



# Psychological Science (BS) Student Handbook 2023-2024

Department of Psychology  
115 Robinson Hall (first floor)  
201 Mullica Hill Rd.  
Glassboro, NJ 08028  
856-256-4870  
[psych@rowan.edu](mailto:psych@rowan.edu)



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## The Department of Psychology

Welcome to Psychology! The Psychology Department is housed within the College of Science and Mathematics and currently offers a BA in psychology (on the ground and online), BS in psychological science (in-person only), minor in psychology, concentration in behavioral services for children and their families, minor in neuroscience, and CUGS in I/O Psychology. In conjunction with Rowan Global Learning and Partnerships, we also offer a fully online BA in Psychology and 3+1 BA in Psychology options with Rowan College at Gloucester County and Rowan College at Burlington County. We also offer three masters programs (Clinical Mental Health Counseling, Applied Behavior Analysis, School Psychology) and a PhD in Clinical Psychology.

### Mission Statement

The objectives of the Psychology Department are to provide its students with the opportunity to appreciate psychology as both a liberal academic science and as an applied art, to fulfill their professional ambitions, to develop integrity, to understand and appreciate diversity and multiculturalism in all that they learn and practice, and to learn the skills and values that will equip them to benefit others. Within the climate of a close knit academic community of learners and teachers, the Department offers coherent courses and programs of study in psychology at both the undergraduate and graduate level that are designed to give students the academic skills and knowledge they will need for reasoned inquiry, for the pursuit of advanced study, for a socially responsible service-oriented profession, for the development of a better understanding of social relationships and events, and for greater self-understanding.

### Our Students

We currently serve 1300 BA majors, 60 BS majors, and 100 graduate students. Our graduates are employed in a variety of professions. Some of our recent graduates were employed by the following organizations: AT&T, Bancroft, Foster McKay, Maxim Behavior Services, New Behavior Network, and Twin Oaks. Our graduates have also attended a variety of graduate schools to earn degrees in Industrial/Organizational Psychology, Neuroscience, Human Factors, Social Work, Occupational/Physical Therapy, Experimental Psychology, Clinical Psychology, Mental Health Counseling, School Counseling, and Applied Behavior Analysis. Also, some of our recent graduates have attended the following graduate schools: Bowling Green State University, Boston University, King's College (London), North Carolina State University, Stony Brook University, Rutgers University, University of Houston, and Florida State University.

**Visit our department website for more information:** <https://csm.rowan.edu/departments/psychology/>

## Bachelor of Science (BS) in Psychological Science

**Curious about the science of the mind and behavior? Are you interested in conducting psychological research or continuing on in graduate school? Then the BS in Psychological Science degree is for you!** The Bachelor of Science (BS) in Psychological Science is a degree designed for students who are interested in pursuing research-oriented careers such as experimental psychology (e.g., human factors, developmental, I/O, neuroscience, social & personality, quantitative) and clinical psychology (PhD). This degree program will also make you competitive for other non-research intensive graduate programs such as clinical mental health counseling and school psychology. We strive to make our students competitive for graduate school and industry by offering opportunities that will make them stand apart from the crowd.

Our curriculum is designed to provide our students with breadth and depth of knowledge in psychology as well as professional skills in research both inside and outside of the classroom. Along with other foundation courses, the degree requires a year-long research course sequence (i.e. Advance Research I and II) that provides students with the opportunity to conduct a human subjects research project from beginning to the end. The BS in Psychological Science major consists of 69 credits in psychology.

Students also have the opportunity to work closely with faculty mentors and peers to conduct research outside of the classroom either as a volunteer, for course credit (Research Clinic in Psychology) or paid through Federal Work Study funding. Our students have also presented their research at local, regional, national, and international conferences. Many of our majors also serve the department as learning assistants, peer mentors, and tutors in the Psychology Department.

