

Psychology at McGill

The study of psychology covers many fields. To develop a breadth of understanding in psychology, students majoring in psychology at McGill must complete the required courses in statistics, behavioural neuroscience, perception, cognition and social psychology. Students are also expected to obtain knowledge beyond the introductory level in two or more areas of psychology. To ensure this requirement is met, psychology courses are divided into two lists. **List A** covers the areas of behavioural neuroscience, cognition and quantitative methods. **List B** covers social, health and developmental psychology. Students are required to take courses from both lists.

We offer many different programs to meet students' needs and interests. See here for McGill's list of psychology programs:
<https://www.mcgill.ca/psychology/undergraduate/programs-study>

See here for McGill's list of psychology courses:
<https://www.mcgill.ca/psychology/undergraduate/undergraduate-courses>

The Department of Psychology recommends students planning to major in psychology complete an introductory psychology and biology course in CEGEP or during the freshman year of university.

Research Areas

The following is a list of the general research areas represented in the Department of Psychology: Behavioral Neuroscience, Clinical Psychology, Cognition & Cognitive Neuroscience, Developmental Science, Health Psychology, Quantitative Psychology & Modelling and Social & Personality Psychology.

A list of professors associated with each research area, along with a description of their specific research interests and representative publications can be found on the McGill Department of Psychology website.

For more information, please consult the following website:
<http://www.mcgill.ca/psychology/research-0>

Who do I contact for more information?

Psychology Undergraduate Office email: undergrad.psych@mcgill.ca
Department of Psychology website: <https://www.mcgill.ca/psychology/>



FAQs

What is the difference between the Major Psychology program in the Faculties of Science, Arts, and Arts & Science?

All psychology students take courses from the same list. The main difference is that the Psychology Major in Science (54 credits) has more credits than the Psychology Major in Arts (36 credits) and the Psychology Major in Arts & Science (36 credits). However, students in Arts who would like to take more psychology courses have the option of completing the Minor in Behavioural Science (18 credits), which consists of additional psychology courses. This Minor is only offered to Psychology Majors in Arts. These two programs (Arts Psychology Major and Minor in Behavioural Science) together make up the same amount of credits as the Psychology Major in Science. Students in Arts & Science completing the Major in Psychology can only complete the 36 credits for the Major in Psychology and cannot complete the Minor Concentration in Behavioural Science. For more information about the differences between the Faculty requirements, please see the Faculty of Science (<https://www.mcgill.ca/science/>) and the Faculty of Arts (<https://www.mcgill.ca/oasis/>) websites.

For students interested in graduate studies in Psychology, which Faculty and Psychology program should they choose?

Students interested in pursuing graduate studies in psychology, especially in professional psychology disciplines, such as clinical, counselling, and school psychology, may want to choose either the B.Sc. where they can complete a 54-credit Major in Psychology or the B.A. where they can choose to complete a Specialization Option, which includes a Major Concentration in Psychology (36 credits) with a Minor Concentration in Behavioural Science (18 credits). Students considering graduate training in Quebec, should ensure they complete the courses that fulfill the Ordre des Psychologues du Québec (OPQ) requirements. However, there may be other psychology graduate programs, in or outside of Quebec, that do not require as many psychology courses. In these cases, the Major in Psychology via the B.A. & Sc. may be sufficiently specialized. Students are encouraged to research the graduate programs that they may be interested in to verify their admission requirements.

What kind of research opportunities are available to students in the Department of Psychology?

There are various ways for psychology undergraduate students to obtain hands-on research experience in the Department. Psychology students can do independent research courses for credit that provide an in-depth, hands-on introduction to research in a laboratory setting. These can be one-semester or two-semester, and the student works with a psychology faculty member and a graduate student to conduct research and write up a thesis (APA style manuscript) based on the research. Honours and Honours equivalent students present their research at a department-wide research showcase. Students can apply for summer fellowship programs which are paid research experiences in labs. We also offer several psychology laboratory courses in which students do research in a classroom setting, with the direct supervision of a professor. Students design their own projects and test them on each other. Additional not-for-credit options include volunteering or working as a paid research assistant in individual faculty research labs. For more information, please see Research Opportunities (<https://www.mcgill.ca/psychology/undergraduate/current-students/research-opportunities>)



Undergraduate Psychology

What is Psychology?

