MAJOR IN PSYCHOLOGY

The Psychology major requires 3-4 units in prerequisite coursework and 44 units in psychology (47-48 units total) with a grade equivalent of 2.00 in all courses. No “Pass” grades are accepted for the 44 units in psychology. All students must satisfy the relevant prerequisites for individual psychology courses taken.

All Psychology majors must complete a minimum of 25 units in Psychology (PSYC) courses toward the major at Towson University. In addition, transferred lower (100-200) level Psychology courses do not fulfill any upper (300-400) level requirements of the Psychology major.

In addition, transferred lower (100-200) level Psychology courses do not fulfill any upper (300-400) level requirements of the Psychology major.

All Psychology majors must complete a minimum of 25 units in psychology. All students must satisfy the relevant prerequisites for individual psychology courses taken. A minimum cumulative GPA of 3.40 and a Psychology GPA of 3.60 with a grade of “B” (3.00) or better in both courses.

For a student to be admitted to the Clinical Psychology Area of Focus, the following criteria must be met by the spring term of the junior year:

1. Completion of PSYC 205 and PSYC 261 with a grade of “B” (3.00) or better in both courses
2. A minimum cumulative GPA of 3.40 and a Psychology GPA of 3.60
3. Submission of a writing sample, a letter of recommendation from a T.U. faculty member (preferably from Psychology) or employer who has observed the applicant’s interpersonal skills, maturity and professionalism, and an interview with the program director to determine the student’s suitability to complete the Clinical Psychology Area of Focus

Honors Thesis in Psychology

The Department of Psychology offers an undergraduate honors thesis option that provides students an opportunity to learn in-depth about the research process in psychology. Students complete an independent thesis in close collaboration with a faculty mentor, while taking a series of advanced courses on research methods, data analysis, thesis preparation and professional presentation. The three-term program (11 units)

1. Core 3 (Mathematics) course must be completed with a minimum C grade.
2. PSYC 213 (offered only in the fall) and PSYC 313 (offered only in the spring) represent a two-course sequence that must be taken with the same faculty member in the same academic year. In order to receive credit for PSYC 213, students must complete PSYC 313.
3. PSYC 101 is a prerequisite for all Foundation Courses.
4. PSYC 313 or PSYC 314 is a prerequisite for all Sociocultural Awareness courses.
5. PSYC 313 or PSYC 314 is a prerequisite for all upper (300-400) level elective courses except PSYC 381, PSYC 391, PSYC 433, PSYC 435, PSYC 454, and PSYC 491.
culminates in the student’s senior year with the completion of the thesis and presentation of the findings in a symposium format.

The honors thesis option begins during the spring term of the student’s junior year and continues throughout the student’s senior year. The option is open to both native Towson students and transfer students entering the Psychology major in the beginning of their junior year.

Following are the specific courses that all honors thesis students must take:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Term 1 (spring of junior year)</td>
<td>PSYC 486  ADVANCED EXPERIMENTAL DESIGN</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term 2 (fall of senior year)</td>
<td>PSYC 497  HONORS SEMINAR IN PSYCHOLOGY</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term 3 (spring of senior year)</td>
<td>PSYC 498  HONORS CAPSTONE PSYCHOLOGY</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PSYC 499  HONORS SENIOR THESIS IN PSYCHOLOGY</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For a student to be admitted to the Honors Thesis in Psychology option, the following criteria must be met by the spring term of the junior year:

1. Completion of PSYC 212/PSYC 213 and PSYC 313/PSYC 314 with a “B” grade or better
2. A minimum cumulative GPA of 3.40 and a Psychology GPA of 3.60
3. Identification of a Psychology faculty member who will supervise the thesis
4. Submission of a personal statement and writing sample and interview with the program director

Departmental honors will be posted to the transcript shortly after the bachelor’s degree is conferred.

**Suggested Four-Year Plan**

Based on course availability and student needs and preferences, the selected sequences will probably vary from those presented below. Students should consult with their adviser to make the most appropriate elective choices.

**Freshman**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term 1</th>
<th>Units Term 2</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 101 or 102 (Core 6)</td>
<td>3 PSYC 203 or 204</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Core 1 (or Core 2)</td>
<td>3 PSYC 225</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Core 3</td>
<td>3 Core 2 (or Core 1)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Core 4</td>
<td>3 Core 5</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>3 Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

  **Total 15 15**

**Sophomore**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term 1</th>
<th>Units Term 2</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 212 or 213</td>
<td>4 PSYC 313 or 314 (Core 9)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 261</td>
<td>3 Core 8</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 285</td>
<td>3 Core 10</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Core 7</td>
<td>4 Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Core 11</td>
<td>3 Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

  **Total 17 16-17**

**American Psychological Association Guidelines for the Undergraduate Psychology Major (version 2.0)**

1. **Knowledge Base in Psychology**
   a. Describe key concepts, principles, and overarching themes in psychology
   b. Develop a working knowledge of psychology’s content domain
   c. Describe applications of psychology

2. **Scientific Inquiry and Critical Thinking**
   a. Use scientific reasoning to interpret psychological phenomena
   b. Demonstrate psychology information literacy
   c. Engage in innovative and integrative thinking and problem solving
   d. Interpret, design, and conduct basic psychological research
   e. Incorporate sociocultural factors in scientific inquiry

3. **Ethical and Social Responsibility in a Diverse World**
   a. Apply ethical standards to evaluate psychological science and practice
   b. Build and enhance interpersonal relationships
   c. Adopt values that build community at local, national, and global levels

4. **Communication**
   a. Demonstrate effective writing for different purposes
   b. Exhibit effective presentation skills for different purposes
   c. Interact effectively with others

5. **Professional Development**
   a. Apply psychological content and skills to career goals
   b. Exhibit self-efficacy and self-regulation
   c. Refine project-management skills
   d. Enhance teamwork capacity
e. Develop meaningful professional direction for life after graduation