*\*\*Please note that this degree is only offered in **a face-to-face traditional classroom setting**. While the degree can be completed on a part-time basis, the coursework is not offered at night. If you are interested in an online psychology degree program please visit <https://rowanu.com/programs/ba-in-psychology-online>.*

## American Psychological Association (APA) Principles and Guidelines

We have aligned our BS program with the principles and guidelines put forth by the [American Psychological Association](http://www.apa.org) (APA) to ensure a quality undergraduate education in psychology.

### APA Guidelines for the Undergraduate Major

<b>GOAL 1: KNOWLEDGE BASE IN PSYCHOLOGY</b>
1.1 Describe key concepts, principles, and overarching themes in psychology 1.2 Develop a working knowledge of psychology's content domains 1.3 Describe applications of psychology
<b>GOAL 2: SCIENTIFIC INQUIRY AND CRITICAL THINKING</b>
2.1 Use scientific reasoning to interpret psychology phenomena 2.2 Demonstrate psychology information literacy 2.3 Engage in innovative and integrative thinking and problem solving 2.4 Interpret, design, and conduct basic psychological research 2.5 Incorporate sociocultural factors in scientific inquiry
<b>GOAL 3: ETHICAL AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY IN A DIVERSE WORLD</b>
3.1 Apply ethical standards to evaluate psychological science and practice 3.2 Build and enhance interpersonal relationships 3.3 Adopt values that build community at the local, national, and global levels
<b>GOAL 4: COMMUNICATION</b>
4.1 Demonstrate effective writing for different purposes 4.2 Exhibit effective presentations skills for different purposes 4.3 Interact effectively with others
<b>GOAL 5: PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT</b>
5.1 Apply psychological content and skills to career goals 5.2 Exhibit self-efficacy and self-regulation 5.3 Refine project-management skills 5.4 Enhance teamwork capacity 5.5 Develop meaningful professional direction for life after graduation

American Psychological Association. (2013). *APA guidelines for the undergraduate psychology major: Version 2.0*. Retrieved from <http://www.apa.org/ed/precollege/about/psymajor-guidelines.pdf>

### APA Principles for Quality Undergraduate Education in Psychology

<b>Quality Principle 1</b>	Students are responsible for monitoring and enhancing their own learning.
<b>Quality Principle 2</b>	Faculty strive to become scientist-educators who are knowledgeable about and use the principles of the science of learning.
<b>Quality Principle 3</b>	Psychology department and programs create a coherent curriculum.
<b>Quality Principle 4</b>	Academic administrators support and encourage quality practices in teaching and learning.
<b>Quality Principle 5</b>	Policymakers and the general public understand why psychological literacy is necessary for informed citizens and an effective workforce.

American Psychological Association. (2011). *Principles for quality undergraduate education in psychology*. Washington, DC: Author. Retrieved from <http://www.apa.org/education/undergrad/principles.aspx>

## Summary of Required Courses for BS in Psychological Science

### I. Foundation Courses in Psychology (8 sh total)

- PSY 01199 Navigating Psychology (1 s.h.; taken first semester)
- PSY 01107 Essentials of Psychology (3 s.h.)
- PSY 02300 Psychology as a Profession and Practice (3 s.h.)
- PSY 01499 Psychology Senior Capstone (1 s.h.; taken last semester)

### II. Non Program Course Requirements (4 sh total)

- BIOL 01113 General Biology: Human Focus \*counts as Rowan Core Scientific Literacy

### II. Research Sequence in Psychology (21 sh total): *Must be taken in the order below*

- PSY 01301 Psychology of Scientific Thinking (3 s.h., min grade of B)
- PSY 07301 Statistics in Psychology (3 s.h., min grade of B)
- PSY 07303 Research Methods in Psychology (3 s.h., min grade of B)
- PSY 07400 Advanced Statistics in Psychology (3 s.h.)
- PSY 01420 Advanced Research I-WI (3 s.h., min grade of B) – offered in Fall only
- PSY 01421 Advanced Research II-WI (3 s.h.) – offered in Spring only
- PSY 01426 Research Clinic in Psychology (3 s.h.) - can be taken before or after Advanced Research

