



Psychology

About this Major

The psychology major has historically been one of three social science cornerstones to a liberal arts education. Along with sociology and anthropology, it prepares individuals for a number of occupational and professional paths, ranging from graduate studies in counseling and clinical psychology to law school and the health professions. There is an increasing demand for services in areas like corrections, social work, rehabilitation, addictions, and other community and personnel services through non-profit organizations. Accommodating flexible scheduling needs of those who seek this major, courses in the psychology program are offered through a combination of traditional face-to-face and online courses. Program faculty offer a high-quality learning experience, assist in degree planning, serve as mentors, and guide advisees toward the completion of their professional goals.

Meet a Student



“The Social Science Department and the staff at VCSU have been a big part of my successful journey. They have provided me with support, guidance, a fun environment, and most importantly, hope for my future.” —Marilyn Quintero, Class of 2020.

“What I have found most beneficial about the Psychology program at VCSU are the small class sizes and the relationship students are able to build with their professors. This creates a welcoming atmosphere for discussion on tough issues related to the field. Here

everyone has a voice and is encouraged to use it.” —Malik Jackson, Las Vegas, Nev.

Career Opportunities and Graduate School



Career opportunities for students who enter the workforce immediately after graduation include:

- Child welfare caseworker or case manager
- Direct care associate
- Employment counselor
- Human resources specialist
- Insurance (sales and claims representative)
- Probation officer
- Daycare provider
- Special education paraprofessional

Many undergraduate psychology majors choose to pursue graduate education in areas including:

- School counseling
- Mental health counseling
- Clinical psychology
- Marriage and family counseling
- Forensic psychology
- Social work
- Experimental psychology
- Occupational or physical therapy
- Law
- School psychology



Explore Psychology

VCSU students have many opportunities to learn more about careers and opportunities in psychology including the following organizations:

- Careers in Psychology (<http://www.careersinpsychology.org>)
- American Psychological Association (<https://www.apa.org/>)

Get Involved in your Major

The Human Services and Psychology Club started in 2011 and is a very active group at VCSU. Club membership is open to anyone with an interest in the fields of Psychology or Human Services. Students have a variety of events including holiday dances for individuals with intellectual disabilities, Eating Disorders Awareness Week activities, informational sessions about graduate school applications and career options, and booths in the annual VCSU Health and Wellness Fair. Students form relationships with others in their major and gain valuable skills in leadership and collaboration.

Practical Experience

Students can apply for a professional internship as part of the elective block of courses in Psychology. Credits range from three to twelve, and a wide variety of opportunities exist to match individual interests and needs with appropriate field placements. Former students have interned at state hospitals, outreach centers, police and sheriff departments, community corrections, Head Start, fire departments, and public school counseling offices.

Contact Information

Department Chair

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Faculty Contact

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Department Location

McFarland Hall 4th Floor

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<http://visit.vcsu.edu/> or call (701) 845-7101 or (800) 532-8641