Psychology is the scientific study of the mind and behaviour. There are many different ways to study mind and behaviour, which leads to different types of psychology. For example, psychology includes social, cognitive and biological explorations of the mind and behaviour. As a social science, psychology studies how humans interact with each other and group behaviour. As a cognitive science, psychology focuses on addressing questions about how we think, learn and remember. As a biological science, psychology focuses on understanding the physical basis of behaviour, focusing on the inner workings of the brain.

What can I do with a Bachelor's degree in Psychology?

The B.A. or B.Sc. in Psychology is a first stepping stone to becoming a psychologist. To become a professional psychologist, either a researcher or a clinician, you will have to obtain advanced training in psychology after your bachelor's degree by attending graduate school.

With a B.A. or B.Sc. in Psychology you are qualified to be an assistant researcher in a hospital, university, government, or industrial setting. You may also find employment in the human services in hospitals, clinics, group homes or other institutions, under the supervision of a registered psychologist, counselor, or social worker. Students sometimes work in the areas of human resources, public relations, advertising, and marketing. Your bachelor's degree provides you with a solid background which may be applied to many areas, depending on your personal interests and skills.

Undergraduate training in psychology can also be a good preparation for a variety of other fields, such as business and industry, counseling, education, human communication sciences (speech therapy), law, medicine, nursing, occupational therapy, physiotherapy, and social work.

Helpful Resources

McGill University Career Planning Service:
https://mcgill.ca/caps/files/caps/major_psychology.pdf
Ordre des Psychologues du Québec : <https://www.ordrepsy.qc.ca/>
Canadian Psychological Association : <http://www.cpa.ca/>
American Psychological Association : <https://www.apa.org/>

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Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.)

Major Program in Psychology (54 credits):

The B.Sc. Major in Psychology provides students with an in-depth overview, covering the core areas of psychological science as well as more advanced courses in specialized content areas. Students also have the option to complete a research course(s) and/or gain additional training in science related disciplines. This program provides students with the space to take the additional courses they may need for applying to graduate school in psychology and for completing the undergraduate credits in psychology as specified by the Ordre des Psychologues du Québec (required by some graduate psychology programs). The B.Sc. does not require a second program, unless completing the Liberal program.

Honours Program in Psychology (60 credits):

The B.Sc. Honours in Psychology is a specialized program that provides students with an in-depth overview of psychological science, covering the core areas as well as more advanced courses. Students are required to take a 2-term research course and seminar; students also have the option to complete additional research course(s) and/or gain additional training in science related disciplines. This program prepares students for graduate study in that it emphasizes practice in the research techniques and statistics used in graduate school and professionally later on. Students must apply to the Honours program; admission is selective.

B.Sc. Liberal Core Science Component in Psychology (45 credits):

The B.Sc. Liberal Core Science Component in Psychology provides students with a broad overview of the field of psychological science. It is less specialized than the B.Sc. Major in Psychology as students choose a selection of the core courses in psychology as well as advanced courses in specialized content areas. Students may also have the option to complete a research course(s). This program provides students with the space to take the additional courses they may need for applying to graduate school in psychology and for completing the undergraduate credits in psychology as specified by the Ordre des Psychologues du Québec (required by some graduate psychology programs). However, students desiring a more specialized program should consider the B.Sc. Major in Psychology. Students completing a Liberal Program with a Core Science Component Psychology must also complete at least one breadth component in a second area.

Minor Program in Psychology (24 credits):

A Minor program in Psychology is available to students registered in any B.Sc. program other than psychology. This program is intended to complement a student's primary field of study by providing a focused introduction to specialized topics in psychology. A maximum of 6 credits from the Minor in Psychology may overlap with the student's primary program.

Bachelor of Arts & Science (B.A. & B.Sc.)

Major Concentration in Psychology (36 credits):

The B.A. & Sc. Major Concentration in Psychology provides students with a basic overview, covering the core areas of psychological science as well as more advanced courses in specialized content areas. Students also have the option to complete a research course(s). Note: this program alone may not provide sufficient undergraduate background to enable students to apply for membership in the Ordre des Psychologues du Québec. However, it may be of interest to those who plan to pursue a profession in other fields, such as law, medicine, management or education and to those who plan to apply for multidisciplinary graduate programs, for example cognitive science, criminology or the social studies of medicine. It will also be of interest to students whose current desire is to obtain a broad undergraduate education.

