

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Psychology is an extremely broad discipline. While consistently focused on the individual, it deals with everything from brain and neurological functions to social and environmental influences on behavior and thought. Here at CU Denver, our undergraduate program covers aspects of all the following: experimental psychology, biopsychology, animal behavior, developmental psychology, cognitive psychology, and abnormal psychology. As a foundation, the programs also include an early exposure to research methods and statistics. The psychology major is designed to help students achieve the following learning goals:

- **Knowledge Base of Psychology:** Students will recognize, explain, and distinguish the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in Psychology.
- **Research Methods in Psychology:** Students will demonstrate the statistical, organizational, writing, and analytical skills necessary to interpret and conduct meaningful and valid research in Psychology.
- **Critical Thinking Skills:** Students will use skeptical inquiry and scientific thinking skills to interpret and solve problems related to behavior and mental processes.
- **Application of Psychology:** Students will apply psychological principles to solve personal, social, and/or organizational problems.
- **Values in Psychology:** Students will evaluate evidence, tolerate ambiguity, act ethically, recognize and respect diversity, and/or reflect other values that are the underpinnings of psychology as a discipline.

The Department of Psychology strives to provide the highest quality, state-of-the-art educational experience for our undergraduate students. Our faculty members bring alive for students the subject matter and methodologies of psychology and prepare students to become sophisticated consumers and evaluators of information. Our students can collaborate with faculty on research projects at the intersection of psychology and neuroscience in areas such as drug abuse, stress, brain development, health and wellness, depression, and marital relationships—research that is often focused on problems of contemporary urban life. The Gardner Psychology Research Scholars Program consists of a rigorous set of criteria centered around a research project working with a Psychology faculty mentor.

## ACADEMIC ADVISING

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) supports students to graduation using a shared advising system. CLAS students have two academic advisors with whom they should meet regularly to discuss academic and degree progress: a CLAS Academic Advisor and a major advisor.

*For questions related to CU Denver Core Curriculum, CLAS, general graduation requirements, university/college academic policies, or campus resources contact:*

### CLAS Academic Advising

[clas\\_advising@ucdenver.edu](mailto:clas_advising@ucdenver.edu)

Visit the CLAS Advising website [here](#)

North Classroom (NC) 1030

303-315-7100

*For questions related to major requirements, major course prerequisites, or evaluation of transfer coursework in your major contact:*

### Psychology Major Advising

[CLAS Major Advisor Contact Information](#)

Visit the department website [here](#)

North Classroom (NC) 5002

303-315-7050

## GENERAL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS & POLICIES

*All CU Denver CLAS students are required to complete the following minimum general graduation requirements to be eligible to apply for graduation:*

1. Complete a minimum of 120 credit hours
2. Achieve a minimum 2.0 CU cumulative grade point average (GPA)
3. Complete a minimum of 45 upper-division (3000- to 4000-level) credit hours
4. Complete all CU Denver Core, CLAS, and major requirements
5. Complete a minimum of 30 CLAS credit hours with letter grades at CU Denver

*The following are **maximum** credit hours that can apply toward the minimum 120 credit hours required for graduation:*

- 16 credit hours Pass/Fail
- 12 credit hours of Independent Study/Directed Research
- 12 credit hours of internship credit
- 8 credit hours of physical education credit

## PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS & POLICIES

**Students are responsible for meeting with the major advisor to confirm major requirements.** In addition to completing all CU Denver Core and CLAS requirements, students completing the Psychology B.S. Degree are required to complete the following minimum program requirements:

1. Students must complete a total of 57 credit hours, including a minimum of 28 PSYC credit hours and 23 credit hours in ancillary course work.
2. Students must earn a minimum grade of C- (1.7) in all courses that apply to the major and must achieve a minimum of B (3.0) in the 3 Behavioral & Biomedical Sciences Research courses and must achieve a minimum cumulative major GPA of 2.5. Courses taken using P+/P/F or S/U grading cannot apply to major requirements.
3. Students must complete a minimum of 16 upper division (3000-level and above) PSYC credit hours with CU Denver faculty.
4. An experiential learning component is required and must be approved by the PSYC B.S. major advisor. To fulfill the experiential learning requirement a student must have a minimum overall GPA of 2.5 or higher. Fulfilling this requirement with a project outside of the Psychology Department requires prior approval by the PSYC B.S. major advisor. Independent study or internship credit hours taken outside of the Psychology Department will not count as Psychology credit hours.
5. Successful (final grade of B or better) completion of PSYC 4680 Behavioral & Biomedical Sciences Research Seminar, PSYC 4681 Behavioral & Biomedical Sciences Research Seminar II and PSYC 4780 Behavioral & Biomedical Sciences Research: Ethics & Issues fulfills the experiential learning requirement for the Bachelor of Science in Psychology department core graduation requirement. It is required for students to have instructor permission to enroll in both PSYC 4680 Behavioral & Biomedical Sciences Research Seminar and PSYC 4681 Behavioral & Biomedical Sciences Research Seminar II
6. Students with transfer credit for PSYC 1005 that was awarded zero credit hours will need to take an additional three credit Psychology Elective course to reach the minimum credit hours required for the Psychology Major.

