

PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCE

MAJOR'S HANDBOOK



VASSAR COLLEGE
Revised May 2021

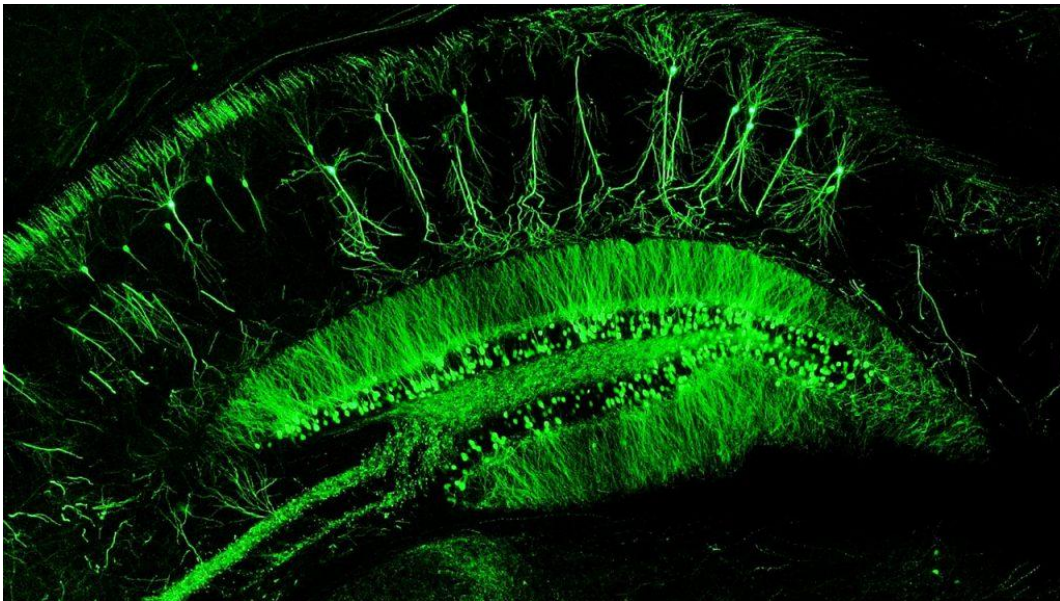
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PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCE AT VASSAR COLLEGE

Psychological Science is the scientific study of behavior, mental processes, and their physiological underpinnings. The discipline spans a wide array of subfields and includes basic and applied research with human and non-human animals. The scope of psychological science is truly breathtaking, encompassing among other phenomena habit formation, social behavior, emotional regulation, attachment, memory formation, etc. ...as well as their neurological underpinnings. If an animal does it or thinks it, then psychological science seeks to provide an epistemological toolkit. Relatedly, psychological science also concerns the clinical treatment of individuals via the rigorous elucidation of psychological variability and health.

As is true at most liberal arts colleges, the Psychological Science Department at Vassar views psychology as a science. The faculty aims to introduce students to areas in which scientific research is regularly conducted and to the methods by which it is carried out. The major requirements expose students to various subfields within the discipline while also allowing them opportunities to achieve depth and to conduct research in particular subareas. For an overview of some of the interests of our faculty, be sure to check out the faculty bios located within our department website (<https://psychologicalscience.vassar.edu/bios/>).



A total of ten units, at least nine of which must be graded.

- *A student may count only one of these options towards their requirements. Both the AP and IB options count as an ungraded unit.*

- ^aTwo courses with the same superscript may not both be counted toward major

- (e) ONE additional graded 200-level Psychological Science unit.
- (g) ONE additional PSYC unit at the 200- or 300-level. *This unit may be ungraded provided that it is the only ungraded unit of the required 10 total units.*
- (f) TWO graded 300-level Psychological Science units, at least one of which must be a seminar

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Examples:

