

# Undergraduate students' guide to **PSYCHOLOGY**

at Dalhousie University

**2026/27**  
Program Guidebook

**In this guide, you'll find information about:**

## **PSYO PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**

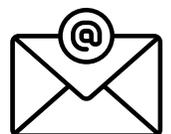
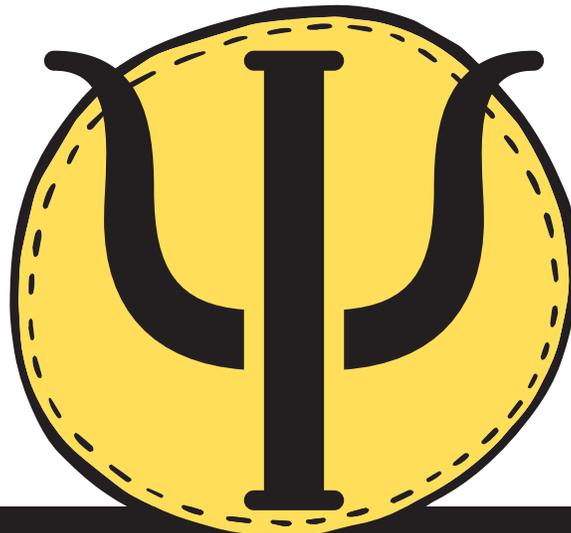
- **Major** in Psychology
- **Double-major** in Psychology
- **Honours** in Psychology
- **Combined honours** in Psychology
- **Minor** in Psychology
- Popular **certificates**

## **UNIVERSITY & PROGRAM INFO**

- An **overview** of the Psychology program
- **General** degree requirements
- **Course registration** tips
- Independent & directed **research projects**
- Course **prerequisite** guides



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# IS PSYCHOLOGY THE RIGHT PROGRAM FOR YOU?

Are you considering a **degree in Psychology**? Here are key things you should know to decide if it's right for you.

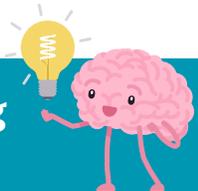


## WHAT IS PSYCHOLOGY ABOUT?

Psychology is a broad field that covers many areas, but they are united in using **scientific methods** to study **human and animal behaviour**. This includes the neural mechanisms that underlie behaviour and the social/environmental contexts in which it occurs. We use this knowledge to understand and improve the world around us.

## WHAT TO EXPECT AS A PSYCHOLOGY MAJOR

Our program has a strong focus on teaching students to **think like psychological scientists**. All students take required courses in research methods, statistics, and systems neuroscience. This training introduces students to tools that psychologists use to make discoveries. It also prepares students for the upper years of their program, where courses involve interpreting, evaluating, and applying empirical research. Students in our program learn **what we know** about psychology, and crucially, **how we know it**. The resulting analytic skills can help students use psychological science to make informed decisions throughout their lives.



**TIP:** Interested in psychology, but not the stats & methods training it requires? A **Minor in Psychology** might be a good option for you!

## WHAT SKILLS DO STUDENTS DEVELOP?

Undergraduate degrees give students the opportunity to develop many **transferrable skills** (e.g., analytic thinking, communication, adaptability, self-regulation). Check out the Skillful Psychology Student resource [[bit.ly/skillfulstudent](https://bit.ly/skillfulstudent)] for a list. Reflect on the skills you're developing throughout your degree, and keep a record of examples. This will help you when applying to jobs and graduate/professional programs.

## WHAT DO STUDENTS DO AFTER UNDERGRAD?

Some students pursue **graduate degrees in Psychology**. These options are best for students who enjoy research, as they typically involve a research component (including clinical psychology). Others pursue **professional programs** (e.g., speech-language pathology, audiology, law, education, occupational therapy, social work, public health). Graduate and professional programs require strong undergraduate performance and academic references – check program websites for admission requirements! Finally, students leverage their skills to find **bachelor's-level careers**; here are some examples [[bit.ly/psyougcareers](https://bit.ly/psyougcareers)]. Explore your interests & options!



# FIRST-YEAR PSYCHOLOGY: REQUIREMENTS & TIPS

Are you a first-year student planning to complete your degree in Psychology? Here are key things you should know.



## REQUIRED 1000-LEVEL COURSES

All Psychology programs (e.g., BSc and BA; major, double-major, honours, etc.) have the same first-year program requirements. Remember to check the **Academic Calendar** for general university requirements that apply to all BSc and BA degrees!

- **PSYO 1011 or 1031:** Introduction to Psychology I\*
- **PSYO 1012 or 1032:** Introduction to Psychology II\*

(Or equivalents. The Dalhousie Integrated Science Program (DISP) courses, **SCIE 1506/1507** or **PSYO 1501/1502**, are considered equivalent to the above.)

**\*NOTE:** A final grade of B– or higher is required to pursue a major in Psychology. All 2000-level PSYO courses also require this B– grade.

