

PSYCHOLOGY, B.S.

As one of the most popular majors at Saint Louis University, training in psychology provides students with multiple avenues to explore their interests and develop their abilities through research, service and study. SLU students majoring in psychology learn how human behavior depends on biological factors, developmental status, cognitive processes and social conditions.

Psychological science encompasses various methods to address diverse topics, from brain function to cultural influences. The discoveries of psychology improve understanding of the human experience and the quality of life. The Bachelor of Science in Psychology emphasizes developing the skills to conduct research. SLU also offers a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology (<https://catalog.slu.edu/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/psychology/psychology-ba/>).

The Saint Louis University Department of Psychology (<https://www.slu.edu/arts-and-sciences/psychology/>)'s mission is to broadly educate students in the discipline of psychology and its applications. Faculty accomplish this by integrating empirical science, theory and practice focused on the evidence-based understanding of behaviors and experiences of individuals and groups, including the family, organizations and institutions.

SLU faculty encourage intellectual curiosity, critical thinking and ethical responsibility. A commitment to value-based, holistic education and an enthusiasm for psychology is realized in the products of research, in graduates, and in serving others locally, nationally and globally. The faculty seek to improve the human condition and promote human welfare by understanding past knowledge, discovering new knowledge and disseminating that knowledge through teaching, publications and service. The faculty educate students to be professionals and challenges them to be ethically responsible, be committed to serving others and respect human diversity in all its forms.

Program Highlights

- Psychology majors are mentored by individual faculty members who support students' discernment of and successful progress toward professional goals.
- Psychology majors build evidence-based habits of mind and research skills by working with faculty and graduate students investigating a variety of psychological phenomena.
- Psychology majors can take science out of the ivory tower to foster social justice in diverse communities and neighborhoods as members of a social advocacy learning community, at nearby service-learning practicum sites or through values-based research activities.

Curriculum Overview

The undergraduate psychology program offers students three options: a Bachelor of Arts (<https://catalog.slu.edu/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/psychology/psychology-ba/>), a Bachelor of Science and a minor in psychology (<https://catalog.slu.edu/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/psychology/psychology-minor/>). Each introduces students to the study of psychology while developing capacities for evidence-based reasoning, quantitative thinking and psychological inquiry.

Majors receive a strong education in preparation for entry-level employment, with strengths in understanding people and evidence-based reasoning. The B.S. degree further prepares students to enter graduate programs for professional training as psychologists, for which

a Ph.D. is needed. Students may also use the B.S. degree in psychology as preprofessional training in medicine, physical therapy, occupational therapy, social work, education and law.

Fieldwork and Research Opportunities

Students may gain volunteer experience in a variety of practicum settings, including mental health, research, consulting, schools and community service organizations. In addition to completing multiple courses in research methodology and statistics, students may seek opportunities as undergraduate research assistants working in a faculty member's research lab.

Careers

SLU graduates have used their psychology degrees as pre-professional training to pursue the fields of medicine, physical therapy, occupational therapy, social work, education and law. Strengths in understanding and reasoning about human behavior also prepare students for entry-level positions in many additional fields.

An undergraduate degree in psychology can also prepare students to continue as graduate students with plans to become a psychologist, a profession that requires doctoral-level training.

Admission Requirements

Begin Your Application (<https://www.slu.edu/apply.php>)

Saint Louis University also accepts the Common Application and the Coalition Application.

Freshman

All applications are thoroughly reviewed with the highest degree of individual care and consideration to all credentials that are submitted. Solid academic performance in college preparatory coursework is a primary concern in reviewing a freshman applicant's file.

To be considered for admission to any Saint Louis University undergraduate program, applicants must be graduating from an accredited high school, have an acceptable HiSET exam score or take the General Education Development (GED) test.

Transfer

Applicants must be a graduate of an accredited high school or have an acceptable score on the GED or HiSET.

Students who have attempted fewer than 24 semester credits (or 30 quarter credits) of college credit must follow the above freshmen admission requirements. Students who have completed 24 or more semester credits (or 30 quarter credits) of college credit must submit transcripts from all previously attended college(s).

In reviewing a transfer applicant's file, the Office of Admission holistically examines the student's academic performance in college-level coursework as an indicator of the student's ability to meet the academic rigors of Saint Louis University. Where applicable, transfer students will be evaluated on any courses outlined in the continuation standards of their preferred major.

International Applicants

All admission policies and requirements for domestic students apply to international students along with the following:

- Demonstrate English Language Proficiency (<https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/office-admission/undergraduate/english-language-proficiency/>)
- All academic records must include an English translation. An official course-by-course transcript evaluation may be required and accepted.