Derick

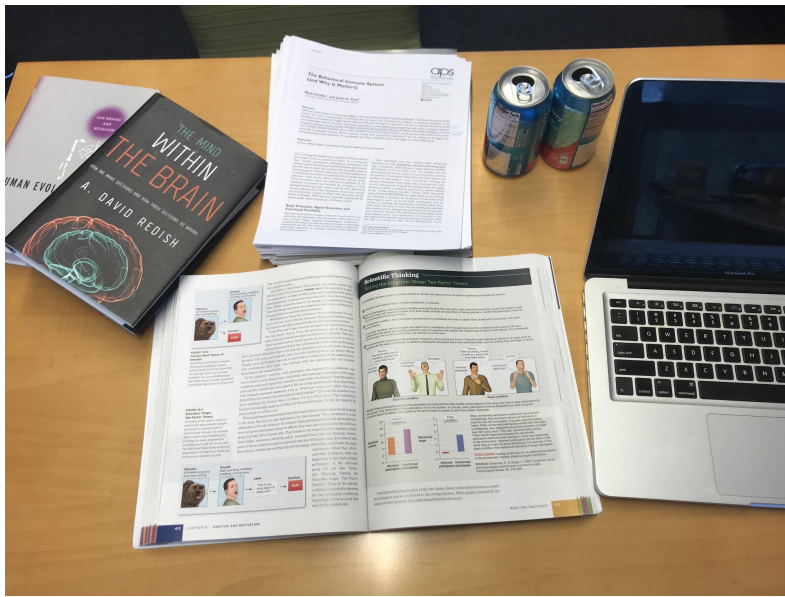
Psyc 105	In this example, Derick (he, his) has taken all of his courses at Vassar. None of the courses were taken as an NRO. Therefore, all his courses fall into the “graded” category. Tallying up the units shows that he has 10 units in Psychological Science. Note that Psyc 362 is a seminar (“Seminar in Clinical Psychology”). Psyc 397/398 is our year-long thesis course. This course is not a seminar, but does provide students with 2 graded credits at the 300 level.
Psyc 200	
Psyc 241, 223, 253	
Psyc 262	
Psyc 269	
Psyc 362, 397/398	

Clara

AP Psych - 5	In this example Clara (they, their) has opted to use their AP score in lieu of Psyc 105. To do this, they had their score sent to the Registrar so that it will appear on their transcript. Now, in Clara’s case, they also studied abroad at DIA Copenhagen. There, they took a Psychology course. The issue is that study abroad courses (with rare exceptions) are considered “ungraded.” That is, although counting towards Vassar’s 32 credit requirement, and displaying a grade, they are not factored into the GPA. Therefore, Clara cannot count this course toward their 10 units of major requirements because the AP already occupies that “ungraded” slot. No worries, they take Psyc 233, and therefore have 11 Psyc credits 9 of which are graded.
Psyc 200	
Psyc 201, 231, 253	
Psyc 243, 233	
Study Abroad Psyc	
Psyc 239	
Psyc 331, 301	

Sonia

Psyc 105	In this example, you will notice that Sonia (she, her) has 11 courses listed. In this case she opted to do an independent study, working in a professor’s lab (Psyc 298). She did this once for 0.5 credit. She also decided to spend time working in the Poughkeepsie District Attorney’s office through the Community Engaged Learning office (CEL). She received 0.5 credits for this as a Psyc 290. Together, then, Psyc 298 and Psyc 290 add up to a single unit at the 200-level. This unit is “ungraded” because both 298 and 290 are pass/fail courses. In summary, then, Sonia courses provide a total of 10 psychological science units, 9 of which are graded.
Psyc 200	
Psyc 201, 221, 253	
Psyc 222	
Psyc 298, Psyc 290	
Psyc 229	
Psyc 323, 353	



III. PROCEDURES

A. Declaring a Major

A student who decides to declare a major in Psychological Science should first assess the feasibility of completing the major requirements during their time at Vassar. The registrar's website has a "yellow" form on their website (<https://registrar.vassar.edu/forms/>) that can help with this process. After creating a proposed schedule, make an appointment to see an adviser. The adviser will normally talk with the student in order to (a) determine the student's reasons for majoring in Psychological Science and explore whether it is an appropriate field of study given the student's interests and goals; (b) assess the feasibility of the student meeting the department's requirements for the major.