## WHEN AND HOW TO DECLARE YOUR MAJOR

To declare your major, head to DalOnline and click Student Records. We recommend you do this early in Winter term of your first year, **BEFORE registering for second-year courses!** Our core, required 2000-level courses (PSYO 2000, 2501, and 2470) are restricted to Psychology and Neuroscience majors. Leave time for the Registrar's Office to process and approve your major before registration opens! If your plans change, you can change your major at any point in DalOnline.

Most first-years will still be completing their 1000-level requirements when they declare their major. That's okay, as long as you're registered for the required PSYO courses when you declare (and have a B– or higher in any you've completed). However, note that **you'll need final grades of B– or higher to continue** in the major.

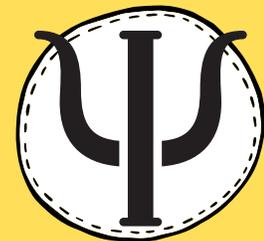
**TIP:** Psychology program requirements are identical for BA and BSc students; all that differs is the general degree requirements. When you major in Psychology, you're studying a science (even if you're doing a BA)!

## RECOMMENDED 1000-LEVEL COURSES

Although these courses are not required for our program, they provide helpful foundations for many upper-year Psychology classes:

- **STAT 1060:** Introduction to Statistics for the Sciences
- **SCIE 1111:** Writing for the Sciences

# WHAT ARE THE DEGREE OPTIONS IN PSYCHOLOGY?



Which degree is right for you? Use these summaries as a guide, and review [guidebook](#) & [academic calendar](#) pages for full requirements (click the headings below for quick access!)

## MAJOR IN PSYCHOLOGY

A 120-credit-hour major is a “standard” bachelor’s degree, where students **focus primarily on one field of study**. In addition to taking courses toward their major, students complete electives that add breadth to their education.

## DOUBLE-MAJOR IN PSYCHOLOGY

If you’re passionate about two subjects, a double-major may be for you! Double-majors provide a **general education in two subjects**. Keep in mind that you can also minor in a subject – this will be more flexible for scheduling than a double-major.

## CONCENTRATED HONOURS IN PSYCHOLOGY

An honours degree provides **intensive training in research**. It is usually required for graduate programs with a research component (e.g., Experimental or Clinical Psychology PhD), but may not be required for professional programs. Students apply to the department the spring before their honours year (usually their final year).

## COMBINED HONOURS IN PSYCHOLOGY

Think of this option as the honours student’s equivalent of a double-major. Students focus on two subjects; they complete honours work in their **primary subject**, and complete requirements akin to a major in their secondary subject.

## MINOR IN PSYCHOLOGY

The term “minor” can mean two things. One is a **90-credit-hour minor**. This “general” bachelor’s degree may appeal to students who want to enter the workforce quickly or go into a professional program that only requires some prior university work. The other type of minor involves completing at least **18 credit hours in the minor subject** as part of a 120-credit-hour degree (see the Academic Calendar for details).

## WHAT ARE CERTIFICATES?

Certificates give students the opportunity to **build skills and experience in a specialized area of study**. Dalhousie offers a wide range of certificates that Psychology students may complete as an **addition** to their degree program.

# PSYO REQUIREMENTS AT A GLANCE: MAJOR & HONOURS



This visual guide *summarizes* the required courses for the Major and Concentrated Honours in Psychology. Please read your program's **guidebook** & **academic calendar** pages for full details!

## YEAR 1 (INTRODUCTORY COURSES)

PSYO 1011* (with B- or higher)	GENERAL ELECTIVE	GENERAL ELECTIVE	GENERAL ELECTIVE	GENERAL ELECTIVE
PSYO 1012* (with B- or higher)	GENERAL ELECTIVE	GENERAL ELECTIVE	GENERAL ELECTIVE	GENERAL ELECTIVE

\*Or equivalent. In Psychology & Neuroscience, equivalent courses are listed in the calendar's course descriptions under "EXCLUSIONS"

When deciding what to take for your General Electives, make sure your plans include the General BSc/BA requirements!

## YEAR 2 (FOUNDATIONAL PSYO COURSES)

PSYO 2000 (Research Methods) †	PSYO 2501 (Statistical Methods I)	2000-LEVEL PSYO ELECTIVE [1]	GENERAL ELECTIVE	GENERAL ELECTIVE
PSYO 2470** (Systems Neuroscience)	2000-LEVEL PSYO ELECTIVE [1]	2000-LEVEL PSYO ELECTIVE [1]	GENERAL ELECTIVE	GENERAL ELECTIVE

† To apply for the Honours program in Psychology or Neuroscience, students must receive a B+ or higher in PSYO/NESC 2000. For the major, only a pass (D or higher) is required.

[1] Selected from PSYO 2080, 2090, 2130, 2140, 2150, 2160, 2220, 2444, 2570

\*\*PHYL 2041 is equivalent to PSYO 2470. Taking both is like repeating a course; only the attempt with the highest grade will count.