Tuition

Tuition/Fee	Cost Per Year
Undergraduate Tuition	\$58,960
University Fees	\$1,000

Additional charges may apply. Other resources are listed below:

Net Price Calculator (<https://www.slu.edu/financial-aid/tuition-and-costs/calculator.php>)

Cost of Attendance (<https://www.slu.edu/financial-aid/tuition-and-costs/cost-of-attendance.php>)

Information on Tuition and Fees (<https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/student-financial-services/tuition/>)

Miscellaneous Fees (<https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/student-financial-services/fees/>)

Information on Summer Tuition (<https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/student-financial-services/tuition-summer-current/tuition-summer-current.pdf>)

Scholarships and Financial Aid

There are two principal ways to help finance a Saint Louis University education:

- **Scholarships:** Scholarships are awarded based on academic achievement, service, leadership and financial need.
- **Financial Aid:** Financial aid is provided through grants and loans, some of which require repayment.

Saint Louis University makes every effort to keep our education affordable. In fiscal year 2025, 99.6% of first-time freshmen and 92% of all students received financial aid (<https://www.slu.edu/financial-aid/>) and students received more than \$517 million in aid University-wide.

For priority consideration for merit-based scholarships, apply for admission by Dec. 1 and complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by Feb. 1.

For more information on scholarships and financial aid, visit the Office of Student Financial Services (<https://www.slu.edu/financial-aid/>).

Learning Outcomes

1. Students will demonstrate comprehension of the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, historical trends and empirical findings in psychology in their application to complex problems.
2. Students will demonstrate their ability to discern the quality of research conducted by others and apply their research knowledge in the execution of a self-generated research project, including design, analysis, interpretation and presentation.
3. Students will demonstrate their abilities to recognize ethically and socially responsible behaviors and engage in such behaviors through applied research activities.

4. Students will demonstrate competence in writing and in oral, and interpersonal communication skills through applied research activities.
5. Students will demonstrate their ability to manage, present and reflect on a major collaborative psychology research project.

Requirements

B.S. in psychology students must complete a minimum total of **36 credits** for the major.

PSY 2050 Foundations of Research Methods and Statistics should preferably be taken from the student's home campus. PSY 4060 Applications of Research Methods and Statistics, and PSY 4840 Advanced Research Methodology and Statistics (0,4 cr) must be taken from the student's home campus. The latter will count as the capstone course for the B.S. major.

Code	Title	Credits
University Undergraduate Core (https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/academic-policies-procedures/university-core/)		
32-35		
Major Requirements		
<i>Psychology Introductory Courses</i>		
PSY 1010	General Psychology	3
PSY 2050	Foundations of Research Methods and Statistics	4
PSY 2010	Disciplines & Practices in Psychology	3
<i>Required Breadth Courses</i>		
Select a minimum of one course in each of the four areas below: 12		
<i>Cognitive Neuroscience</i>		
Select 3 credit hours with the "PSY Cog Neuro Cluster" attribute, such as:		
PSY 3100	Brain, Mind, & Society	
PSY 3120	Cognitive Psychology	
<i>Developmental Psychology</i>		
Select 3 credit hours with the "PSY Dev Cluster" attribute, such as:		
PSY 3210	Developmental Psych: Child	
PSY 3230	Developmental Psychology: Adolescence	
<i>Social & Organizational Psychology</i>		
Select 3 credit hours with the "PSY Soc Org Cluster" attribute, such as:		
PSY 3300	Social Psychology	
PSY 3410	Organizational Psychology	
<i>Mental Health and Wellbeing in Applied Contexts</i>		
Select 3 credit hours with the "PSY Health Applied Cluster" attribute, such as:		
PSY 3450	Counseling for the Helping Professions	
PSY 3460	Abnormal Psychology	
<i>Capstone Sequence</i>		
PSY 4060	Applications of Research Methods and Statistics	4
PSY 4840	Advanced Research Methodology and Statistics	4
<i>Psychology Elective</i> *		

Select 3 credits with the “Psychology Elective – BS” attribute, such as:

PSY 3130	Physiological Psychology	3
PSY 4140	Psychopharmacology	
PSY 4965	Capstone Practicum Project	

Psychology Advanced Elective

Select 3 credits with the “Psychology Advanced Elective” attribute, such as:

PSY 4340	African American Psychology	3
PSY 4480	Psychology and Law	

General Electives 49-52

Total Credits 120

* PSY-ELE courses may only count with Dept. approval.

Non-Course Requirements

Mentoring Matters: Attendance at two Mentoring Matters events, or equivalent, is required for all psychology majors. Completion is strongly recommended by the end of the second year after declaring the major.