1. Naming an Adviser

Students who have a preference for any particular faculty advisers may confer with those individuals about their availability to serve as the student's adviser. Don't be shy! Students who have no preference should make an appointment to see the Chair of the Department to be assigned an adviser. It would be to the student's advantage to become acquainted with the department's faculty members and their areas of interest prior to this time in order to make an informed choice of adviser. The Psychological Science Department website lists faculty's research and teaching interests: <https://psychology.vassar.edu/bios/>.

2. Completing Declaration Forms

The student should make an appointment with the adviser to discuss an overall program of study at Vassar. In addition to meeting the major requirements (see section II.) there are other requirements for graduation that the student must meet. The student must take

at least 32 credits, take a first year writing seminar, meet their language requirement, take a quantitative reasoning course, and take at least 25% (8) of their courses outside the natural sciences division (See College Catalog: “Requirements for the degree of Bachelor of Arts).

The adviser will review the student’s course selections to see that the program is an appropriate one, given the student’s extracurriculars and career or post graduate aspirations. Advisers also check that students are on track to fulfill all of the department’s major requirements, with an appropriate sequence that ensures the timely completion of necessary prerequisites. Students should be aware when creating a plan of study that the future courses listed are not binding, but simply a proof of concept given the needs and interests of the particular student. Primarily, the adviser assures that the student is knowledgeable about, and therefore responsible for, the satisfaction of all requirements for graduation from Vassar College with a major in Psychological Science.

After the adviser approves the student’s proposed curriculum the student can fill out the Major Declaration Form (<https://registrar.vassar.edu/forms/>) and submit it for approval. Students wishing to change advisers, either temporarily during a faculty leave or through graduation, must make the change officially according to the College’s change-of-advisor procedures. A student who needs help finding a new adviser should consult with the Chair of the Department.

B. Pre-registration and the Add/Drop Period

Pre-registration for each semester normally occurs three to four weeks before the end of classes in the preceding semester. Approximately two weeks prior to pre-registration, advisers will post special office hours when they will be available to meet with their advisees. Prior to this meeting, students should work out their tentative schedules. The adviser will review this program with the student, suggest changes and offer advice as necessary, review the student’s progress through the major, and make sure all prerequisites and appropriate sequences are considered. The adviser will then issue the student’s PIN, which allows the student to pre-register for courses online. Students should check their progress through the major before this meeting with the “Departmental Requirements Checklist” (see Appendix). During the add/drop period, the student must obtain the adviser’s official approval for any course change. Additionally the student will need the instructor’s permission to add a course.

C. Special Permission

The student should obtain instructor’s signatures for all special permission courses (e.g., Psyc 298, Psyc 290) unless there is a lottery system in place. The department’s 300-level seminars are first enrolled using a lottery system for which majors will receive information approximately two weeks prior to pre-registration. At this time they will also receive descriptions of the seminar offerings, a request for seminar preferences and a draw number. Approximately one week prior to pre-registration, eligible juniors and seniors will be asked to provide the department with a rank-ordered list of preferences for seminars. Students will be placed in a seminar in an order based on their draw number.

Because the department needs to ensure that every senior has met the major requirements, in rare instances placement into seminars may deviate from draw order and/or rank preferences. All students are expected to select their seminar preferences in consultation with their advisers.

The Senior Thesis course (PSYC 397/398) is a year-long intensive project conducted with the mentorship of a faculty thesis adviser. Enrollment in this course is limited, and is determined in the spring prior to the senior year. All faculty participating in the following year's thesis projects will present proposals for potential research projects. Students who wish to participate will provide a rank-ordered list of preferred research projects. Participating faculty will determine the makeup of the research groups based on these lists, making every effort to sort students into their more-preferred research groups. Students will be informed of their assigned thesis groups, and are expected to pre-register for the corresponding section of PSYC 397 for the fall semester.

D. Waiting Lists

Once a course fills during pre-registration, additional students will be placed on the waiting list, according to their pre-registration priority. A student placed on the waiting list isn't guaranteed a slot, but is given priority as spaces open. As openings become available, students will be admitted from waiting lists in order of class standing, and position on the list. Because instructors cannot contact each student individually, it is up to student's on the waiting list to contact the instructor; where schedules permit, the student should attend the first several classes as well.