General Education Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
English Composition		
Select one of the following:		6
ENGL 110	College Composition I	
ENGL 120	College Composition II	
	or ENGL 121 Introduction to Professional Writing	
or		
ENGL 120	College Composition II	
	or ENGL 121 Introduction to Professional Writing	
ENGL 210	College Composition III: Persuasive Writing	
Speech Communication		
Select one of the following:		3
COMM 110	Fundamentals of Public Speaking	
COMM 212	Interpersonal Communication	
COMM 216	Intercultural Communication	
Mathematics		
Select one of the following:		3
MATH 103	College Algebra	
MATH 104	Finite Mathematics	
MATH 107	Precalculus	
MATH 110	Mathematics in Society	
MATH 165	Calculus I	
MATH 210	Elementary Statistics	
Lab Science		
Select two of the following, one must come from the Natural and Physical Sciences category		8
Natural and Physical Sciences (ND:LABSC)		
BIOL 111	Concepts of Biology	
BIOL 150	General Biology I	
BIOL 151	General Biology II	
BIOL 170	General Zoology	
CHEM 115	Introductory Chemistry	
CHEM 116	Introduction to Organic and Biochemistry	
CHEM 121	General Chemistry I	
CHEM 122	General Chemistry II	
GEOL 100	Introduction to Earth Science	
GEOL 106	The Earth Through Time	
PHYS 100	Concepts of Physics	
PHYS 110	Introductory Astronomy	
PHYS 211	College Physics I	
PHYS 212	College Physics II	
PHYS 251	University Physics I	
PHYS 252	University Physics II	
Additional Sciences (ND:SCI)		
PSYC 240	Cognition and Brain Science	
TECH 161	Technology, Engineering, and Design	
TECH 165	Technology Solutions for Society	
Wellness		
Select one of the following:		2
HPER 100	Concepts of Fitness and Wellness	
HPER 212	Introduction to Stress Management	
Computer Science and Literacy		
Select one of the following:		3
CIS 147	Principles of Information Security	
CIS 170	Introduction to Computer Information Systems ¹	
CSCI 120	Introduction to Programming	



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CSCI 127	Introduction to Programming in Java
CSCI 160	Introduction to Structured Programming I
CSCI 289	Social Implications of Computer Technology ¹
SE 110	Discovering Computing

Digital Literacy

Select one of the following:

CIS 170	Introduction to Computer Information Systems ¹
CSCI 289	Social Implications of Computer Technology ¹

Humanities

Literacies

Select one of the following: 3

ASL 101	American Sign Language I
ASL 102	American Sign Language II
COMM 211	Oral Interpretation
ENGL 220	Introduction to Literature
ENGL 225	Introduction to Film
ENGL 231	Bible as Literature
ENGL 232	Mythology
ENGL 236	Women and Literature
ENGL 241	World Literature I
ENGL 242	World Literature II
ENGL 261	American Literature I
ENGL 262	American Literature II
HUM 201	Civilization, Thought, and Literary Heritage
PSYC 200	Ethics and Philosophy of Science
SPAN 101	1st Year Spanish I
SPAN 102	1st Year Spanish II
SPAN 201	2nd Year Spanish I
SPAN 202	2nd Year Spanish II
THEA 110	Introduction to Theatre Arts

Art and Music

Select one of the following: 3

ART 110	Introduction to the Visual Arts
ART 115	Introduction to Digital Media
ART 210	Art History I
ART 211	Art History II
ART 233	History of Craft
HUM 202	Fine Arts and Aesthetics
MUS 100	Music Appreciation
MUS 101	Music Fundamentals
MUS 201	World Music
MUS 207	History of Popular/Rock Music

Social Science

Select 6 credits from the following: 6

ANTH 111	Introduction to Anthropology
COMM 112	Understanding Media and Social Change
COMM 114	Human Communication
ECON 201	Principles of Microeconomics
ECON 202	Principles of Macroeconomics
GEOG 151	Human Geography
HIST 103	United States to 1877
HIST 104	United States to Present
HIST 211	World Civilizations to 1500
HIST 212	World Civilizations since 1500
HIST 267	Environmental History
HIST 270	Native American Studies
POLS 115	American National Government
POLS 116	State and Local Government

PSYC 111	Introduction to Psychology
SOC 110	Introduction to Sociology
SOC 111	Introduction to Anthropology

Additional Humanities or Social Science

Select one additional course from Humanities or Social Science 2
or select from the following:

ART 122	Two-Dimensional Design
ART 130	Drawing I
ART 150	Ceramics I
ART 180	Photography I
ART 182	Art With a Smartphone
GEOG 111	Survey of Geography
MUS 104	Group Piano for Non-Majors
MUS 105	Group Piano for Non-Majors
MUS 130	Valkyries
MUS 131	Concert Choir
MUS 140	Athletic Band
MUS 141	Concert Band
PHYS 275	Planetarium Science
THEA 201	Theatre Practicum

Total Credits **39**

¹ CIS 170 and CSCI 289 may be used to satisfy both the Computer Science and Literacy and the Digital Literacy requirement for Gen Ed.

