

BIOPSYCHOLOGY

PREPARATION FOR THE MAJOR

High School Preparation

Recommended as part of or in addition to UC's "a-g" admission requirements:

English composition,
Biology,
Mathematics beyond
intermediate algebra,
Chemistry,
Physics.

Transfer Preparation

To make normal progress in the major, complete the following courses prior to transfer:

General psychology,
Introductory biopsychology,
Experimental psychology,
Two terms of general biology
with laboratory,
One year of general chemistry
with laboratory,
Two terms of organic chemistry
with laboratory,
One year of general physics
with laboratory,
Two terms of calculus,
Statistics.

Please see the UCSB *General Catalog* (www.catalog.ucsb.edu) or your school counselor for more information on course preparation. California community college students should see www.assist.org.

Psychology is the scientific study of behavior and mental processes. Psychologists are concerned with those biological, cognitive, and social factors that influence how humans and other animals function within their environments. Psychology at UCSB is a laboratory science that is grounded in experimental research methods and statistics.

The Majors

The Department of Psychology offers the Bachelor of Science (BS) degree in Biopsychology and the Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree in Psychology. (See the Psychology sheet for information on that major.)

The Biopsychology major is for students interested in an intensive study of the relationship between brain function and behavior. The major requires completion of upper-division courses in neurophysiology and neuroanatomy, biochemical, endocrine, and pharmacological regulations in the central nervous system, and the behavioral and psychological data related to these topics.

The Pre-Majors

Some UCSB majors, including Biopsychology, admit students to a pre-major. Students must fulfill specific course and grade point average (GPA) requirements in order to advance from the pre-major (completed during the freshman and sophomore years) to the major. The pre-major in Biopsychology requires completion of general psychology, introductory biopsychology, psychological statistics, experimental psychology, and calculus. Students must complete these five courses with a minimum GPA of 2.75. Transfer equivalents to these pre-major courses will be applied to the subject requirement, but not to the GPA requirement. Only that portion of the pre-major completed at the University of California will be applied to the pre-major GPA requirement. Students should also complete the following lower-division coursework in their freshman and sophomore years in preparation for the major: general or human biology, one year of general chemistry with laboratory, one year of general physics with laboratory, two terms of organic chemistry with laboratory, and a second term of calculus.

Special Facilities and Resources

The Department of Psychology is located in its own three-story building and three smaller satellite buildings. The main building has 27,000 square feet of well-equipped laboratory and instructional space. The department maintains an undergraduate computer laboratory, a newly completed Life Sciences Instructional Laboratory, and an undergraduate research laboratory building. Additional department facilities include an animal vivarium, wood and metal shop, electronics shop, and extensive computer facilities.

Although popular, the Department of Psychology at UCSB is not so large as to preclude direct interaction between faculty and students. Students are encouraged to participate, on either a volunteer or paid basis, in faculty research. Students may also conduct independent research projects. A list of the department's faculty members and their research projects is available from the department office.

Advising is available from faculty members and full-time staff advisors. In addition, upper-division majors participate in the department's peer advising program. Peers assist other psychology students in planning their programs of study.

The Department of Psychology has a four-year honors program. Interested students may contact the department's undergraduate advisor for further information. Students may participate in Psi Chi, the National Psychology Honor Society. Such students have a voice in departmental decision-making through membership in committees that consider undergraduate affairs.

Careers in Biopsychology

The Biopsychology major prepares students for careers in laboratory research or practices in health-related sciences, especially those involving central nervous system function. Biopsychology students find immediate employment as laboratory technicians and research assistants. Biopsychology students also are prepared for advanced work leading to the Ph.D. and MD degrees. UCSB has an excellent health science advisory system. The system, headed by a biological sciences faculty member, assists students from the beginning of their academic careers up to their entrance into graduate and professional schools.

For further information on UCSB's Biopsychology major, please call or write to:

Department of Psychology

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website: www.psych.ucsb.edu