### III. Fundamental Courses (24 sh total)

- PSY 09218 Lifespan Development (3 s.h.) **OR** PSY 09209 Child & Adolescent Development (3 s.h.) \* *Students should not take both.*
- PSY 02310 Learning and Behavior (3 s.h.)
- PSY 01327 Cognitive Psychology (3 s.h.)
- PSY 10315 Physiological Psychology (3 s.h.)
- PSY 01326 Perception (3 s.h.)
- PSY 05206 Social Psychology (3 s.h.) **OR** PSY 01230 Personality (3 s.h.)
- PSY 03200 Abnormal Psychology (3 s.h.) **OR** PSY 09305 Development. Psychopat. (3 s.h.)
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Course: PSY 01105, 01200, 01235, 01310, 01423

### III. Psychology Major Electives (12 sh total)

Electives include any other psychology course not previously taken except for Lifespan Development/Child & Adolescent Development. Psychological Science students are encouraged to take PSY 01422 Field Experience ([email Dr. LaMastro](#)) and PSY 07300 Psychology Learning Assistant Seminar ([email Dr. Bogart](#)).

[Link to full program guide](#)

## Summary of Required Rowan Core Courses for BS in Psychological Science

Majors must also complete the Rowan Core requirements. Graduation requirements include: 2.0 overall GPA, successful completion of 120 credits, fulfillment of all major requirements, and completion of Application for Graduation.

- I. Artistic Literacy (3 sh)**
- II. Communicative Literacy (9 sh)**
  - College Comp I OR Integrated College Comp I
  - College Comp II
  - Public Speaking
- III. Global Literacy (3 sh)**
- IV. Humanistic Literacy (3 sh)**
  - PSY 01107 Essentials of Psychology satisfies this literacy
- V. Quantitative Literacy (3 sh)**
- VI. Scientific Literacy (3 sh)**
  - General Biology: Human Focus satisfies this literacy
- VII. Rowan Experience Requirement**
  - Broad-based literature attribute (LIT)
  - Writing Intensive (WI)
    - i. Advanced Research I and II satisfies this Rowan Experience
  - Rowan Seminar (RS)
    - i. Waived for students transferring 24 or more of approved credits
- VIII. Non-Program Courses (18 sh total)**
  - At least one course from Philosophy bank
- IX. Free Electives (23-24 sh total)**

[Link to full program guide](#)

## Research Course Sequence

Make sure you're on track with the research sequence and minimum grade requirements! The recommended sequences are in the tables below. To help you plan out your courses you can use the linked course planner. Copy the document to your Rowan google drive and use it to help plan your semester courses.

**Native Rowan Students:** [Course Planner First Years](#)

**Transfer Students:** [Course Planner Transfers](#)

### Four Year Sequence

Year	Semester	Course Title	Minimum Grade to Move on In Sequence
Year 1	Fall	Navigating Psychology	Pass
		Essentials of Psychology	D-
	Spring	Psychology of Scientific Thinking	B
Year 2	Fall	Statistics in Psychology	B
		Psyc as a Prof and Practice	B
	Spring	Research Methods in Psych	B
Year 3	Fall	Advanced Research I WI	C-
		Advanced Statistics in Psych	D-
	Spring	Advanced Research II WI	D-
Year 4	Fall	Research Clinic in Psychology (can be taken earlier or later)	D-
	Spring	Senior Capstone	P



**Two Year Sequence (transfer students)**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Semester</b>	<b>Course Title</b>	<b>Minimum Grade to Move on In Sequence</b>
Year 1	Fall	Psych of Scientific Thinking	B
		Statistics in Psychology (prereq waiver needed)	B
		Psyc as a Prof and Practice	B
	Spring	Research Methods in Psych	B
Year 2	Fall	Advanced Research I WI	B
		Advanced Statistics in Psych	D-
	Spring	Advanced Research II WI	D-
		Research Clinic in Psychology (can be taken earlier or later)	D-
		Senior Capstone	P

## Concentration and Minor Options

Even though the BS degree requires a lot of credits, many of our students fit in another major, minor, concentration, or CUGS. For more information about other programs offered by the psychology department, visit our website <https://csm.rowan.edu/departments/psychology/programs/>

For a list of all programs offered at Rowan see the current undergraduate catalog: <https://sites.rowan.edu/catalogs/>

Popular programs that our Psychological Science majors take with their BS requirements include Law & Justice, Neuroscience, Behavioral Neuroscience, and the Honors Concentration.