Please note that when a course is full, faculty are not obligated to take students from the waiting list, and often have pedagogical reasons for keeping class size limited. Students may always reach out to faculty to enquire about potential enrollment. If a new section for a course becomes established, the student will be notified by email prior to the start of the new semester, so that they can register for that section during the drop-add period.



IV. SPECIAL CASES

A. General Guidelines Regarding Academic Work in Other Settings.

(For rules on specific settings, see below.)

1. Approval and Accreditation of Work Taken at Other Institutions.

If a student wishes to transfer work from other institutions for Vassar credit, the following procedures should be followed: Approval of the adviser and department chair should be obtained prior to taking the courses. The student should bring catalogue descriptions and, if at all possible, a course syllabus, to the adviser and department chair when seeking approval. If retroactive credit is sought, the student must bring to the adviser the course syllabus. Any work not taken at Vassar for credit is counted as ungraded work. (Note that psychological science courses taken through the Vassar-Wesleyan program in Madrid represent exceptions, as they receive grades that are computed into a student's Vassar College GPA.) Additional units taken at another institution may be counted toward the degree without being applied to satisfy the requirements of the major, following the same procedures outlined above. If a student wishes to use work taken at another institution as a prerequisite for Vassar courses without transferring the work for course credit, the student should bring a copy of the syllabus to the department chair for approval.

Note: Students may elect a maximum of five units of Ungraded Work. For transfer students, this limit is reduced by one unit for each year of advanced standing awarded to the student. This ungraded limit does not apply to any units taken in excess of the 32 unit minimum required for graduation.

2. Transfer Students

Junior transfers are expected to take at least five graded units of Psychological Science at Vassar, with the approval of the Chair of the Department. That is, no more than five units of Psychological Science taken away from Vassar are accepted within the minimum ten units required of Psychological Science majors. Credit for specific courses to be counted toward the major is granted by the Chair of the Department. If additional Psychological Science courses are credited by the college toward the thirty-two units required for graduation, they must fall within the limit for courses in the major field. (Transfer students who enter with sixteen units may not receive additional credit for summer work at another institution.)

3. Summer Work

Other institutions. The student should bring the summer-school catalogue and, ideally, the course syllabus to the adviser and department chair to obtain prior approval for any academic work the student intends to do over the summer. If retroactive credit is sought, the student must bring the course syllabus to the adviser and department chair. Note: Advanced placement in 200-level courses is possible for students who have completed a college-level introductory course in Psychological Science (e.g., pre-matriculation). Such

students should submit to the department chair the syllabus and description of the text used in the course, as well as an official transcript.

Vassar Summer Work. College regulations governing Vassar summer work can be found in the Vassar College Catalogue. Prior approval by the instructor is required for any Vassar summer work, such as Independent Work (Psyc 298) or Community Engaged Learning (Psyc 290). Students must confer with the faculty supervisor of the summer independent or CEL work by June 1. The due date for all summer work is October 1.

4. Leave of Absence and Exchange Program

Students should obtain their adviser's and the department chair's prior approval for all courses they plan to take. The student should bring to the adviser and department chair a course catalogue and, ideally, a syllabus when seeking approval for courses.

If the student plans to take a course away from Vassar that will satisfy the Department's Research Methods requirement, the student must provide a syllabus and description of the laboratory segment of the course to the relevant instructor at Vassar and the Department Chair for approval.

See also "Leave Note," below.

5. Study Abroad

For students contemplating Study Abroad, please be sure to visit Vassar's Study Abroad office (<https://internationalprograms.vassar.edu/>). For Psychological Science majors the Statistics (Psyc 200) requirement must be completed, and if at all possible, the Research Methods requirement, should be satisfied before leaving Vassar. The next step is for the student to consult with their adviser. Psychological science courses taken while abroad can serve to enrich the student's overall understanding and appreciation of psychological science, and students are encouraged to continue their psychological science study while abroad. However, psychological science courses taken abroad do not count toward fulfilling the 10 units for the major beyond the one allowed, ungraded unit. Similarly, whether or not courses taken abroad may serve as prerequisites for a Vassar Psychological Science course is at the discretion of the course instructor.

