

THE PSYCHOLOGY MINOR

COURSE PLANNING AND REGISTRATION HINTS

A. PURPOSE OF THE MINOR

A minor provides an opportunity to obtain depth in an undergraduate education beyond your academic major. The minor functions as your second specialization, while at the same time increasing the breadth of your education. Although you are not required to select a minor, minors may complement a major, are sometimes thought of as "career insurance", may assist in graduate school admission, and are often taken because students like the subject matter.

Possible uses for a psychology minor include:

- 1) As part of a liberal arts education with no immediate specific goals or no long-range plans in psychology.
- 2) As part of a liberal arts preparation for a specific graduate or professional school goal. For example:
 - a) Professional school: Law, Business Administration, Medicine, Social Work, etc.
 - b) Advanced Graduate degrees in Psychology and Psychology related areas: Although most students who plan to undertake graduate study in psychology have a major in psychology, a well planned minor could result in excellent preparation if it included the required courses for the major.
- 3) As a liberal arts preparation for employment in which psychology is helpful but not required (e.g., sales, advertising, personnel work, management, and criminal justice).
- 4) As preparation for employment with a variety of social service agencies.
- 5) As a minor in conjunction with a degree in elementary or special education.
- 6) As a Teaching Minor in the College of Education and Human Services in preparation for teaching secondary school courses in Psychology. This minor is highly structured in order to meet State Certification requirements.

B. TYPES OF PSYCHOLOGY MINORS

1. *PSYCHOLOGY - LETTERS & SCIENCE*

Recommended for students who wish to select courses related to their academic major and career objectives, and/or for personal interest and development.

Required Units: 21 minimum

Required Courses:

PSYCH 101 General Psychology OR
PSYCH 104 Honors: General Psychology
PSYCH 203 Elementary Psychological Statistics AND

Three units from Group 1 (See page 3) AND

Three units from Group 2 (See page 3)

Electives: Additional psychology courses for a total of 21 units.

2. *PSYCHOLOGY - SECONDARY EDUCATION (for teacher certification)*

Required Units: 23 minimum

Required Courses:

PSYCH 101 General Psychology OR
PSYCH 104 Honors: General Psychology
PSYCH 203 Elementary Psychological Statistics
PSYCH 303 Psychology of Abnormal Behavior
PSYCH 371 Experimental Psychology
PSYCH 464 History of Psychology

Electives: Additional psychology courses for a total of 23 units.

C. PREREQUISITES

Psychology minors must obtain grades of "C" (2.0) or higher in psychology courses in order for the courses to count toward graduation in the minor. If a grade lower than a "C" (2.0) is received in a psychology course, the student may elect to retake the course (limited to one retake).

Psychology minors must receive a grade of "C" (2.0) or higher in any courses which are prerequisite for another course. For example, PSYCH 203, Elementary Psychological Statistics, must be completed with a "C" or higher before a student can enroll in PSYCH 371, Experimental Psychology. External prerequisite courses such as MATH 104, College Algebra, or MATH 108, Pre-Calculus, which are required for PSYCH 203, Elementary Psychological Statistics, must be passed with a grade of "C" (2.0) or higher.

D. COURSE OFFERINGS

Group 1: Social-Developmental Psychology (Minimum of three units)

PSYCH 205 Social Psychology
PSYCH 271 Cross-Cultural Psychology
PSYCH 291 Developmental Psychology
PSYCH 304 Psychology of Religion
PSYCH 324 Psychology of Human Sexuality
PSYCH 331 Infant and Child Development
PSYCH 338 Adult Development and Aging¹
PSYCH 355 Psychology of Adolescence
PSYCH 473 Theories of Personality

Group 2: Experimental Psychology (Minimum of three units)

PSYCH 202 Introductory Psychology Laboratory
PSYCH 280 Cognitive Psychology
PSYCH 310 Comparative Psychology
PSYCH 341 Intermediate Psychological Statistics
PSYCH 367 Psychopharmacology
PSYCH 383 Biological Psychology
PSYCH 384 Biological Psychology Laboratory
PSYCH 455 Sensation and Perception
PSYCH 463 Theories and Principles of Learning
PSYCH 480 Advanced Research in Psychology
PSYCH 495 Psychology Research Seminar

