

PSYCHOLOGY

Program Description

Psychology stands at the intersection of the biological sciences and the humanities because of its study of mental processes, emotions, and behavior. Using the scientific method, psychology investigates many aspects of human behavior, including, but not limited to, how the brain and nervous system function, mental illness, therapies that help people manage mental illness and recover from trauma, social and emotional development over the lifespan, learning and memory, and social and group dynamics.

Psychology covers the total lifespan to learn about how people function in family, work, and community settings. Psychologists investigate differences in development, research what contributes to effective work environments, and develop therapies that help people resolve conflict and emotional hardship. It is a dynamic field that engages in research to discover new knowledge that can be applied to help people thrive and live healthy lives.

Learn more about the program on the [Psychology website](#).

Associate Degree for Transfer

This program also offers an Associate Degree for Transfer. Learn more and review the degree requirements on the [Psychology AA-T listing](#).

Program Learning Outcomes

- Students will be able to recognize the diversity of behavior of various populations and be able to explain, interpret, apply, and evaluate a broad base of concepts in the different fields of psychology.
- Students will be able to apply critical thinking skills and psychological theories to real-world situations, and be able to apply research methodology and data analysis in the process of answering questions about human behavior.

Career Opportunities

Psychology graduates find positions in a wide range of work environments. Typical positions include personnel managers, industrial psychologists, psychiatric aides, probation officers, mental health workers, drug abuse counselors, employment counselors, and teachers. Advanced degrees, such as a Masters (MA), a Marriage and Family Therapy (MFT), a PsyD, and a PhD, can open opportunities for careers in research, counseling, and higher education. Psychologists also work as consultants in government and industry, as well as in human resources, marketing, business management, technology, software development, and education.

Award Type(s)

- AA = Associate in Arts Degree

Units Required

- Major: 35

Additional Information

Note: Students having difficulty attaining an associate degree because of timing or availability of classes should consult with a counselor to submit a petition for course substitution.

Associate Degree Requirements

A minimum of 90 units is required¹ to complete the associate degree, including:

- Core and support courses for the major (35 units total)
- Completion of one of the following general education patterns:
 - Foothill College General Education
 - Summer Session 2025 only**—CSU General Education Breadth (CSU GE Breadth)²
 - Summer Session 2025 only**—Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC)²
 - Beginning Fall Quarter 2025**—California General Education Transfer Curriculum (Cal-GETC)³

¹ Additional elective course work may be necessary to meet the 90-unit minimum requirement for the associate degree.

² Summer Session 2025 is the final term during which CSU GE Breadth and IGETC may be used. Please see a counselor for more information.

³ Cal-GETC begins in Fall Quarter 2025. Please see a counselor for more information.

Note: A grade of "C" (or "P") or better is required for all core and support courses used for the degree. In addition, the student must obtain a minimum GPA of 2.0.

Refer to the Associate in Arts & Associate in Science Degree Requirements page for complete information about graduation requirements and catalog rights.

Core and Support Courses

Code	Title	Units
Core Courses		
PSYC 1	GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY	5
or PSYC 1H	HONORS GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY	
PSYC 7	STATISTICS FOR THE BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES	5
or SOC 7	STATISTICS FOR THE BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES	
or MATH 10	ELEMENTARY STATISTICS	
PSYC 10	RESEARCH METHODS & DESIGNS	5
or SOC 10	SOCIAL RESEARCH METHODS & DESIGNS	
Support Courses		
Select 12 units from the following:		12
PSYC 2	CULTURAL PSYCHOLOGY	
PSYC 4	INTRODUCTION TO BIOPSYCHOLOGY	
PSYC 9	POSITIVE PSYCHOLOGY	
PSYC 14	CHILD & ADOLESCENT DEVELOPMENT	
PSYC 21	PSYCHOLOGY OF WOMEN: SEX & GENDER DIFFERENCES	
or WMN 21	PSYCHOLOGY OF WOMEN: SEX & GENDER DIFFERENCES	
PSYC 22	PSYCHOLOGY OF PREJUDICE & DISCRIMINATION	
PSYC 25	PSYCHOLOGICAL DISORDERS & THEIR TREATMENTS	
PSYC 30	SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY	
or SOC 30	SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY	
PSYC 33	INTRODUCTION TO PERSONALITY PSYCHOLOGY	
PSYC 39	PSYCHOLOGY OF SPORTS	

PSYC 40	HUMAN DEVELOPMENT	
PSYC 49	HUMAN SEXUALITY	
And eight units from the following: ¹		8
PSYC 51	APPLIED RESEARCH EXPERIENCE	
PSYC 54H	HONORS INSTITUTE SEMINAR IN PSYCHOLOGY	
PSYC 70R	INDEPENDENT STUDY IN PSYCHOLOGY	
PSYC 71R	INDEPENDENT STUDY IN PSYCHOLOGY	
PSYC 72R	INDEPENDENT STUDY IN PSYCHOLOGY	
PSYC 73R	INDEPENDENT STUDY IN PSYCHOLOGY	
ANTH 2A	CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY	
	or ANTH 2AH HONORS CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY	
ANTH 4	FIRST PEOPLES OF NORTH AMERICA	
ANTH 6	PERSPECTIVES FROM AFRICA	
ANTH 22	THE AZTEC, MAYA, INCA & THEIR PREDECESSORS: CIVILIZATIONS OF THE AMERICAS	
BIOL 14	HUMAN BIOLOGY	
ETHN 1	INTRODUCTION TO ETHNIC STUDIES	
HUMN 4	TRAUMA & THE ARTS	
	or HUMN 4H HONORS TRAUMA & THE ARTS	
HUMN 8	EX MACHINA: THE PARADOX OF BEING HUMAN IN THE DIGITAL AGE	
PHOT 8	PHOTOGRAPHY OF AMERICAN CULTURES	
	or PHOT 8H HONORS PHOTOGRAPHY OF AMERICAN CULTURES	
SOC 1	INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY	
	or SOC 1H HONORS INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY	
SOC 23	RACE & ETHNIC RELATIONS	
SOC 28	SOCIOLOGY OF GENDER	
SOC 40	ASPECTS OF MARRIAGE & FAMILY	
Total Units		35

¹ Students may also use courses listed in the first section of support courses to fulfill the requirement for the second section of support courses.