Joint Honours Component in Psychology (36 credits):

The Joint Honours Psychology Component provides students with an overview of psychological science, covering the core areas as well as select advanced courses. Students are required to take a 2-term research course and seminar; students also have the option to complete an additional research course. This program emphasizes practice in the research techniques and statistics used in graduate school and professionally later on. However, the Joint Honours Program is not as comprehensive as the B.A. or B.Sc. Honours Program, and does not give students the space to take the additional courses they may need for certain graduate programs in psychology or to complete the undergraduate credits in psychology as specified by the OPQ (required by some graduate psychology programs). Students must apply to the Joint Honours program; admission is selective.

Minor Concentration in Psychology (18 credits):

The Minor Concentration Psychology is intended to compliment the student's primary field of study by providing a focused introduction to specialized topics in psychology. It is available to all B.A. & Sc. students whose primary field of study is in a department other than psychology. No credit overlap is permitted with other concentrations or programs.

For the Bachelor of Arts and Science (B.A. & Sc.), psychology is considered to fulfill your Science requirements, and must therefore be combined with a 36-credit Art component.

Honours Applicant Criteria (For B.Sc., B.A. & B.Sc., B.A.)

To be eligible to apply to the Honours/Joint Honours program in Psychology, students must have completed a minimum of 27 graded credits in the academic year prior to applying (fall and winter terms only). All applicants must have taken PSYC 204, PSYC 211, PSYC 212, PSYC 213, PSYC 215 and PSYC 305. Exceptional performance in these courses is a primary criterion for acceptance into the Honours program. In addition to performance in these psychology courses, a minimum cumulative grade point average (CGPA) of 3.50 is required to apply. However, since enrolment is limited, the typical CGPA cut-off is ~3.75, although this varies from year to year depending on the applicant pool.

Bachelor of Arts (B.A.)

Major Concentration in Psychology (36 credits):

The Major Concentration in Psychology provides students with a basic overview, covering the core areas of psychological science as well as more advanced courses in specialized content areas. Students also have the option to complete a research course(s). Note: this program may not provide sufficient undergraduate background preparation for certain graduate programs. Students who wish to go on to graduate training in psychology, and those who wish to complete the undergraduate credits in psychology as specified by the Ordre des Psychologues du Québec (required by some graduate psychology programs), are advised to take the supplementary Minor Concentration Behavioural Science. This specialization option will give students the space to take the additional courses they may need for such applications.

• Behavioural Science Minor (18 credits):

The Minor Concentration Behavioural Science is available only to Arts Majors in Psychology. This minor is a specialization option that allows these students to complete additional credits in psychology, making their degree more specialized than the major alone. Note that this counts as a second minor concentration. A first minor concentration must also be completed in a discipline other than psychology. A Minor Concentration in Educational Psychology does not fulfill this requirement.

Honours Program in Psychology (60 credits):

The Honours in Psychology is a specialized program that provides students with an in-depth overview of psychological science, covering the core areas as well as more advanced courses. Students are required to take a 2-term research course and seminar; students also have the option to complete additional research course(s) and/or gain additional training in arts related disciplines. This program emphasizes practice in the research techniques and statistics used in graduate school and professionally later on. It also provides students with the space to take the additional courses they may need for applying to graduate school in psychology and for completing the undergraduate credits in psychology as specified by the Ordre des Psychologues du Québec (required by some graduate psychology programs). Students must apply to the Honours program; admission is selective.

Joint Honours Component (36 credits):

The Joint Honours Psychology Component provides students with an overview of psychological science, covering the core areas as well as select advanced courses. Students are required to take a 2-term research course and seminar; students also have the option to complete an additional research course. This program emphasizes practice in the research techniques and statistics used in graduate school and professionally later on. However, the Joint Honours Program is not as comprehensive as the B.A. or B.Sc. Honours Program, and does not give students the space to take the additional courses they may need for certain graduate programs in psychology or to complete the undergraduate credits in psychology as specified by the Ordre des Psychologues du Québec (required by some graduate psychology programs). Students must apply to the Joint Honours program; admission is selective.

Minor Concentration in Psychology (18 credits):

The Minor Concentration Psychology is intended to compliment the student's primary field of study by providing a focused introduction to specialized topics in psychology.