## YEARS 3 & 4 (MAJOR IN PSYCHOLOGY)

There are 20 courses in this section (8 PSYO; 12 electives). Spread them across MULTIPLE years (e.g., some Year 3, the rest Year 4)

3000-LEVEL PSYO LAB CREDIT [2]	3000- or 4000-LEVEL PSYO ELECTIVE	3000- or 4000-LEVEL PSYO ELECTIVE	3000- or 4000-LEVEL PSYO ELECTIVE	TWELVE (12) GENERAL ELECTIVES
3000- or 4000-LEVEL PSYO ELECTIVE				

[2] Selected from PSYO 3051, 3082, 3091, 3122, 3131, 3133, 3134, 3137, 3161, 3165, 3370, 3371, 3505, 3511. (3100/3101 can also be used for 3 credit hours of lab requirement; the other 3 credit hours count as a 3000-level PSYO elective)

## YEARS 3 & 4 (CONCENTRATED HONOURS IN PSYO)

There are 20 courses in this section (12 PSYO; 8 electives). Spread them across MULTIPLE years (e.g., some Year 3, the rest Year 4)

3000-LEVEL PSYO LAB CREDIT [2]	3000-LEVEL PSYO LAB CREDIT [2]	3000- or 4000-LEVEL PSYO ELECTIVE	3000- or 4000-LEVEL PSYO ELECTIVE	3000- or 4000-LEVEL PSYO ELECTIVE	3000- or 4000-LEVEL PSYO ELECTIVE	EIGHT (8) GENERAL ELECTIVES
PSYO 4901 (Honours Foundation) †	PSYO 4902 (Honours Thesis) †	PSYO 3502 (Statistical Methods II) †	4000-LEVEL PSYO/NESC SEMINAR [3]	4000-LEVEL PSYO/NESC SEMINAR [3]	3000- or 4000-LEVEL PSYO ELECTIVE	

† Honours students complete 4901, 4902, and 3502 during their honours year (not before). Seminars are also typically completed during the honours year.

[3] All 4000-level PSYO and NESC courses (except 4901/2) count as a seminar. Seminars are typically restricted to honours students.



# GENERAL BSc & BA DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

The university stipulates that all BSc and BA students must complete a set of general requirements (in addition to program requirements). For the full, definitive list of these requirements, check [academiccalendar.dal.ca](https://academiccalendar.dal.ca).



ACADEMIC  
CALENDAR



HOW TO RUN A  
DEGREE AUDIT

## SUBJECT GROUPINGS (BSc and BA)

All BSc and BA students must complete at least 6 credit hours in **each** of three subject groupings: **(1) Language and Humanities**, **(2) Social Sciences**, and **(3) Life and Physical Sciences**. Ideally, these should be completed in the first 60 credit hours.

## WRITING REQUIREMENT (BSc and BA)

Students must complete 6 credit hours in a set of **approved writing courses**. See the Academic Calendar for the list of courses; these can also be used toward a subject grouping. Students should complete this requirement early, preferably in their first year. The 3 credit-hour course **SCIE 1111** satisfies the full writing requirement for BSc students, and the 3 credit-hour course **ENGL 1111** satisfies the full writing requirement for BA and BSc students.

## MATHEMATICS REQUIREMENT (BSc only)

All BSc students must complete at least 6 credit hours in math or statistics courses (these cannot also be used toward a subject grouping). See the Academic Calendar for details. Note that **PSYO 2501** and **PSYO 3502** do **NOT** count toward the BSc Mathematics Requirement.

## LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT (BA only)

All BA students must complete at least 6 credit hours in a single language (these cannot also be used toward a subject grouping). See the Academic Calendar for eligible courses. **BA students majoring in Psychology may choose to complete the Mathematics Requirement** (see above) instead of the language requirement.

## FIRST-YEAR BA REQUIREMENT (BA only)

Students completing a Bachelor of Arts must complete either **ASSC 1300** (Introduction to Humanities) or **ASSC 1400** (Introduction to Social Sciences) within their first 30 credit hours.

## DISTRIBUTION REQUIREMENT (BA only)

Within their last 90 credit hours, BA students must complete 6 credit hours in each of **two subjects** other than their major. For **double-majors**, this is 6 credit hours in a *single* subject outside their majors.

## “RESTRICTED/OUTSIDE ELECTIVES” (BSc and BA)

Students may take unlimited electives from programs **within** the Faculties of Science, Arts & Social Science, Computer Science, Agriculture, and the College of Sustainability. However, **there are limits on the number of credit hours that can be taken from programs OUTSIDE of these faculties**. See the Academic Calendar (College of Arts & Science “General Degree Requirements” page) for details, and watch for “ignored” courses at the bottom of your degree audit that may exceed this limit!



# COURSE REGISTRATION TIPS FOR PSYO/NESC STUDENTS

## RUN DEGREE AUDITS REGULARLY

The Degree Audit Reporting System (**DARS**) gives a snapshot of your degree progress and the requirements you have left to complete. Did you know you can add **planned courses** or run a “**what-if**” **audit** to see your progress toward a different program?



HOW TO RUN A DEGREE AUDIT

## CONFIRM COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Courses have **prerequisites**, **grade minimums**, and/or **program restrictions** so students have the background they need. If you don't meet these requirements, you can't take the course. However, you can register for a course if you will have completed all prerequisites **before** it begins (e.g., you're taking the prereq in Fall and the course requiring it is in Winter). Students who don't successfully meet a prerequisite are removed from later courses that require it.

