

# BACHELOR OF ARTS AND BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN PSYCHOLOGY

Psychology is the scientific study of thought, behavior, and experience. Many people associate psychology with psychological therapy and the practice of clinical psychology. There are many other important areas of scientific psychology, such as cognitive, developmental, industrial/organizational, and social psychology. What these subfields of psychology have in common is the use of the scientific method to understand human behavior and apply that understanding to the development of theory and practice. Psychologists are increasingly making use of neuroscience methods and theories to understand psychological phenomena. As a profession, psychology is related to career fields such as health, education, marketing, human resources, social work, and more. The principles of psychology are relevant to almost all areas of human endeavor, and the career paths of psychology students reflect this wealth of possibilities.

## Graduate Education

The Psychology B.A./B.S. degree programs prepare students for graduate study in fields such as business, counseling and clinical psychology, human and social services, industrial and organizational psychology, forensic psychology, public policy, school psychology, social work, and law. Students interested in pursuing graduate studies have many opportunities as an undergraduate to collaborate on faculty research, conduct individual research, and participate in many community-based internships.

## Academic Minors

Enhance your degree with one of the college's academic minors. The opportunity to double major is also available. The following minors/majors are recommended for Psychology majors.

- Business
- Civic & Community Engagement
- Communication Arts & Sciences
- Criminal Justice
- Entrepreneurship & Innovation
- Global Studies
- Kinesiology
- Political Science
- Rehabilitation & Human Services
- Special Education
- Theatre
- Women's Studies



## Job Titles and Salaries

The following is a list of job titles and salaries, which was compiled from the Bureau of Labor and Statistics *Occupational Outlook Handbook*. This is only a partial list to provide you examples of the kinds of jobs available to graduates with a B.A./B.S. in Psychology. Some positions require additional experience.

Title	2018 Median Pay
Market Research Analyst	\$63,120
Marriage/Family Counselor	\$50,090
Mental Health Counselor	\$44,630
Psychologist	\$79,010
School/Career Counselor	\$56,310
Social Worker	\$49,470
Sociologist	\$82,050
Special Education Teacher	\$59,780

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## Major Overview

The Psychology major combines the knowledge, skills, and values of psychology with a liberal arts foundation. Students should:

- develop a knowledge base consisting of concepts, theories, empirical findings, and trends within psychology;
- understand and apply basic research methods in psychology;
- use critical thinking and the scientific approach to solve problems related to behavior and mental processes;
- apply psychological principles to personal and social issues; and
- be able to understand the gender, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, culture, and class issues in psychological theory, research, and practice.

Students should also develop information and computer competence and communication skills, while developing realistic ideas about how to implement their psychology education in occupational pursuits in a variety of settings. The major may lead to either a Bachelor of Arts or a Bachelor of Science degree. The B.A. degree incorporates a broad exposure to the many facets of the field of psychology, in addition to the B.A. requirements. The B.S. degree provides the same exposure to the field of psychology and adds options in Science and Business to prepare students for more specific career directions. Students in both degree programs may also prepare for graduate school; research experience with faculty members is encouraged for such students.

## Research, Internship, and Capstone Experience

The Psychology B.A./B.S. degree programs require students to complete at least one semester of research, community-based internship, or capstone experience during their senior year. Psychology students, under the direction of department faculty, can conduct their own research on a topic of their choice, take part in opportunities to present their research at conferences, and have their research published in academic journals. Students are also encouraged to pursue community-based internships to gain practical, hands-on experience in different areas of psychology. Community-based internships are vital to career development. Their education culminates in a Capstone class designed to aid students in selecting psychology careers, developing professional skills, and marketing themselves as professionals.

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Program Chair

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## Admission Process

Applying for degree admission to Penn State Berks is simple. Applications are available on the web at [berks.psu.edu](http://berks.psu.edu). Penn State reviews applications throughout the year. Students can expect a decision within four to six weeks after completing the process. Contact the Berks Admissions Office with your questions at 610-396-6060.

## Transfer Students

Penn State Berks welcomes students who began their education at other institutions. Contact the Berks Admissions Office with your transfer questions at 610-396-6060.

## Financial Aid

Eligibility for all financial aid is determined by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form available on the web at [fafsa.ed.gov](http://fafsa.ed.gov). Contact the financial aid coordinator at Berks or visit [psu.edu/studentaid](http://psu.edu/studentaid) for a complete description of the types of available student aid and the application process at 610-396-6070.

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