We wish to make several changes to the psychology curriculum. None of these changes dramatically alter the psychology major. Rather they are meant to improve or clarify several aspects of the curriculum. The changes and rationale are as follows.

1) Expansion of the courses that can be used for the Research Skills component of the Research Concentration program. The Research Skills Component aims to provide students with methodological skills. However students have had problems finding enough appropriate courses to meet this requirement. In order to expand student options we are adding 10 courses as possible research skills classes. The added courses are: BME 276 (Biological Basis of Imaging), BME 277 (Quantitative and Functional Imaging), CS 103 (Introductory Programming for Engineers and Scientists) Math 226 (Introduction to Numerical Mathematics), Math 247 (Probability), Math 248 (Mathematical Statistics), Math 262 (Mathematical Modeling in Biology), Math 286 (Numerical Analysis), Math 287 (Nonlinear Optimization), & Math 288 (Linear Optimization).

We also will include a statement that with permission of the instructor, students may also take 300-level (graduate) classes dealing with research methods (e.g., PSY 304b, PSY 310, PSY316). Such classes can be used towards the Research Skills requirement, but require approval from the director of undergraduate studies).

2) We clarify requirements in terms of electives. The previously published curriculum left unclear whether courses taught outside of the Department of Psychology can be used as electives. This has left confusion for students, major advisers, and degree audits. To fix this we have added an explicit statement of what can count as an elective. We state, “Any course in the Department of Psychology (A & S) that is not being used to meet another psychology requirement can be used as an elective. Courses listed under the various research concentrations that are taught in other departments can also be taken as an elective. For the general major, two of the electives must be taken within the department of psychology (A & S). For the Research Concentration, the elective must be within the Department of Psychology.”

2) We are adding a requirement of comprehensive exam. In order to graduate with a psychology major, students must take a comprehensive exam during their senior
year. The exam is not graded, and no grade will appear on the student’s transcript. The purpose of the exam is to test the extent to which psychology majors are retaining core aspects of the psychology curriculum. We intend to use this exam as part of our self-assessment process in accordance with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools mandate for programs to evaluate whether they are achieving their educational goals.

Attached with this memo is a copy of the undergraduate catalog with new changes printed in a red font. Text in blue font reflects our recently approved change in department designations of several neuroscience courses.

Sincerely,

David H. Zald, Ph.D. Andrew J. Tomarken, Ph.D.
Director of Undergraduate Studies Chairman
Psychology

CHAIR Andrew J. Tomarken
DIRECTOR OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES David Zald
DIRECTOR OF GRADUATE STUDIES Thomas J. Palmeri
DIRECTOR OF CLINICAL TRAINING Jo-Anne Bachorowski


PROFESSORS Randolph Blake, Vivien A. Casagrande, Ford F. Ebner, Robert Fox, Steven D. Hollon, Jon H. Kaas, Gordon D. Logan, Timothy P. McNamara, Sohee Park, Jeffrey D. Schall, William P. Smith

ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS Jo-Anne Bachorowski, Isabel Gauthier, René Marois, Thomas J. Palmeri, Anna Roe, David G. Schlundt, Andrew J. Tomarken, Frank Tong, David Zald

ASSISTANT PROFESSORS Stephen D. Benning, Denise Davis, Merida Grant, Bunmi O. Olatunji, Andrew Rossi, Adriane Seiffert, Geoffrey Woodman

RESEARCH ASSISTANT PROFESSORS Christine Collins, Haidong Lu, Hui-xin Qi, Iwona Stepniewska, Susanne Sterbing

SENIOR LECTURERS Leslie D. Kirby, Leslie M. Smith, N. Jane Zbrodoff

PSYCHOLOGY is the scientific study of brain, behavior, and cognitive processes. At Vanderbilt, the undergraduate program introduces students to the major areas of contemporary psychology: clinical science, human cognition and cognitive neuroscience, developmental psychology, neuroscience, and social psychology. Clinical science studies human personality, emotion, abnormal behavior, and therapeutic treatments. Human cognition and cognitive neuroscience includes the study of processes such as learning, remembering, perceiving environmental objects and events, and neural mechanisms underlying these processes. Developmental psychology examines human development from conception through adulthood, including cognitive, emotional, physical, and social aspects. Neuroscience studies the structure and function of the brain and how nerve cells process sensory information about the environment, mediate decisions, and control motor actions. Social psychology examines interpersonal and intergroup relations and the influence of social conditions on cognitive, emotional, and behavioral processes.

The Department of Psychology offers a general program of study for students who desire a broad background in contemporary psychology, a research concentration for students who plan graduate study in psychology or related disciplines, and a research with honors program. The department offers a wide variety of opportunities for undergraduates to gain research experience through active participation in faculty research projects. Such research experience is encouraged as a basic aspect of education in psychology.