LEAVE NOTE: PRE-REGISTRATION is still the responsibility of students who are away from campus. Be sure to consult with advisors (e.g., email, zoom, call, etc.) just as if you were on campus.

B. Double Majors

Majors are not badges, but aspirational courses of study. To become a double major, students must apply to the College Committee on Leaves and Privileges and provide a justification for their plan. See <https://deanofstudies.vassar.edu/forms-requests/>. The student must establish two advisors, file two complete sets of "yellow cards" (see <https://registrar.vassar.edu/forms/>), and obtain signatures of advisers and department chairs.

Students should think carefully about their reasons for choosing two majors, because it is not always possible to take as many courses as they wish in a given department. In addition students should be alert to the following considerations:

1. Per College regulations, multiple majors may only share a maximum of two courses.
2. Fulfilling senior-year requirements for two majors may produce scheduling conflicts.
3. If the second major is also a natural science, there may be difficulty in taking the required 25% of work outside the major (Natural Science) division.
4. There is increased administrative overhead for the student ranging from obtaining advisers, managing pre-registration meetings, filing “yellow cards” with the Registrar, etc.
5. It sometimes becomes extremely difficult to arrange a program that allows double majors to study abroad, e.g., on an exchange program or on Junior Year Abroad.

C. Education Certification

Psychological Science majors can become certified for elementary school teaching by taking a prescribed series of courses (including Psychological Science 105 and 231) and by fulfilling specific requirements of the Education Department. Students who wish to become certified to teach in secondary school must major in the discipline in which they plan to teach. Therefore, Psychological Science majors cannot ordinarily receive secondary school certification unless they have a second major. Students who wish to obtain education certification should consult with the appropriate person in the Education Department as soon as possible. Students should be alerted to the fact that there are often scheduling conflicts in the senior year, when practice teaching is required for certification and senior seminars are required for completion of the major.

D. Vassar Courses

1. Community Engaged Learning (Psychological Science 290)

- a. Prerequisite: Psychological Science 105 or equivalent.
- b. For one-half unit of credit, CEL must entail at least four hours per week.
For one unit of credit, CEL must entail at least eight hours per week.
- c. Students should see the faculty adviser regularly during the first month of placement, especially if there are any placement problems.
- d. Requirements: Precise requirements are established by the faculty sponsor. Since the purpose of CEL is to provide an opportunity for the student to integrate experiential learning with what has been learned in classes, normally the student must submit an academic paper before the study period begins. A copy of the paper must also be submitted to the Office of Community Engaged Learning.

2. Retaking a Failed Course

A student may retake a course which they have failed, but may not retake a course in which the grade was D or above. The original F remains on the student's record, and the student must fulfill all the requirements of the course when retaking it.

E. Exceptions to requirements in Psychological Science

After consultation with the adviser, a student may petition the Department to make an exception to one of the basic requirements if there are compelling reasons or extenuating circumstances. Petitions for exceptions should be submitted in writing to the Chair of the Department, explaining the nature of the exception desired, the special circumstances, and details of any courses taken in another department or institution which are related to the petition. Approval of the adviser must accompany such a request. In special cases, the Department has in the past approved petitions in the following areas:

1. To allow sophomore transfer students (and other special categories of students) to graduate with fewer than 10 graded units in Psychological Science.
2. To substitute statistics courses from other departments for Psychological Science 200 (e.g., Economics 209 and 210).
3. To approve one unit of related course work from another department as part of the minimum ten courses in Psychological Science (e.g., Education 235, Sociology 252, and Biology 340).



V. STUDENT RESEARCH

Student research provides the opportunity for intensive study and research in an area of special interest. Students who plan to do either independent work or a research thesis should make themselves aware of the ethical issues involved in using human and animal subjects by reading relevant sections of the American Psychological Association manual on professional ethics (<https://www.apa.org/ethics/code>) and Vassar's Institutional Animal Use and Care Committee's information (<https://science.vassar.edu/resources/policies/animals.html>).