### Check courses' calendar descriptions for requirements!

In timetable, click R to view program restrictions

PSYO 2501 Statistical Methods I				
R	12867	01	Lec 3	B0

Click arrow to view calendar description

WELCOME - STATISTICAL METHODS I

PSYO 2501 Statistical Methods I  
CREDIT HOURS: 3

This course provides an introduction to research design and statistics within Neuroscience and Psychology. Particular emphasis is placed on conducting and interpreting various statistical procedures, including descriptive and inferential statistics (z-test, t-test, ANOVA, chi-square tests), frequently used in these fields.

NOTES: Only students undertaking a Major or Honours degree in Psychology or Neuroscience are eligible for enrolment. This course does not fulfil any part of the Faculty of Science Mathematics requirement.

FORMAT: Lecture

PREREQUISITES: PSYO 1011.03 (or PSYO 1021.03 or PSYO 1031.03) and PSYO 1012.03 (or PSYO 1022.03 or PSYO 1032.03); OR SCIE 1506.09/1507.09 (or SCIE1505X/Y16). All prerequisite courses must have a grade of B- or better.

EXCLUSIONS: PSYO 3501.03

## HAVE BACKUP COURSES IN MIND!

Some courses may fill quickly, and we can't guarantee students a spot in specific courses. If your first choices are full, which other courses will let you make progress?

## GRADUATING, BUT CAN'T GET COURSES YOU NEED?

We won't let space constraints prevent you from graduating on time! Email **pnuGPC@dal.ca** if you are entering your graduating year **and** are missing a PSYO/NESC program requirement. Although we can't guarantee a spot in specific courses, we will find you something that fulfills your missing PSYO/NESC requirement(s)!

## UNDERSTAND CROSS-LISTED COURSES

Some courses count toward both Psychology and Neuroscience degrees. These **cross-listed** courses have separate PSYO and NESC codes, but they're the same course. You can register for **either** code, and it will count toward your program requirements (e.g, a Psychology major can join NESC 3190). If one code is full, check to see if the other has space available!

## ON A COURSE'S WAITLIST?

**Watch your Dal email!** If you are admitted from the waitlist, the instructor will email you. You'll have 3 business days to claim your spot before the system drops you from the waitlist. **If you decide not to take a course, please take yourself off the waitlist!** This makes room for your peers who want the class. Note: Being on a waitlist doesn't guarantee a spot in the class.

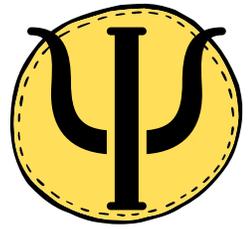
## CHECK YOUR STUDENT ACCOUNT

Holds on your student account may prevent you from registering. **Instructors can't override these holds**, and they have no way to save you a spot until holds are cleared. Contact the Registrar's Office if you need help with a hold on your account!



REGISTRATION STATUS

# MAJOR IN PSYCHOLOGY (120 CREDIT HOUR)

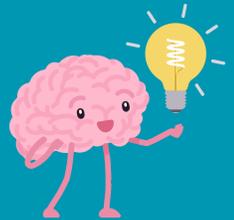


## PSYO Program Requirements

### REQUIREMENTS AT THE 2000-LEVEL

- **PSYO/NESC 2000: Methods in Experimental Psych & Neuro**
  - Students need a B+ or higher to apply for honours. However, there is no grade minimum for the major (only a pass is required; D or higher)
- **PSYO 2501: Statistical Methods I**
- **PSYO/NESC 2470: Systems Neuroscience (or PHYL 2041)**
  - PSYO/NESC 2470 and PHYL 2041 are equivalent courses. If you take both, it's treated like you repeated a course. You will only get credit for **ONE** (whichever mark is higher).
- 9 credit hours (**3 courses**) from the **2000-level PSYO electives** list

**TIP:** When choosing 2000-level courses, look ahead to our 3000- and 4000-level courses. What prerequisites will you need for the upper-year classes that interest you? Use the PSYO course list pages in this guidebook as a resource!



### REQUIREMENTS AT THE 3000+ LEVEL

Complete these requirements **during your upper years**. There are no specific courses you must take in third vs. fourth year. Spread your PSYO requirements across multiple years, mixed with electives that interest you!

- 3 credit hours (**1 course**) from the 3000-level **PSYO lab credits** list.
- An additional 21 credit hours (**7 courses**) of PSYO courses **at or above the 3000 level**, including any courses on the **PSYO lab list**, **3000-level PSYO lecture/elective list**, and **independent/directed projects**.

**NOTE:** 4000-level PSYO courses **can** count toward this requirement. However, 4000-level courses are **typically restricted to honours students**. Non-honours students should plan to meet this requirement with 3000-level courses.

How many PSYO credit hours (beyond the 1000 level)?

**Minimum 42 credit hours, maximum 60 credit hours**

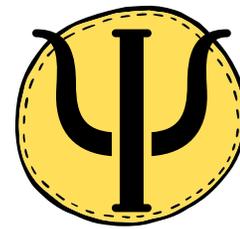
(i.e., you have room for up to 6 “extra” PSYO courses beyond the minimum requirements. Don’t exceed your maximum!)