Major Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses		
PSYC 111	Introduction to Psychology	3
PSYC 240	Cognition and Brain Science	4
PSYC 250	Developmental Psychology	3
PSYC 330	Understanding Statistics	3
PSYC 340	Research Methods	3
PSYC 491	Capstone	1
Directed Electives		
Select 21 hours from the following:		21
PSYC 310	Behavior Modification	
PSYC 350	Social Psychology	
PSYC 360	Group Dynamics	
PSYC 370	Psychological Disorders and Treatment	
PSYC 380	Human Sexuality	
PSYC 394	Independent Study	
PSYC 450	Personality Theories	
PSYC 470	Counseling Theory and Practice	
PSYC 480	Health Psychology	
PSYC 494	Undergraduate Research	
PSYC 497	Internship	
PSYC 499	Special Topics	
SOC 130	Introduction to Human Services	
SOC 251	Introduction to Gerontology	
SOC 390	Criminology and Delinquency	

Total Credits **38**



Criteria for Psychology Internship

The student who plans to pursue a psychology internship must meet the following criteria prior to beginning the application process:

1. Junior class status minimum for candidacy application
2. Cumulative GPA of 2.5

Total General Education 39 Hrs

Total Major Requirement 38 Hrs

Total Credits Needed to Graduate 120 Hrs

Note: This major requires a minor

For degree and graduation requirements, visit degree requirements and graduation requirements (<http://catalog.vcsu.edu/undergraduate-catalog/academic-affairs/degree-requirements/>).

Plan of Study

First Year

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
CIS 170 (Gen Ed)	3	Art and Music (Gen Ed)	3
ENGL 110 (Gen Ed)	3	ENGL 120 (Gen Ed)	3
HPER 100 (Gen Ed)	2	MATH 210 (Gen Ed)	3
PSYC 111 (Gen Ed)	3	PSYC 250	3
Speech Communication (Gen Ed)	3	Social Science (Gen Ed)	3
UNIV 150	1		
15		15	

Second Year

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
BIOL 150 (Gen Ed)	4	Additional Humanities or Social Science (Gen Ed)	2
Course in Minor Field	3	BIOL 221	4
Elective Course	3	Course in Minor Field	3
Literacies (Gen Ed)	3	PSYC 340	3
PSYC 330	3	PSYC Elective	3
16		15	

Third Year

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
Course in Minor Field	3	Course in Minor Field	3
Lab Science (Gen Ed)	4	Course in Minor Field	3
PSYC 350	3	Elective Course	3
PSYC Elective	3	PSYC Elective	3
PSYC Elective	3	PSYC Elective	3
16		15	

Fourth Year

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
Course in Minor Field	3	Course in Minor Field	3
Course in Minor Field	3	Course in Minor Field	3
PSYC 491	1	Elective Course	3
PSYC Elective	3	PSYC Elective	3
PSYC Elective	3	PSYC Elective	3
13		15	

Total Credits 120

Please note: This plan is intended for general information only. Students are strongly encouraged to meet with their academic advisor each semester before registration.



Learning Outcomes

1. Knowledge Base in Psychology: Students demonstrate comprehension of the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, historical trends, and empirical findings in the field of psychology.
2. Scientific Inquiry and Critical Thinking: Students use scientific inquiry and critical thinking to study and interpret psychological phenomena.
3. Ethical and Social Responsibility in a Diverse World: Students adopt ethical standards and demonstrate social responsibility.
4. Communication: Students utilize oral, written, and interpersonal communication skills for information exchange and relationship development.
5. Professional Development: Students apply knowledge of psychology-specific content and knowledge of themselves to personal and career goals.