### LYNXCONNECT RESOURCES

Are you interested in learning about internship, study abroad, career, and research opportunities for this major? Visit the CU Denver LynxConnect, located in Tivoli Student Union (TV) Suite 339, and browse the LynxConnect [website](#) for more information.

| Degree Requirements   | Credits       | Notes   |
|---|---------------|---|
| <b>* Course prerequisites change regularly. Students are responsible for consulting advisors and the class schedule in the student portal for prerequisite information. *</b> |               |   |
| CU Denver Core Curriculum Requirements  | 34 - 40       | <a href="#">CU Denver Core Curriculum Requirements</a>  |
| CLAS Graduation Requirements  | 15 - 29       | <a href="#">CLAS Graduation Requirements</a>  |
| PSYC Major Requirements   | 28            | 16 credit hours must be upper-division  |
| <b>PSYC Required Courses</b>  |               |   |
| PSYC 1000 Introduction to Psychology I  | 3             | Course can fulfill CU Denver Core Behavioral Science  |
| PSYC 1005 Introduction to Psychology II   | 3             | Course can fulfill CU Denver Core Behavioral Science  |
| PSYC 2090 Statistics and Research Methods   | 4             | *Prerequisite: PSYC 1000  |
| PSYC 2220 Biological Basis of Behavior  | 3             | Course can fulfill CU Denver Core Natural/Physical Science without lab<br>*Prerequisite: PSYC 1000 or BIOL 2020.  |
| PSYC 3090 Research Methods in Psychology  | 3             | *Prerequisite: PSYC 1000, 1005, and 2090  |
| PSYC 4054 Behavioral Neuroscience   | 3             | *Prerequisite: PSYC 1000, 1005, 2090, 2220, 3090, and six credit hours or two courses from PSYC 3050-4990   |
| <b>PSYC Group A Electives</b>   |               |   |
| Choose two from BIOL 3104, PSYC 3222, 3254, 3262, 3263, 3264, 3265, 3724, 3810, 3822, 3832 or 4164  | 6             | *Check individual courses for prerequisites   |
| <b>PSYC Group B Elective</b>  |               |   |
| Choose one from PSYC 3205 Human Development I: Child Psychology, PSYC 3305 Abnormal Psychology or PSYC 3415 Experimental Social Psychology                                    | 3             | *Prerequisite: C- or higher in PSYC 1000 and 1005 or 3215 for 3205<br>*Prerequisite: C- or higher in PSYC 1000 and 1005 for 3305 and 3415                                 |
| <b>Ancillary Biology and Chemistry Requirements</b>   |               |   |
| BIOL 2010 & 2011 Organisms to Ecosystems (Gen Bio) with lab or BIOL 2030 & 2031 Honors Organisms to Ecosystems (Gen Bio) with lab   | 4             | Courses can fulfill CU Denver Core Natural/Physical Science with lab<br>*Prerequisite: High School chemistry or CHEM 1000 recommended                                     |
| BIOL 2020 & 2021 Molecules to Cells (Gen Bio) with lab or BIOL 2040 & 2041 Honors Molecules with Cells (Gen Bio) with lab   | 4             | Courses can fulfill CU Denver Core Natural/Physical Science with lab<br>*Prerequisite: C- or higher in BIOL 2010 & 2011 or 2030 & 2031                                    |
| CHEM 2031 & 2038 General Chemistry I with lab or CHEM 2081 & 2088 Honors General Chemistry I with lab   | 4             | Courses can fulfill CU Denver Core Natural/Physical Science with lab<br>*Prerequisite: MATH 1110 and High School chemistry or CHEM 1000 recommended                       |
| CHEM 2061 & 2068 General Chemistry II with lab or CHEM 2091 & 2098 Honors General Chemistry II with lab   | 5             | Courses can fulfill CU Denver Core Natural/Physical Science with lab<br>*Prerequisite: C- or higher in CHEM 2031 & 2038 or 2081 & 2088                                    |
| <b>Upper Division Biology/Chemistry Electives</b>   |               |   |
| Choose two from BIOL 3226, 3240, 3445, 3611, 3621, 3650 & 3651, 3832, 4134, 4165, CHEM 3810, 4810 or 4820   | 6-10          | *Check individual courses for prerequisites.  |
| <b>Gardner Psychology Research Requirements</b>   |               |   |
| Students must earn a minimum grade of B or better in the following courses:   | 6             | Successful (final grade of B or better) completion of PSYC 4680, 4681, and 4780 fulfills the experiential learning requirement for the Bachelor of Science in Psychology. |
| PSYC/MARC 4680 Behavioral & Biomedical Sciences Research Seminar  | 1             | *Take in the Fall<br>*Prerequisite: Instructor permission   |
| PSYC/MARC 4681 Behavioral & Biomedical Sciences Research Seminar II   | 2             | *Take in the Spring<br>*Prerequisite: PSYC 4680 or MARC 4680 and instructor permission  |
| PSYC/MARC 4780 Behavioral & Biomedical Sciences Research: Ethics and Issues   | 3             | *Take in the Fall<br>*Prerequisite: C- or higher in PSYC 1000, 1005, 2090, 2220, and 3090 or instructor permission  |
| <b>Estimated General Electives</b>  | <b>0 - 14</b> | General Elective credit hours will vary based on Core & CLAS Requirements. Consult with CLAS Advisor.   |
| <b>Total Minimum Credit Hours:</b>  | <b>120</b>    | 45 credit hours must be upper-division  |

