

Transfer Guide Leading to a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology

All degree requirements are subject to the provisions and notices in the [NIU Undergraduate Catalog](#). Information is valid through **August 2016**.

How to Choose Between a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) and Bachelor of Science (B.S.)

Either degree is valuable and good preparation for graduate school—focus on *the skills you want to have* upon completing your degree. Keep in mind that you can take courses in the degree you do not select in order to round out your education.

Choose a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) if: *Students who pursue a B.A. develop expertise in a foreign language by taking a 2-4 semester sequence of a foreign language. The experience of exposing oneself to a new culture, taking perspective, and trying to speak in a new language is great preparation for many careers (e.g., counseling, human resources) that involve working with a variety of people in community settings.*

Choose a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) if: *Students who pursue a B.S. develop additional expertise in math, statistics, and either computer science or a natural science. This training can be very helpful preparation for certain subareas within psychology, such as neuroscience and animal behavior, or for students who plan to go to medical school and pursue a career in psychiatry.*

Courses Needed Prior to Transfer (If student is transferring to NIU with general education requirements complete):

Equivalent to PSYC 102 (Introduction to Psychology)

Courses Highly Recommended Prior to Transfer:

Highly Recommended Prior to Transfer for a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.): Equivalent of STAT 208 (Basic Statistics)

Highly Recommended Prior to Transfer for a Bachelor of Science (B.S.): Equivalent of MATH 210 (Finite Mathematics) OR MATH 211 (Calculus for Business and Social Science). Depending on the selected B.S. sequence, one of these math courses will be required. Students who have taken one of these courses can take STAT 301 (Elementary Statistics) or STAT 350 (Introduction to Probability and Statistics) their first semester at NIU, which are also part of the B.S. sequence. See below for timing of taking statistics.

Courses to be Completed at NIU:

Completion of STAT 208, STAT 301, or STAT 350 with a “C” or better is a pre-requisite for taking PSYC 305 (Research Methods), ideally taken no later than the 3rd semester before graduating. This timing is important because PSYC 305 is a pre-requisite for two, four-credit lab courses at NIU, ideally taken one each of the last two semesters.

In addition, up to 6 credits of elective coursework can transfer into the major as lower-level elective credits (marked in the articulation tables as “PSYC ELEC”). Fifteen additional upper-level psychology credits must be taken at NIU.

About the Department

Psychology is a research science focused on understanding the behavior of all animals, with the primary focus on humans. Some of the many areas that psychologists study are human development, emotions, social interactions, the senses, memory processes, perception, personality and behavior disorders. Psychology at NIU provides instruction and practice in research techniques in several different subject areas within the field.

Engaged Learning Opportunities:

- Individual Study in Psychology (PSYC 485)—join a research lab and work with faculty members, graduate students, and other undergraduate students on research
- Cooperative Education/Internship (PSYC 489)—obtain real-world experience while working in an applied setting related to your interest in psychology

Student Organizations:

Student Psychological Association (SPA)—open to all NIU students

Psi Chi, International Honor Society in Psychology—open to students who meet nationally-set criteria

These student-run and faculty-sponsored organizations aim to help students explore their interests, foster professional relationships, and become aware of opportunities related to psychology. The organizations meet regularly to hear speakers on topics of interest in psychology, participate in several community service events, and participate in fundraisers for service projects and activities.

Career Information:

Psychology provides a sound foundation for many careers, including those related to mental health, sales, human resources, advising, marketing, child care, etc. Extensive information can be found on the Career Services website:

<http://www.niu.edu/careerservices/weblinks/majors/psychology.shtml>

For More Information:

Psychology Department Office, Phone: 815-753-0372, Psychology-Computer Science Building, Rm. 400
Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL 60115

<http://www.niu.edu/psyc/>; General advising questions: psycadvising@niu.edu

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