Programs of Concentration in Psychology

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Program</th>
<th>Research Concentration</th>
<th>Research with Honors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSY 101</td>
<td>PSY 101</td>
<td>PSY 101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY 208</td>
<td>PSY 208</td>
<td>PSY 208</td>
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<td>PSY 209</td>
<td>PSY 209</td>
<td>PSY 209</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Distribution Courses***</td>
<td>2 Research Skills &amp; Tools****</td>
<td>3 Distribution Courses****</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Psychology Electives**</td>
<td>3 Concentration Courses****</td>
<td>PSY 295a-b and PSY 296 a-b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Psychology Elective**</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total hours 30    Total hours 36    Total hours 36
General Program. The General Program is designed for students who desire a broad background in contemporary psychology but do not plan graduate research training in psychology or related disciplines.

Research Concentration Program. The Research Concentration Program is designed to offer additional background for students whose career plans involve continued research in psychology or a related discipline. This program differs from the general program by requiring additional (a) Research Skills & Tools courses relevant to psychological research and (b) Concentration Courses relevant to research in a specialized area of psychology. Both the Research Skills & Tools and Concentration Courses categories include many courses offered by other departments, reflecting the interdisciplinary nature of contemporary psychology. Many different course options might be selected for a specific area of research concentration, depending on the student’s career plans. Students should meet with their major adviser (or honors supervisor) prior to selecting courses in the Research Skills & Tools and Concentration Courses categories.

Research skills and experience are highly valued for admission to graduate training programs in psychology and other areas, and are relevant to the needs for creativity that arise in many professions. Students in both the General Program and the Research Concentration Program are strongly encouraged to obtain research skills and experience through Directed Study, in a summer internship, or as an undergraduate research assistant. Students should meet with their major adviser for advice on seeking research experience.

Research with Honors Program. The Research with Honors Program requires four semesters of honors research, participation in the Honors Seminar (PSY 295 and 296), an honors thesis, and two Concentration Courses. (The Research with Honors Program is similar to the Research Concentration Program, but substitutes the honors project for the two Research Skills & Tools courses and one course in the Concentration Courses component.) Students in the Research with Honors Program must assure that their two Concentration Courses are consistent with the theme of their honors research, so the courses must be selected with the advice and consent of the faculty mentor for the honors project. Open only to honors candidates.

The Research with Honors Program offers unusual opportunities for interested students, including special seminars and individual research projects in collaboration with faculty members. Honors projects involve four semesters of research and participation in the Honors Seminars, PSY 295a–b and 296a–b. Under special circumstances (e.g., a semester abroad or student teaching), students may sometimes enroll in only three semesters of the Honors Seminars—provided that they can complete the four semester research project by extra work during three regular semesters and/or a summer, and provided that this arrangement is acceptable to the faculty mentor and to the director of the Honors Program. Majors in psychology are eligible to apply for the Honors Program at the end of their sophomore year if they have a grade point average of at least 3.20 in all courses and in psychology courses. Students who complete the program successfully and who have a final grade point average of at least 3.20 will receive honors or high honors in psychology. The program should substantially aid those intending to do graduate work.

* Distribution Courses (at least 3 of the following 5 courses are required)

The following courses provide a grounding in core content areas of experimental psychology.
**Electives.** Any course in the Department of Psychology (A & S) that is not being used to meet another psychology requirement can be used as an elective. Courses listed under the various concentration areas (as specified below) that are taught in other departments, can also be taken as an elective. For the general major, two of the electives must be taken within the Department of Psychology (A & S). For the Research Concentration, the elective must be within the Department of Psychology (A & S).

*** Research Skills & Tools  
(at least 2 of the following courses are required for the Research Concentration)  
The following courses aim to develop laboratory, analytical, and quantitative skills and tools relevant to specific areas of research in contemporary psychology. Students planning to attend graduate school in psychology or a related discipline are strongly encouraged to obtain additional laboratory experience through Directed Study, a summer internship, or an undergraduate research assistantship. With permission of the instructor, students may also take 300 (graduate) level classes dealing with research methods (e.g., PSY 304b, PSY 310, PSY316) to meet their Research Skills and Tools Requirement. Only seniors with at least a B average can pursue this option. The total course load, graduate plus undergraduate courses, must not exceed 15 hours in the semester in which the graduate course is taken. To take a graduate level course, students must complete an Undergraduate Enrollment Request for Graduate Level Course form, signed by the student’s major adviser and the director of undergraduate studies. Students exercising this option are treated as a graduate student with regard to class requirements and grading standards.