**SAMPLE ACADEMIC PLAN OF STUDY**

The following academic plan is a *sample* pathway to completing degree requirements for this major. Students should tailor this plan based on previously completed college coursework (e.g., AP, IB, CLEP, dual/concurrent enrollment, and transfer credit), course availability, and individual preferences related to course load, schedules, or add-on programs such as minors or double-majors.

|                   |   |           |   |           |
|-------------------|---|-----------|---|-----------|
| <b>Year One</b>   | <b>Fall</b>   | CRS       | <b>Spring</b>   | CRS       |
|                   | ENGL 1020 – Core Composition I                                | 3         | ENGL 2030 – Core Composition II                               | 3         |
|                   | PSYC 1000 <sup>C</sup>  | 3         | PSYC 1005 <sup>C</sup>  | 3         |
|                   | CU Denver Core Mathematics – MATH 1110 <i>recommended</i>     | 3         | CU Denver Core Humanities                                     | 3         |
|                   | BIOL 2010 & 2011 <sup>PR C</sup> or 2030 & 2031 <sup>PR</sup> | 4         | BIOL 2020 & 2021 <sup>PE C</sup> or 2040 & 2041 <sup>PE</sup> | 4         |
|                   | General Elective / First-Year Seminar                         | 3         | CU Denver Core Social Science                                 | 3         |
|                   | <b>Total Credit Hours</b>                                     | <b>16</b> | <b>Total Credit Hours</b>                                     | <b>16</b> |
| <b>Year Two</b>   | <b>Fall</b>   | CRS       | <b>Spring</b>   | CRS       |
|                   | PSYC 2090 <sup>PE</sup>                                       | 4         | PSYC 2220 <sup>PE C</sup>                                     | 3         |
|                   | CHEM 2031 & 2038 <sup>C</sup> or 2081 & 2088                  | 4         | CHEM 2061 & 2068 <sup>PE C</sup> or 2091 & 2098               | 5         |
|                   | CU Denver Core Arts   | 3         | CU Denver Core Cultural Diversity                             | 3         |
|                   | CLAS Communicative Skills                                     | 3         | CLAS Humanities   | 3         |
|                   | General Upper-Division Elective                               | 3         | General Elective  | 3         |
|                   | <b>Total Credit Hours</b>                                     | <b>17</b> | <b>Total Credit Hours</b>                                     | <b>17</b> |
| <b>Year Three</b> | <b>Fall</b>   | CRS       | <b>Spring</b>   | CRS       |
|                   | PSYC 3090 <sup>PE</sup>                                       | 3         | PSYC Group A Elective   | 3         |
|                   | Upper-Division Biology/Chemistry Elective                     | 3         | Upper-Division Biology/Chemistry Elective                     | 3         |
|                   | PSYC 4680 <sup>PE</sup> or MARC 4680 <sup>PE</sup>            | 1         | PSYC 4681 <sup>PE</sup> or MARC 4681 <sup>PE</sup>            | 2         |
|                   | CLAS Second Language Semester I                               | 5         | CLAS Second Language Semester II                              | 5         |
|                   | CU Denver Core International Perspectives                     | 3         | CLAS Social Science   | 3         |
|                   | <b>Total Credit Hours</b>                                     | <b>15</b> | <b>Total Credit Hours</b>                                     | <b>16</b> |
| <b>Year Four</b>  | <b>Fall</b>   | CRS       | <b>Spring</b>   | CRS       |
|                   | PSYC Group A Elective   | 3         | PSYC 4054 <sup>PE</sup>                                       | 3         |
|                   | PSYC Group B Elective   | 3         | General Upper-Division Elective                               | 3         |
|                   | PSYC 4780 <sup>PE</sup> or MARC 4780 <sup>PE</sup>            | 3         | General Upper-Division Elective                               | 3         |
|                   | General Upper-Division Elective                               | 3         | General Upper-Division Elective                               | 3         |
|                   | General Upper-Division Elective                               | 3         |   |           |
|                   | <b>Total Credit Hours</b>                                     | <b>15</b> | <b>Total Credit Hours</b>                                     | <b>12</b> |

<sup>M</sup> Major Course Available    <sup>C</sup> CU Denver Core Course    <sup>PE</sup> Prerequisite Enforced    <sup>PR</sup> Prerequisite Recommended