## Psychology Student Organizations

Get involved in our student organizations! They are a great way to meet other majors and learn more about psychology.

### [Psych Alliance](#)

Psychology Alliance students promote the study of behavior, the brain and various aspects of human personality through guest speakers, events and discussion.

### [Rowan University Psi Chi \(International Honor Society in Psychology\)](#)

Psi Chi is an international honor society whose purpose is to encourage, stimulate, and maintain excellence in scholarship of the individual members in all fields, particularly in psychology, and to advance the science of psychology ([www.psichi.org](http://www.psichi.org))

### [NeuroClub](#)

The NeuroClub is an organization designated to create a network and support system which allows those interested in the Neuroscience field to gain knowledge, set themselves up for success, and communicate in a group of students with similar interests to learn and expand the field of Neuroscience. Members have the opportunity to hear from speakers, participate in community service events, and network with other students with similar interests in the Neuroscience field.

### [ABA Club](#)

The purpose of the Applied Behavior Analysis Club is to give Rowan University students (undergraduate and graduate) information about the field of ABA through presentations, guest speakers, hands-on projects and more. This club seeks to serve the community by giving back and allowing anyone interested in this field a chance to learn more about what it offers.

### [Psych & Law Club](#)

Psych and Law Club is an organization that brings together Rowan undergraduate students from different majors and focuses on bringing awareness to criminal justice reforms that are currently being spearheaded by psychologists in society.

## Student Support Services

Want to be a student leader? Become a peer mentor, learning assistant, or tutor! Help out other majors navigate their way through psychology. You can get course credit for being a learning assistant and tutors are typically paid through the Tutoring Center.

### **Psychology Peer Mentors**

Psychology Peer Mentors are upperclassmen psychology/psychological science majors who are trained to help first year freshman and transfer students' transition to the Rowan community and the Psychology major. Peer mentors are assigned to each incoming psychology major and serve as a bridge between Rowan psychology majors and their assigned faculty/professional academic advisor. They are majors who are well-informed of the Psychology requirements and Rowan Core Requirements. Interested in becoming a peer mentor? Be on the lookout for the application every spring semester. Contact [Dr. Sledjeski](#) for more information.

### **Learning Assistants**

Learning Assistants are upperclassmen psychology/psychological science majors that help facilitate small group learning in the classroom. Our LAs are typically assigned to Statistics in Psychology and Research Methods in Psychology. LAs are typically volunteers or take as course credit which counts as a psychology elective. Contact [Dr. Bogart](#) for more information.

### **Tutors**

Students can serve as a tutor within the department or at the Tutoring Center. Our tutors typically assist students in Statistics in Psychology and Research Methods in Psychology. Contact [Dr. Ben Swan](#) for more information.

## Graduate School Planning

There are so many options for graduate school in psychology that students often get overwhelmed and don't even know where to begin. I recommend first deciding on what you ultimately want to do. Do you want to be a full-time therapist? Do you want to go into academia? Do you want to work in industry that would require some graduate training? Do you want to work with children involved with Child Protective Services? Do you want/need a PhD, PsyD, EdD, MA, MS, LPC, LSW, LCSW, MeD, MFT, MD, DO, PT, OT, JD and the list goes on. Graduate school could cost you a lot of money (e.g. PsyD, MA, MS) or you could get paid to go (e.g. PhD). So you want to make sure that you're getting the degree (and experiences) you need that is appropriate for the career you want.