#### IMPORTANT NOTE:

All BSc/BA programs have a **maximum** # of credit hours. Extra courses are **ignored**, which may leave you without enough credits to graduate.

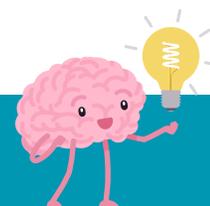
# DOUBLE-MAJOR IN PSYCHOLOGY (120 CR/H)



## Psychology as primary or secondary subject?

Students may pursue a degree that combines a major in Psychology with a major in another subject. Students in a double-major must select one as the **primary** subject (this appears first on their academic record) and the other as the **secondary** subject (this appears second on their record).

**NOTE:** Students **CAN'T** do a double-major combining Psychology and Neuroscience, given how much these programs overlap.



In Psychology, the program requirements are the **same** regardless of whether it is the primary or secondary subject. However, your other major may have different primary vs. secondary requirements. Check with that program! When you graduate, **you need to have more advanced credit hours in your primary subject** than secondary subject.

## PSYO Requirements (identical for primary & secondary)

### REQUIREMENTS AT THE 2000-LEVEL

- **PSYO/NESC 2000:** Methods in Experimental Psych & Neuro
  - Students need a B+ or higher to apply for honours. However, there is no grade minimum for the major (only a pass is required; D or higher)
- **PSYO 2501:** Statistical Methods I
- **PSYO/NESC 2470:** Systems Neuroscience (or *PHYL 2041*)
  - PSYO/NESC 2470 and PHYL 2041 are equivalent courses. If you take both, it's treated like you repeated a course. You will only get credit for **ONE** (whichever mark is higher).
- 9 credit hours (**3 courses**) from the **2000-level PSYO electives** list

### REQUIREMENTS AT THE 3000+ LEVEL

- 3 credit hours (**1 course**) from the **PSYO lab credit** list
- An additional 15 credit hours (**5 courses**) of PSYO courses **at or above the 3000 level**, including any courses on the **PSYO lab list**, **3000-level PSYO lecture/elective list**, and **independent/directed projects**.
  - See '[Major in PSYO](#)' page for a note on 4000-level courses

How many PSYO credit hours (beyond the 1000 level)?

**Minimum 36 credit hours, maximum 54 credit hours**

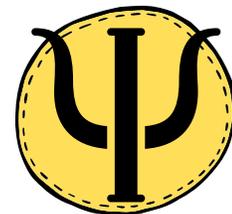
(i.e., you have room for up to 6 "extra" PSYO courses beyond the minimum requirements. Don't exceed your maximum!)

#### IMPORTANT NOTE:

All BSc/BA programs have a **maximum #** of credit hours. Extra courses are **ignored**, which may leave you without enough credits to graduate.



# CONCENTRATED HONOURS IN PSYCHOLOGY (120 CR/H)



## PSYO Honours: Departmental Admission Criteria

Students apply to the department **at the end of the winter term before they intend to complete honours** (e.g., end of 3rd year if completing honours in 4th year). Each year's deadline will be posted on our website.

Honours provides **intensive training in research**. Visit our [honours website](#) for information on the work involved, and tips to decide if honours is right for you!

### Admission requirements:

- **B+ or higher** in PSYO/NESC 2000
- Average of **A- or higher** in the last **six** completed PSYO courses (at time of application)
- Confirmed, eligible **supervisor**

## PSYO Honours Program Requirements

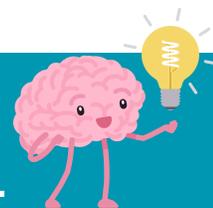
### REQUIREMENTS AT THE 1000- AND 2000-LEVELS

- Identical to the 120-credit-hour Major in Psychology.

### REQUIREMENTS AT THE 3000 LEVEL

- 6 credit hours (**2 courses**) from the **PSYO lab credit** list
- An additional 15 credit hours (**5 courses**) of PSYO courses **at or above the 3000 level**, including courses on the PSYO lab list, 3000-level PSYO lecture/elective list, and independent/directed projects.
  - See 'Major in PSYO' page for a note on 4000-level courses

**NOTE:** You need all of the 3000-level requirements to *graduate with honours*, but you **DON'T** need them all to *apply for honours*. You can complete missing 3000-level requirements during your honours year.



### HONOURS YEAR REQUIREMENTS (4000-LEVEL)

- **PSYO 4901:** Honours Foundation (*B- or higher required to continue in 4902*)
- **PSYO 4902:** Honours Thesis
- **PSYO 3502:** Statistical Methods II
- 6 credit hours (**2 courses**) of PSYO and/or NESC **honours seminars**
  - All **4000-level** PSYO/NESC courses (aside from 4901/4902) are honours seminars

How many PSYO credit hours (beyond the 1000 level)?