Studies employing human subjects must be cleared through the faculty supervisor with respect to ethical concerns. These include data collection that might impinge upon matters of personal privacy and/or confidentiality, as well as those that might involve measurement of physiological variables. Any study that makes use of human subjects must be approved by the Institutional Review Board through the faculty supervisor. Similarly, any study employing animals as subjects must be cleared through the faculty supervisor with respect to methodological and ethical concerns. All studies using animal subjects must be approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee. If you have an interest in pursuing a research career and are willing to put in the extra time and effort that scientific research demands, we encourage you to seek out this opportunity with a faculty member whose research is of interest to you.

A. Independent Work

Independent research may be an empirical investigation or one based on library research. Students may elect to engage in Independent work with permission of a supervising faculty member, as Psychological Science 298 (ungraded junior independent work), Psychological Science 399 (ungraded senior independent work) or Psychological Science 390 (graded senior research). Psyc 298 and 399 are ungraded and may be taken for one half or for a full unit of credit. Psyc 390 is graded and must be taken for a full unit of credit. Note that a full unit's credit must involve student time and effort equivalent to a regular full-unit course at Vassar.

B. Senior Thesis

The senior thesis (PSYC 397/398) is a year-long project in which senior Psychological Science majors work collaboratively with participating faculty members on empirical research projects carried out over two semesters. Senior thesis projects embody the highest ideal in scientific scholarship, as students strive to contribute original knowledge to the field. In the first semester, students work to identify a conceptual question of interest, read and integrate background literature on that topic, and formulate a novel research plan. In the second semester, students carry out their proposed studies by collecting data, statistically analyzing the results of the study, and interpreting how the results relate to the study's original hypothesis and existing findings in the field. Both semesters involve intensive writing, with detailed feedback from the primary faculty adviser as well as a second faculty reader. Thesis projects serve as a capstone experience for participating seniors.

The formal requirements for senior thesis credit consist of a written paper at the end of each term, an oral presentation together with one's group at the end of each term, and a poster presentation at the end of the Spring term. Although research teams collaborate on the design and conduct of each study, thesis term papers are prepared independently by each student and are due on a set date at the end of each term. The Fall semester thesis paper includes a comprehensive literature review, a justification for the proposed study, and a detailed description of the study's methodology. The Spring semester thesis paper includes a revised version of the Fall semester thesis, followed by a statistical analysis of

the data, a description of the results, and a discussion of the study's findings. In addition to the written thesis paper, each student research team will prepare an oral, PowerPoint presentation of their study's design and methodology at the end of the Fall term and their results/findings at the end of the Spring term. All participating seniors and faculty are expected to attend these group presentations, which take place over the course of two Friday afternoons each term.

The Senior Thesis counts as two units of graded 300-level work toward the requirements for a Psychological Science major. Thesis grades are based primarily on the term paper but also take into consideration other contributions to the execution of the thesis project, such as effort in shaping methodology or collecting data. Final grades for thesis work are determined by the primary adviser in consultation with the second reader and other faculty supervising thesis research. Student credit for the A term (PSYC 397) is contingent on successful completion of the second B term (PSYC 398).

VI. OTHER OPPORTUNITIES FOR INVOLVEMENT IN THE MAJOR

Psychological Science Majors Committee The Psychological Science Majors Committee gives student majors the opportunity to plan both social and educational events for students, faculty, and staff. Students on the committee can also serve as a voice to raise concerns or suggest changes within the department.

Psi Chi Vassar College hosts a chapter of Psi Chi, the national honor society for psychological science. Induction into Psi Chi is based on academic merit. The members of Psi Chi organize social events for the group as well as educational events for all psychological science students.

VII. CAREERS IN PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCE

Majors and prospective majors in psychological science frequently ask whether they will be able to obtain work relevant to their undergraduate course work in Psychological Science upon graduation. Students are encouraged to consult the booklet "Careers in Psychology," published by the American Psychological Association for information about employment. This booklet is available in the Office of Career Planning and from faculty advisers. In general, employment opportunities can be divided into three categories: (1) those available upon completion of an undergraduate program in Psychological Science or Neuroscience and Behavior, (2) those requiring a master's degree, and (3) those requiring a doctoral degree.

