

Psychology

The student will examine the foundations of psychology and its origins as an empirical science. [PS.1](#)

- 1 Analyze the context and origins of psychology including the major approaches to psychology (e.g., cognitive-behavioral, psychoanalytic, cognitive) including major historical figures. [PS.1.1](#)
- 2 Describe the classifications and various subfields in psychology, including vocational applications such as counseling, industrial, clinical, experimental, and educational psychology. [PS.1.2](#)
- 3 Compare the appropriate application of experimental and non-experimental research methodologies (e.g., case study, correlation, meta-analysis, and naturalistic observation). [PS.1.3](#)
- 4 Identify and evaluate psychological concepts in representations of data, including tables, graphs, charts, figures, and diagrams. [PS.1.4](#)
- 5 Compare quantitative and qualitative research strategies including experiments, surveys, focus groups, and narratives as the foundation of research in psychology. [PS.1.5](#)

The student will investigate the structure, biochemistry, and circuitry of the brain and the nervous system to understand their roles in affecting behavior. [PS.2](#)

- 1 Identify and describe the structure and function of major brain systems, including the major parts of the brainstem, limbic system and cerebral cortex. [PS.2.1](#)
- 2 Identify the parts of a neuron and explain how the process of neural transmission affects behavior and mental processes. [PS.2.2](#)
- 3 Explain the processes of sensation, including the structures and functions of visual, auditory, kinesthetic/vestibular, and chemical sensory systems. [PS.2.3](#)

The student will describe physical, cognitive, social-emotional, and language development from conception through the latter stages of adulthood. [PS.3](#)

- 1 Explain the interaction of environmental and biological factors in human development including the role of the brain in all aspects of development. [PS.3.1](#)
- 2 Describe the theories of Jean Piaget, Lawrence Kohlberg, and Erik Erikson regarding human development. [PS.3.2](#)
- 3 Explain the social, cognitive and neurological factors in learning. [PS.3.3](#)
- 4 Identify and explain the major theories of learning including classical conditioning, operant conditioning, social learning theory, and insight learning. [PS.3.4](#)

5 Describe the process, organization, and factors that influence encoding, storing, retrieving and forgetting memories. PS.3.5

The student will understand the principles of motivation and emotion. PS.4

1 Explain how theories of motivation and emotion apply to behavior and mental processes. PS.4.1

2 Compare the predominant theories of motivation including drive-reduction, self-determination, instinct, conflicts, and sensation-seeking. PS.4.2

The student will examine how psychological disorders are diagnosed, classified, and treated. PS.5

1 Examine how psychologists use integrated approaches and evidence-based practices to understand and treat psychological disorders. PS.5.1

2 Describe the symptoms and possible causes of categories of mental disorders, including neurodevelopmental, schizophrenic spectrum, depressive, bipolar, anxiety, obsessive-compulsive, dissociative, trauma/stressor-related, eating, and personality disorders. PS.5.2

3 Describe the research and trends in the treatment of psychological disorders. PS.5.3

The student will evaluate the many factors that promote mental health. PS.6

1 Identify and explain potential sources of stress, effects of stress, and various coping strategies for dealing with stress. PS.6.1

2 Explain how physical, psychological, and social factors combine to promote overall health and well-being. PS.6.2

3 Examine the influence of the social situation on individual behavior and mental processes, including persuasion, conformity and obedience. PS.6.3

4 Explain how biological, cognitive, environmental, and social factors can produce or influence emotional states, and how positive or negative emotions can affect thinking and action. PS.6.4

5 Explain how positive psychology approaches mental health, identifying factors that lead to well-being, including resilience, positive emotions and expressing gratitude. PS.6.5
