Psychological Sciences Emphasis

56 units (no minor)

Requirements

Note: To declare this emphasis, students must have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.00 and a GPA of at least 3.0 across PSYCH 211, 215, and 216. Students must maintain a 3.00 GPA overall and in the major to remain enrolled in and to graduate with this emphasis.

I. PSYCH 211 Introductory Psychology 3 credits
(required to declare the emphasis)

II. Methods sequence (required to declare the emphasis) 8 credits
   - PSYCH 215 Basic Statistics in Psychology
   - PSYCH 216 Research Methods in Psychology

III. Subject-Areas: Select 5 of the following courses: 15 credits
   - PSYCH 301 Introduction to Behavioral Neuroscience
   - PSYCH 303 Learning & Conditioning
   - PSYCH 304 Psychology of Personality
   - PSYCH 305 Psychology of Perception
   - PSYCH 331 Psych of Childhood OR PSYCH 332 Psych of Adolescence
   - PSYCH 351 Cognitive Psychology
   - PSYCH 355 Social Psychology

IV. Advanced Research Skills and History 6 credits
   - PSYCH 415 Research Design
   - PSYCH 391 History & Systems

V. Research Apprenticeship and Senior Capstone Project 12-15 credits
   During the Junior year, students are expected to work with a faculty member on research and to develop a proposal for a Senior Thesis. This (Junior year) is intended to be a one-year apprenticeship where the student learns about an area of research and learns to apply the statistics and research skills learned in PSYCH 215, 216, and other courses. Students can take 6 units of PSYCH 394 or 498 for the apprenticeship and to prepare their senior thesis proposal.

   During the Senior year, students are expected to conduct a research project of their own proposal to serve as their capstone project. Prior to beginning the project the student must have a capstone proposal approved by the Emphasis Committee. The project must be a substantive and creative research project, the merits of which will be judged by a committee of no fewer than three psychology faculty members, or other appropriate faculty as approved by the Emphasis Committee. The project should be empirical research of a quality and kind eligible for presentation at professional meetings and/or publication in peer-reviewed journals. Students should use 6-9 units of PSYCH 499 (Senior Thesis) to complete this requirement, under the supervision of a psychology faculty mentor. The intent is to complete this requirement during the student’s senior year. The student can take 6 units of Senior Thesis during one semester to work intensively on the project, with 3 units taken during the other semester.

VI. Electives 9-12 credits
   Choose additional courses to complete units up to 56. Choices must be approved by the student's psychology faculty adviser and the Emphasis Committee. Students can take any other psychology courses (except GENED 130), and are encouraged to consider courses outside the Psychology Department that may enhance the student’s preparation for graduate study.