**Minimum 54 credit hours, maximum 66 credit hours**

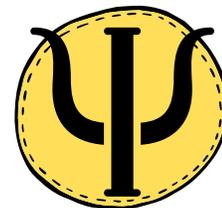
(i.e., you have room for up to 4 "extra" PSYO courses beyond the minimum requirements. Don't exceed your maximum!)

#### IMPORTANT NOTE:

University policy stipulates that Honours students must earn a **C or better** in **ALL** program-related courses.



# COMBINED HONOURS IN PSYCHOLOGY (120 CR/H)



## PSYO Honours: Departmental Admission Criteria

Students can complete an honours degree that combines Psychology with another subject (other than Neuroscience). **If PSYO is your primary subject, our departmental requirements for admission are identical to those of the Concentrated Honours.**

Students should ensure they meet any honours admission requirements in their other subject, as well.

**TIP:** The term “combined honours” can be misleading! Students complete honours work (including thesis) in their PRIMARY subject, and complete requirements akin to a double-major in their secondary subject. You **DON'T** need a thesis project that combines both disciplines.



## PSYO as the primary honours subject

### REQUIREMENTS AT THE 1000- AND 2000-LEVELS

- Identical to the 120-credit-hour Double Major in Psychology.

### REQUIREMENTS AT THE 3000 LEVEL

- 6 credit hours (**2 courses**) from the **PSYO lab credit** list
- An additional 6 credit hours (**2 courses**) of PSYO courses **at or above the 3000 level**, including courses on the PSYO lab list, 3000-level PSYO lecture/elective list, and independent/directed projects.
  - See ‘Major in PSYO’ page for a note on 4000-level courses

### HONOURS YEAR REQUIREMENTS (4000-LEVEL)

- Identical to the Concentrated Honours in Psychology.

## PSYO as the secondary honours subject

### REQUIREMENTS AT THE 1000- AND 2000-LEVELS

- Identical to the 120-credit-hour Double Major in Psychology.

### REQUIREMENTS AT THE 3000+ LEVEL

- 3 credit hours (**1 course**) from the **PSYO lab credit** list
- An additional 15 credit hours (**5 courses**) of PSYO courses **at or above the 3000 level** (same options as listed above under PSYO Primary)

How many PSYO credit hours (beyond the 1000 level)?

**PSYO Primary:** Minimum **45**, maximum **54** credit hours

**PSYO Secondary:** Minimum **36**, maximum **54** credit hours

#### IMPORTANT NOTE:

University policy stipulates that Honours students must earn a **C or better** in **ALL** program-related courses.



# MINOR IN PSYCHOLOGY



## 90-credit-hour minor

A **90-credit-hour** degree requires less specialization in a single subject than a 120-credit-hour major. With a typical course load, it can usually be completed in three years.

Students who complete this degree graduate with a **Minor** in Psychology, rather than a major.

### REQUIREMENTS:

- Minimum **18**, and maximum **36**, credit hours in Psychology (above the 1000 level)
- Complete all **general degree** (BSc or BA) requirements, and 90 credit hours total

## Minor as an addition to a 120-credit-hour major/honours

Students completing a **120-credit-hour** degree, majoring in a subject other than Psychology, may choose to complete a minor in Psychology. They must complete a minimum of **18**, and maximum of **36**, credit hours in Psychology (above the 1000 level).

**Please note that students majoring in Psychology *can't* minor in Neuroscience. Similarly, students majoring in Neuroscience *can't* minor in Psychology.**

**NOTE:** PSYO 2000, 2501, and 2470 are restricted to majors. However, if you have completed them and switch to a minor, they can be used to fulfill minor requirements.



# POPULAR CERTIFICATES



## Optional addition to your degree program

Did you know that you can **build skills in a specialized area** by adding a certificate to your degree? Dalhousie offers many certificates that vary in their structure and requirements. Students who graduate with a certificate will receive a notation on their transcript and a certificate of completion from the Registrar's Office.

**Certificates that are popular among PSYO/NESC students include:** Animal Behaviour, Disability Management, Indigenous Studies, Genetics, Human Physiology, Medical Humanities, Neurotechnology Innovation, Science Communication and Leadership.

For a full list of certificates, and the requirements of each, check [academiccalendar.dal.ca](http://academiccalendar.dal.ca)!

**NOTE:** Students *can't* double-count the same course toward two programs at once (e.g., a major and minor). However, you typically *can* double-count courses toward your program and a certificate (check your certificate's requirements!)





# 2000-LEVEL PSYCHOLOGY CORE, REQUIRED COURSES

All students completing a major or honours degree in Psychology (both BSc and BA) must complete the following courses. These courses are the foundation of our program, and they give students tools to **critically evaluate psychological/neuroscientific claims**.