A. Employment Opportunities for Individuals with a B.A. Degree

In a sense, careers for liberal arts graduates with a major in psychological science include those that are available to all liberal arts graduates as individuals having been educated in a broad sense. However, inasmuch as psychological science focuses on human behavior as a function of a diversity of causes and settings, those areas in which interpersonal processes are emphasized may be particularly accessible to majors in psychological science. These include, for example, advertising, sales, management, personnel services,

and aides in health professions. The B.A. in Psychological Science is not a professional degree, but does enhance one's understanding of behavior, which, in and of itself, has general application across all settings involving human interaction. A list of kinds of employment secured by Vassar graduates in Psychological Science (and Neuroscience & Behavior) can be obtained in the Office of Career Planning.

B. Employment Opportunities for Individuals with a Masters Degree

Psychologists with Masters degrees are found in many of the settings listed above as well as in two-year colleges and research institutions. They frequently have more autonomy than employees who lack a graduate degree but they generally have a more limited range of employment opportunities than individuals who possess a Ph.D. degree.

Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) programs are available for students who did not obtain undergraduate teaching certification. These are usually one-year programs available in graduate schools of Education at universities. Many students who did obtain teaching certification go on to Masters programs in Education or Special Education as a next step in formal training. These are typically two-year programs in graduate schools of Education. Students interested in careers in education should consult with members of the Department of Education for further details.

Masters programs in social work (MSW) are among the few programs that offer certification after completion of the degree. Individuals who are interested in social work, counseling and school psychology are urged to evaluate each program carefully before applying.

Masters degree programs in Clinical Psychology are not generally APA-approved: this is a career-limiting factor. In addition, individuals with Masters-level training are not eligible for licensing, and may find that their autonomy is severely limited in working with clients in clinical settings.

C. Doctoral Degrees, Programs and Opportunities in Psychological Science

1. Ph.D. Degree

The Ph.D. degree is offered in most of the major areas in Psychological Science - Social, Developmental, Experimental, Cognitive, Personality, Physiological, etc. These doctoral programs are research oriented, and most commonly lead to positions in academic settings. Most Ph.D. candidates aspire to academic positions that combine teaching and research. Other types of employment for holders of the Ph.D degree include research, consultation (for example, management consultation, industrial consultation, etc.), and positions in government or industry in areas related to Psychological Science (e.g., National Institutes of Mental Health, Educational Testing Services, or publishing firms with a psychological science market).

2. Ph.D. Clinical Psychology

This is a professional degree permitting perhaps the greatest degree of autonomy for

career function in professions concerned with mental health services. Licensing is required in most states for an individual to offer clinical services to the public; in many states, examinations are required in addition to the Ph.D. degree. Careers for the Clinical Psychologist range from community mental health or private practices oriented toward assessment and/or psychotherapy to work in institutional settings such as universities, medical schools, colleges, hospitals, and community agencies. The diversity of career function beyond the Ph.D. often reflects specific training. Training leading to the Ph.D. often carries the expectation that individuals will continue to make theoretical and research contributions to the field. Variants from Ph.D. training are becoming increasingly available (e.g., Psy.D.); close examination is urged for those considering such programs.

D. Application to Graduate Programs

Because the number of applicants for graduate education greatly exceeds the number of candidates admitted, students should be aware of factors that may increase their chances for admission to a graduate program. These factors include grades, letters of recommendation, standardized test scores, and research experience.

The importance of a good grade point average cannot be overestimated. Students with good grade point averages will be more likely to be admitted for advanced study. Other factors are important, however. During their junior year, students should re-evaluate their program of study to ensure that they will have close contact with at least one faculty member who will be able to write letters of recommendation with real knowledge of the student's abilities and potential. This contact may occur by simply taking several classes with a faculty member or by performing independent study or CEL work under the supervision of the faculty member. Since involvement in independent study or research may confer a selective advantage, students with these interests should begin independent work as early as their junior year. Information concerning ongoing or completed independent work can then be included in application materials and letters of recommendation. Finally, since admission committees consider applicants' scores on standardized tests such as the Graduate Record Examination and the Miller's Analogy Test, students may want to prepare for these exams by reviewing basic mathematics and vocabulary skills. Preparation for the specialty GRE in Psychology can be accomplished by a thorough review of a good introductory psychology text.