Getting accepted into graduate school is not like getting into undergrad. The process is different and **MUCH MORE COMPETITIVE!** Students often don't realize how competitive it is. For example, many of our students want to get a PhD in clinical psychology (a very common goal among our majors). However, most students don't realize that only about **2%** of students who apply actually get accepted into a clinical PhD program. That can be very discouraging! However, students also don't realize that there are other options and that a clinical psychology PhD may not be the degree that's actually necessary to do what you want to do.

Below are some links that discuss the various graduate degree options that students with a bachelor's in psychology may pursue. I also recommend touching base with a faculty mentor and/or academic advising to make sure that you're on the right track.

Resource	Description
<a href="#">"Mitch's grad school advice"</a>	Excellent starting point for deciding if graduate school is right for you, what type of program you should apply to, and how to apply. Most of it is geared toward clinical psychology programs.
<a href="http://Psychologycareercenter.org">Psychologycareercenter.org</a>	This is a fantastic website if you're considering a career that requires a graduate degree. Tons of information.
<a href="#">"Career options with a graduate degree in Psychology"</a>	About.com article that's a good starting point if you want a graduate degree in psychology.
<a href="http://Allpsychologycareers.com">Allpsychologycareers.com</a>	Another great website geared towards occupations that require some sort of graduate degree.
<a href="#">Applying to graduate school</a>	APA's resource on applying to graduate school.
<a href="#">"Interested in Clinical Psychology Grad. School?"</a>	Information provided by Council of University Directors of Clinical Psychology (CUDCP)
<a href="#">"Research careers with a bachelor's degree in psychology"</a>	APA article explaining different research career opportunities for students with a bachelor's degree
<a href="#">"Choosing to focus on research as a psychologist"</a>	Careers in Psychology article about a research career.

## Getting into Graduate School

What do I need to do to be accepted into graduate school? Below is a list of the **top 5** things graduate schools are looking for from applicants. Please look at the admission criteria for each program though; this list will vary.

1. **High GPA:** Typically schools will have admissions criteria on their website. Most graduate programs have a **GPA minimum** of between 3.0 and 3.5. Remember, that's a *MINIMUM* so keep that GPA up.
2. **High GRE scores (or GMAT, MCAT, LSAT):** The exam you need to take will be specified by the school you're applying to. Students will often start studying for this exam their Junior year and take it at least once prior to the start of your senior year (or before the fall/spring you'll be applying to graduate school). That way you can take it again if your scores aren't high enough. Many schools have removed the GRE requirement.
3. **Excellent letters of recommendation:** Typically schools will ask for 2-3 letters of recommendation. At least **ONE** should be from a professor at Rowan.
4. **Research Experience:** This depends on what type of program you're applying to; however, research experience never hurts! You'll work on your critical thinking, writing, and oral communication skills which are valuable for any career path you choose. The BS degree has research experience built in. We recommend joining a faculty member's lab to get great experience. Check out the department website for more information on faculty research programs: <https://csm.rowan.edu/departments/psychology/research/>  
Complete a general application to join a lab: <https://forms.gle/2xxRtxwzWLRa1X4P9>  
There's also a number of funded summer programs to gain additional experience. Please let us know if you want help with your application! <https://www.pathwaystoscience.org/>
5. **Field Experience (or internship):** Again, depending on the program you're applying to they may expect to see that you've had exposure to the population that you're interested in working with in graduate school and beyond (e.g. adults with severe mental illness, children on the spectrum, shadowing a guidance counselor, etc...). Many of our majors do a Field Experience for credit. [Contact Dr. Lamastro](#) for an application form. It is recommended that you apply **at least 1** semester before you want it!

Don't forget extracurricular activities too like membership in honor societies and clubs/organizations, awards, volunteer experience, other work experience, etc.

You'll learn more about applying to graduate school in your Psychology of Profession and Practice course. Also, be on the lookout for free workshops on applying to graduate school sponsored by our student groups.

Considering taking a gap year after graduation, want to get more research experience, or are unsure as to your next steps? Then consider getting a paid research assistant position. Here's a great website that keeps track of opportunities: <https://psychologyjobsinternships.wordpress.com/>