Group 3: Other courses that can count toward the minor

PSYCH 203 Elementary Psychological Statistics**
PSYCH 220 Health Psychology
PSYCH 303 Psychology of Abnormal Behavior***
PSYCH 363 Industrial and Organizational Psychology
PSYCH 371 Experimental Psychology***
PSYCH 390 Sport Psychology
PSYCH 411 Introduction to Psychological Testing
PSYCH 446 Independent Study (up to 6 units)*
PSYCH 451 Seminar in Applied Psychology
PSYCH 456 Related Readings (up to 6 units)*
PSYCH 464 History of Psychology***
PSYCH 474 Honors Thesis
PSYCH 481 Introduction to Counseling
PSYCH 490 Special Topics in Psychology
PSYCH 498 Honors Seminar in Psychology
PSYCH 499 Honors Seminar in Psychology
PHILOSOPHY 316 Introduction to Cognitive Science (a Philosophy course)
INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES 399 L&S Career Internship

* A maximum total of six units of Independent Study and Related Readings units in Psychology may be counted in meeting the minimum unit requirement of any Psychology minor.

** Required for both types of Psychology minors.

***Required for the Secondary Education Psychology minor.

¹This course is cross-listed as a Women's Studies course (WOM STDS 338). Psychology majors should register for it as PSYCH 338. However, it can also be counted toward the Women's Studies minor.

E. THE ROLE OF THE ADVISOR

The University does not have a formal program of advisement for planning a minor. Although this guide is designed to help you with your planning, you are ultimately responsible for your own program and for the selection of appropriate courses that will lead to graduation and to the fulfillment of educational and vocational goals. You are strongly encouraged to seek out a psychology department faculty member for consultation, and to work with your advisor in your major area of study. If you are not yet acquainted with the psychology faculty, the program assistant of the Psychology Department in Clow Faculty 29 can refer you to an appropriate professor.

You should use this guide and your catalog to work out a long-range plan of studies that will lead to graduation. Please discuss the plan of studies with your advisor. Your plan may be revised as often as you find necessary: a flexible, long-range plan is helpful if you need to make changes at the last minute due to closed sections and courses. Students who work closely with their advisor should have fewer problems in registration, meeting graduation requirements and graduate school admission.

F. PROGRAM HINTS

1. **Plan ahead.** Make a semester-by-semester schedule of all courses you plan to take from now until graduation. Ordinarily you can assume most courses will be offered at least once a year.
2. **Keep a current accurate record** of the courses you have taken, including the course title, catalog number, catalog description, date taken, instructor's name, textbook used, and grade received.
3. **Letters of Recommendation.** If psychology faculty get to know you, and your work is good, they can be a good source of letters of recommendation, in addition to faculty in your major.
4. **Becoming a Psychology Major.** About two thirds of psychology majors did not become psychology majors until after they had taken one or more psychology courses. Some of our majors started out with a psychology minor and later switched to the major. The Psychology Major Handbook is available in the Psychology Department office, Clow Faculty 29. Faculty are always willing to discuss academic and career possibilities in connection with a psychology major.
5. **The department national honor society chapter, Psi Chi,** is a valuable experience for upper division students who have a grade point average of 3.2 and a 3.0 GPA overall, plus a minimum of 9 units of Psychology and at least 45 units overall. In the past, Psi Chi members have visited other research laboratories, sponsored guest speakers, and organized student-faculty social gatherings. A second organization, Psychology Club, is open to all university students. This club sponsors additional activities, such as fund-raising and social events. Most Psi Chi activities are open to all students via the Psychology Club.

6. **Graduate Studies in Psychology.** As stated on p.1 of this document, a minor in Psychology could qualify you for graduate programs in Psychology. At the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh, we offer two graduate emphasis in Psychology: Experimental Psychology and Industrial/Organizational (I/O) Psychology. Many of the I/O graduates work for consulting firms specializing in providing I/O-related services to organizations. Others are employed directly by organizations, most typically in Human Resource departments. Somewhat smaller percentages hold positions involving consumer research. Some graduates of the program also pursue doctoral degrees, typically in either I/O Psychology or business. Graduates of the Experimental Psychology program also work in many different kinds of settings, including family services, human resources, corporate training, market research, laboratory research, and statistical analysis. Graduates of the experimental program have also pursued doctorates in clinical psychology and in various areas of experimental psychology.