PSYO COURSES & EXAMPLE SYLLABI

## PSYO/NESC 2000: Research Methods in Experimental Psychology and Neuroscience

- **Required for:** All 3000- and 4000-level PSYO/NESC courses, **except** for PSYO/NESC 3165, 3162, 3170, 3180, 3227, 3264, 3670, and 3970; PSYO 3060, 3581, and 3582
  - Note: Courses listed here require may use PSYO/NESC 2000 as prerequisite, but allow other prerequisites in lieu of 2000 (e.g., a course may require PSYO/NESC 2000 **OR** BIOL 2020)
- **Grade requirement:** B+ or higher required for honours eligibility & 3011/3012

### WHY THIS REQUIREMENT?

Studying research methods helps students to evaluate evidence for psychological claims, understand why studies sometimes disagree, and understand **how we know** what we know about psychology & neuroscience. This course prepares students to think critically about research and to communicate research findings. The foundation it provides will give you tools to **make evidence-based decisions** and **apply psychological knowledge responsibly** in real-world contexts.

## PSYO 2501: Statistical Methods I

- **Required for:** Many lab credits, including PSYO/NESC 3131, 3133, 3137, and 3505; PSYO 3082, 3091, 3122, and 3511
- **Grade requirement:** B or higher required for PSYO/NESC 3505

### WHY THIS REQUIREMENT?

Statistics helps us turn observations about behaviour into meaningful conclusions. Studying statistics helps students **understand what data mean**, evaluate how confident we can be in research findings, and identify where the limits of research evidence lie. Even for students who never plan to conduct research, **statistical literacy** is essential for interpreting research, assessing real-world claims, and using psychological science in evidence-based ways. Statistics skills are also useful in many **non-academic careers**.

## PSYO/NESC 2470: Systems Neuroscience

- **Required for:** PSYO/NESC 3051, 3134, 3170, 3227, 3270, 3271, 3370, 3371, 3505, 3670, 3770
- **Can be used toward:** PSYO/NESC 3180 (or one of MICI 2100/BIOL 2020), 3237 (or take 2570), 3264 (or take BIOL 2020)

### WHY THIS REQUIREMENT?

All facets of psychology (including behaviour, cognition, and emotions) are the product of neural activity. This course explores brain pathways involved in many psychological phenomena, giving students a **foundational understanding of how the brain works**.



# 2000-LEVEL PSYCHOLOGY ELECTIVE COURSE LIST

These courses are open to students who have completed PSYO 1011 and 1012 (or equivalents) with final grades of **B- or higher** in both. Use them to explore different subfields of Psychology & prepare for upper-year courses!



PSYO COURSES & EXAMPLE SYLLABI

## PSYO 2080: Social Psychology

- **Required for:** PSYO 3082
- **Recommended for:** PSYO 4080
- **Can be used toward:** PSYO 3280 (or take one of 2090/2220)

## PSYO 2090: Developmental Psychology

- **Required for:** PSYO 3091, 3093, 4091
- **Recommended for:** PSYO 4090, 4092, 4440
- **Can be used toward:** PSYO/NESC 3134 (or take 2130), 3280 (or one of 2080/2220)

## PSYO/NESC 2130: Introduction to Cognitive Psychology

- **Required for:** PSYO/NESC 3133, 3137, 3190
- **Recommended for:** PSYO/NESC 3227, 4130
- **Can be used toward:** PSYO/NESC 3131 (or take 2150), 3134 (or take 2090)

## PSYO/NESC 2140: Learning - Conditioning and Motivation

- **Can be used toward:** Animal Behaviour Certificate

## PSYO/NESC 2150: Perceptual Processes

- **Required for:** PSYO/NESC 3051
- **Can be used toward:** PSYO/NESC 3131 (or take 2130), Human Physiology Certificate

## PSYO/NESC 2160: Animal Behaviour

- **Required for:** PSYO/NESC 3162, Animal Behaviour Certificate
- **Recommended for:** PSYO/NESC 4160

## PSYO 2220: Adult Psychopathology

- **Required for:** PSYO 3122, 3220
- **Recommended for:** PSYO 3129, 4120
- **Can be used toward:** PSYO 3280 (or take one of 2080/2090)

## PSYO 2444: Forensic Psychology

- **Recommended for:** PSYO 3444

## PSYO/NESC 2570: Cellular Neuroscience

- **Required for:** PSYO/NESC 3165, 3270, 3370, 3371, NESC 4185
- **Can be used toward:** PSYO/NESC 3237, 3970, Human Physiology Certificate