PSY 234, 254, 290 (3 credit hours only);   
BME 258, 260, 271, 276, 277; BME / EECE 263; CS 101, 103, or 150, 201, 274; EECE 112, 116, 218; GPSY 210, 2520, 2530; MATH 170a,b, 175, 204, 208, 218, 226, 247, 248, 262, 286, 287, 288; PHYS 228

**** Concentration Course Areas  
(3 courses required for the Research Concentration Program and 2 courses for the Research with Honors Program)  
Concentration Courses provide advanced training in a contemporary interdisciplinary area of experimental psychology. Each Concentration Area requires one or two specified Distribution Courses plus three advanced Concentration Courses. (For students in the Research with Honors Program, the Honors Seminar, PSY 295a, counts as one of the three Concentration Courses.) Possible Concentration Areas are listed below. Other specialized Concentration Areas may be formulated with approval of the student’s major adviser or honors mentor and the director of undergraduate studies. The Concentration Courses must include at least one course from the Department of Psychology. Students should consult with their major adviser or honors mentor in selecting specific Concentration Courses. Note that many Special Topics (280–289) and Independent Study (293) courses can be included within the Concentration Courses. Relevant Concentration Courses may be in other academic programs or other schools or colleges of the university. (Arts and Science students are reminded that a bachelor’s degree requires at least 102 hours of course work within the College of Arts and Science. Students with an approved second major outside the College must complete at least 90 hours of course work within the College.)
Possible Concentration Areas:
- Cognitive Development
- Cognitive Neuroscience
- Cognitive Science
- Comparative and Systems Neuroscience
- Psychopathology and Clinical Neuroscience
- Social and Cultural Influences
- Vision

Relevant Concentration Courses for Specific Areas of Research Concentration

Each set of Concentration Courses must include at least one course offered by the Department of Psychology.

Cognitive Development (required Distribution courses: PSY 225 and GPSY 1630)
- PSY 222, 226, 232, 252, 276, 282, 283; GPSY 1500, 1600, 1750, 2000, 2250, 2310, 2320

Cognitive Neuroscience (required Distribution courses: PSY 225 and NSC 201)
- NSC 255, 269, 272, 274; PHIL 256

Cognitive Science (required Distribution course: PSY 225)
- PSY 214, 216, 222, 226, 232, 240, 242, 251, 276, 277, 278, 280, 282;
- ANTH 201, 203, CS 260; GPSY 2000; PHIL 202, 246, 256 SOC 202

Comparative and Systems Neuroscience (required Distribution course: NSC 201)
- PSY 216, 258, 285; BSCI 205, 210, 239, 254, 256; NSC 255, 269, 272, 274

Psychopathology and Clinical Neuroscience (required Distribution course: PSY 215)
- PSY 211, 232, 240, 244, 245, 246, 247, 252, 264, 267, 268, 275, 277, 288;
- GPSY 1700; NSC 235, 255, 260; PSCI 279; SOC 231, 232, 233, 264, 267

Social and Cultural Influences (required Distribution course: PSY 231)
- PSY 217, 245, 266, 276, 282, 289; GPSY 1700, 1750; SOC 226, 233, 239, 247, 250, 254, 264 267; SOC/ANTH 265

Vision (required Distribution course: NSC 201 or PSY 225)
- PSY 214, 216, 232, 236, 277, 280; BSCI 254, 256; CS/EECE 253; EECE 254; NSC 272, 274

Comprehensive Exam.
In order to graduate with a psychology major, students must take a comprehensive exam during their senior year. The exam is not graded, and no grade will appear on the student’s transcript. The purpose of the exam is to test the extent to which psychology majors are retaining core aspects of the psychology curriculum.

Minor in Psychology

The minor in psychology is intended for those students who want to
gain an overview of the science of psychology and its methodological foundations, and to sample more advanced work in the areas of specialization within psychology at Vanderbilt.

Students are required to complete 18 hours of course work inside the department, distributed as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Psychology 101</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychology 208 and 209</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two courses from the list of Distribution Courses specified for the major</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One additional course at the 200 level</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total hours:</strong></td>
<td><strong>18</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students may elect undergraduate seminars (Psychology 280–289 or 297) as the additional course at the 200 level, but not Directed or Independent Study (Psychology 290, 291, 292, and 293).

**Starred course 101 (or 115F, sections 1, 2, and 3) is prerequisite for all other psychology courses except 115F. PSY 115F, sections 1, 2 and 3 – General Psychology, First-Year Writing Seminar – covers the same material as PSY 101 and also serves as the introductory prerequisite for all 200-level courses in psychology. Credit cannot be earned for both PSY 101 and PSY 115F – 01, 02, or 03. PSY 115F – sections 4 and higher – is a First-Year Writing Seminar on special topics in psychology. PSY 115F – section 4 and higher – does not replace PSY 101 as a prerequisite for all 200-level courses in psychology and may be taken in conjunction with PSY 101.**

**NOTE:** NSC courses 201 (Neuroscience), 235 (Biological Basis of Mental Disorders), 269 (Developmental Neuroscience), 272 (Structure and Function of the Cerebral Cortex) and 274 (Neuroanatomy) count as courses in the Department of Psychology (A & S). Prior to the 2008-2009 school year these courses had a PSY designator. The courses are equivalent, and count equally towards the Psychology Major. See the Neuroscience course listings for descriptions of these classes.