Continuation Standards

Students who fail to earn C in PSY 1010 or whose SLU PSY GPA is below 2.0 will be placed on program probation and have a maximum of 2 consecutive semesters to resolve either or both issues.

Roadmap

This roadmap is just one example of a semester-by-semester plan of study for this program. There are other plans students can and do take. The plan of study for each particular student is established in consultation with each student’s academic advisor; *this roadmap does not replace academic advising appointments.*

Roadmap notes:

- This Roadmap assumes full-time enrollment unless otherwise noted.
- Courses/Milestones marked with an “!” are critical and must be completed in the semester listed in the Roadmap to ensure a timely graduation.
- Course availability and sequencing are subject to change.

Course	Title	Credits
Year One		
Fall		
PSY 1010	General Psychology (! satisfies CORE 3600)	3
CORE 1000	Ignite First Year Seminar	2-3
CORE 1500	Cura Personalis 1: Self in Community	1
University Electives		9
Credits		15-16
Spring		
CORE 1600	Ultimate Questions: Theology	3
CORE 1700	Ultimate Questions: Philosophy	3
PSY First-Year Mentoring Matters (Participation) ⁴		
CORE 1900	Eloquentia Perfecta 1: Written and Visual Communication	3

University Electives		6
Credits		15
Year Two		
Fall		
PSY 2050	Foundations of Research Methods and Statistics ⁵	4
Psychology Breadth Requirement		3
Psychology Breadth Requirement		3
CORE 1200	Eloquentia Perfecta 2: Oral and Visual Communication	3
CORE 1700	Ultimate Questions: Philosophy	3
University Electives		3
Credits		19
Spring		
Psychology Breadth Requirement		6
PSY Second-Year Mentoring Matters (Participation) ⁶		
CORE 3800	Ways of Thinking: Natural and Applied Sciences	3
CORE 2500	Cura Personalis 2: Self in Contemplation	0
University Electives		9
Credits		18
Year Three		
Fall		
PSY4060	Applications of Research Methods and Statistics ⁷	4
CORE 3400	Ways of Thinking: Aesthetics, History, and Culture	3
CORE 2800	Eloquentia Perfecta 3: Creative Expression	2-3
Psychology Breadth Requirement		3
University Electives		3
Credits		15-16
Spring		
PSY 4840	Advanced Research Methodology and Statistics	4
Psychology Breadth Requirement		3
University Electives		6
Credits		13
Year Four		
Fall		
CORE 3500	Cura Personalis 3: Self in the World	1
Psychology General Elective		3
Optional Psychology Elective		3
University Electives		6
Credits		13
Spring		
Psychology Advanced Elective		3
Optional Psychology Elective		3
University Electives		6
Credits		12
Total Credits		120-122

⁴ Spring only; during first year as a psychology major.

⁵ Grade of B- required before PSY 4060.

⁶ Spring only; during second year as a psychology major.

⁷ Fall only; must earn B- or better in consecutive semester *before* PSY 4840 Advanced Research Methodology and Statistics (0,4 cr).

⁸ Spring only; must be taken in consecutive semester *after* PSY 4060.

Approved Psychology Breadth Requirements

At least one course from each of the four topical areas listed must be taken.

Topical Cluster 1: Cognitive Neuroscience

Code	Title	Credits
Select 3 credit hours with the "PSY Cog Neuro Cluster" attribute, such as:		
PSY 3100	Brain, Mind, & Society	3
PSY 3120	Cognitive Psychology	3

Topical Cluster 2: Developmental Psychology

Code	Title	Credits
Select 3 credit hours with the "PSY Dev Cluster" attribute, such as:		
PSY 3210	Developmental Psych: Child	3
PSY 3230	Developmental Psychology: Adolescence	3

Topical Cluster 3: Social and Organizational Psychology

Code	Title	Credits
Select 3 credit hours with the "PSY Soc Org Cluster" attribute, such as:		
PSY 3300	Social Psychology	3
PSY 3410	Organizational Psychology	3

Topical Cluster 4: Mental Health and Wellbeing in Applied Contexts

Code	Title	Credits
Select 3 credit hours with the "PSY Health Applied Cluster" attribute, such as:		
PSY 3450	Counseling for the Helping Professions	3
PSY 3460	Abnormal Psychology	3

2+SLU

2+SLU programs provide a guided pathway for students transferring from a partner institution.

Psychology, B.S. (STLCC 2+SLU) (<https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/office-admission/undergraduate/2pluslu/stlcc/psychology-bs/>)

Contact Us

For additional information about this program, please contact psychology@health.slu.edu or call 314-977-2300.