clinical, developmental, experimental and social psychology, respectively. *Satisfies the university general education requirement for the capstone experience.*

Prerequisite: permission of instructor.