Information about specific graduate programs including degree requirements, tuition, financial assistance, and admissions requirements, is available in an APA publication, "Graduate Study in Psychology" a copy of which can be found in the department office, BH115.

It is a good idea for students to have letters of recommendation placed on file in the Office of Career Planning, especially if the student is planning to take time off between college and graduate school or the beginning of a career. The Office of Career Planning has recommendation forms available for this purpose. It is helpful to faculty members if students request a letter of recommendation in writing, with an explanation of the post-

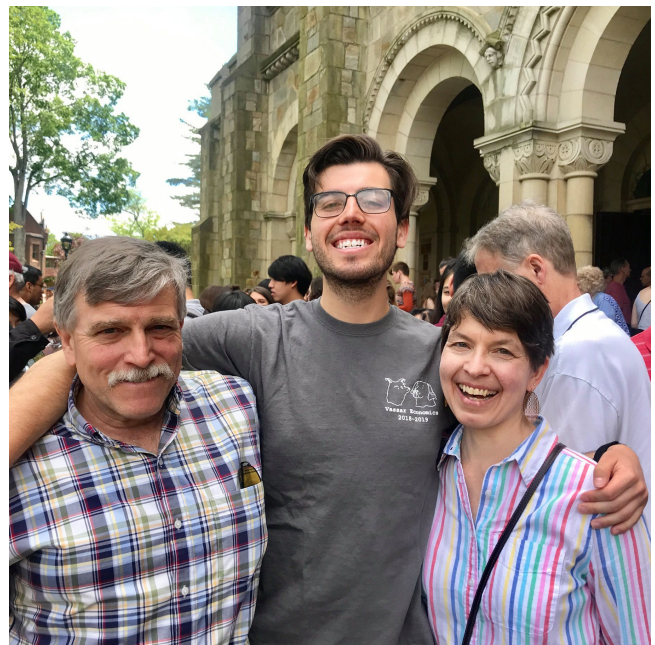
college plans the student has in mind.

VIII. CRITERIA AND PROCEDURES FOR DETERMINING DEPARTMENTAL HONORS

A senior Psychological Science major who has a GPA in the major of 3.75 or higher at the end of eight semesters and who has no 300-level seminar or senior thesis grade of less than A- will be evaluated for honors on the following criteria:

1. Initiative and independence in the pursuit of knowledge.
2. Achievement of a high level of understanding, as indicated by the following kinds of activity:
 - a. integration of theories and concepts from various disciplines or from areas within psychological science.
 - b. formulation of questions that significantly extend theory and research in an area of inquiry.
 - c. articulation of own point of view of an area, set of phenomena, and so on.
3. Originality in work within psychological science.
4. Independence and sophistication in the conduct of research.

Election to honors will require support from at least three Psychological Science faculty members and affirmative votes by at least 75% of those voting. In rare cases, a student not achieving the minimum GPA or seminar grades may be nominated for honors consideration by a Psychological Science faculty member.



DEPARTMENTAL REQUIREMENTS CHECKLIST

105/106 Intro/Topical intro to Psyc Science

(IB, AP, or pre-matriculation is possible here.)

200 Statistics and Experimental Design

Three 200-level courses from the following list

201 Social Psychology or 205 Topics in Social

221 Learning

223 Evolutionary

231 Developmental

233 Health Psychology

241 Physiological Psychology

243 Neuropsychology

253 Individual Differences

262 Clinical and Psychopathology

One additional graded 200-level course

(Note that this course is not restricted to the above list, e.g., Psyc 222, 205, etc. are allowed here.)

One Research Methods course from the following list

209 Social

229 Learning

239 Developmental

249 Physiological

259 Individual Differences

269 Clinical

Two graded 300-level units, at least one of which is a seminar

ONE additional PSYC course at the 200- or 300-level.

This course may be ungraded (e.g., Psyc 298, 399, study abroad, etc.) provided that it is the only ungraded unit of the required 10 total units.

NRO Reminder: Students may not elect the NRO in any psychological science course after they have declared their major. Any psychological science course taken under the NRO before the major was declared may not be counted toward the 10 units required for the major, although it may be used to satisfy a requirement that a specific course be taken.