# 3000-LEVEL PSYCHOLOGY LAB CREDIT LIST



PSYO COURSES &  
EXAMPLE SYLLABI

**Not all courses are offered every year. Check [dal.ca/timetable!](http://dal.ca/timetable!)**

## **PSYO/NESC 3051: Research Methods in Sensation and Perception**

- Requires PSYO/NESC 2000, PSYO/NESC 2470, and PSYO/NESC 2150

## **PSYO 3082: Experimental Social Psychology**

- Requires PSYO/NESC 2000, PSYO 2501, and PSYO 2080

## **PSYO 3091: Methods in Developmental Psychology**

- Requires PSYO/NESC 2000, PSYO 2501, and PSYO 2090

## **PSYO 3122: Methods in Experimental Clinical Psychology**

- Requires PSYO/NESC 2000, PSYO 2501, and PSYO 2220

## **PSYO/NESC 3131: Research Methods in Attention**

- Requires PSYO/NESC 2000, PSYO 2501, and one of PSYO/NESC 2130 or 2150

## **PSYO/NESC 3133: Research Methods in Memory**

- Requires PSYO/NESC 2000, PSYO 2501, and PSYO/NESC 2130

## **PSYO/NESC 3134: Research Methods in Psycholinguistics**

- Requires PSYO/NESC 2000, PSYO/NESC 2470, and one of PSYO 2090 or 2130

## **PSYO/NESC 3137: Research Methods in Cognitive Neuroscience**

- Requires PSYO/NESC 2000, PSYO 2501, and PSYO/NESC 2130

## **PSYO/NESC 3161: Measuring Behaviour**

- Requires PSYO/NESC 2000

## **PSYO/NESC 3165: Neuroethology**

- Requires PSYO/NESC 2570, and either PSYO/NESC 2000 or BIOL 2020

## **PSYO/NESC 3370: Advanced Methods in Neurobiology**

- Requires PSYO/NESC 2000, PSYO/NESC 2470, and PSYO/NESC 2570

## **PSYO/NESC 3371: Neuronal Organization Laboratory**

- Requires PSYO/NESC 2000, PSYO/NESC 2470, and PSYO/NESC 2570

## **PSYO/NESC 3505: Neural Data Science**

- Requires PSYO/NESC 2000, PSYO 2501 (with a B or higher), and PSYO/NESC 2470

## **PSYO 3511: Data Communication and Visualization in Psychology**

- Requires PSYO/NESC 2000 and PSYO 2501

## **PSYO/NESC 3100 & 3101: Independent Research in Psychology**

- See Independent & Directed Research Projects. Fulfills 3 credit hours toward lab requirement (the other 3 credit hours = PSYO elective at or above the 3000 level)



# 3000-LEVEL PSYCHOLOGY LECTURE/ELECTIVES LIST

**Not all courses are offered every year. Check [dal.ca/timetable](http://dal.ca/timetable)!**

## **PSYO 3011 & 3012: Experiential Learning in Science Communication (6 credit hours total)**

- Requires PSYO/NESC 2000 (B+ or better), advanced PSYO/NESC courses, and instructor permission

## **PSYO 3060: Psychological Perspectives of Sex and Gender**

- Requires PSYO 1011 and PSYO 1012

## **PSYO 3093: Language and Literacy Development**

- Requires PSYO/NESC 2000 and PSYO 2090

## **PSYO 3129: Childhood Psychopathology**

- Requires PSYO/NESC 2000; PSYO 2220 recommended

## **PSYO/NESC 3162: Advanced Animal Behaviour**

- Requires PSYO/NESC 2000 (or BIOL 3062 or BIOL 3630), and PSYO/NESC 2160

## **PSYO/NESC 3170: Hormones and Behaviour**

- Requires PSYO/NESC 2470 (or equivalent)

## **PSYO/NESC 3180: Psychoneuroimmunology / Ecological Immunology**

- Requires BIOL 1010 and 1011 (or equivalents), and one of PSYO/NESC 2470, MICI 2100, or BIOL 2020

## **PSYO/NESC 3190: Psycholinguistics**

- Requires PSYO/NESC 2000 and PSYO/NESC 2130

## **PSYO 3220: Clinical Psychology**

- Requires PSYO/NESC 2000 and PSYO 2220

## **PSYO/NESC 3227: Principles of Human Neuropsychology**

- Requires PSYO/NESC 2470 (or equivalent); PSYO/NESC 2130 is recommended

## **PSYO/NESC 3237: Drugs and Behaviour**

- Requires PSYO/NESC 2000, and one of PSYO/NESC 2470 or 2570

## **PSYO/NESC 3264: The Science of Sleep**

- Requires PSYO/NESC 2000 and PSYO/NESC 2470 (or equivalent), or BIOL 2020

## **PSYO/NESC 3270: Developmental Neuroscience**

- Requires PSYO/NESC 2000, PSYO/NESC 2470 (or equivalent), and PSYO/NESC 2570

## **PSYO/NESC 3271: Developmental Origins of Health and Disease**

- Requires PSYO/NESC 2000 and PSYO/NESC 2470 (or equivalent)

## **PSYO 3280: Personality**

- Requires PSYO/NESC 2000, and one of PSYO 2080, 2090, or 2220

## **PSYO 3444: Criminal Behaviour**

- Requires PSYO/NESC 2000, and that students have completed at least 30 credit hours (any subject)

## **PSYO 3581 and 3582: History of Psychology I and II (offered in alternate years)**

- Requires PSYO 1011 or PSYO 1012, or instructor's permission

## **PSYO/NESC 3670: Genes, Brain, and Behaviour**

- Requires PSYO/NESC 2470, BIOL 1010 and 1011 (or equivalents). BIOL 2020 and 2030 recommended.

## **PSYO/NESC 3770: Behavioural Neuroscience**

- Requires PSYO/NESC 2000 and PSYO/NESC 2470 (or equivalent)

## **PSYO/NESC 3970: Molecular Neuroscience**

- Requires PSYO/NESC 2570 (or BIOL 2020 or BIOL 2030)



PSYO COURSES &  
EXAMPLE SYLLABI



# INDEPENDENT & DIRECTED PROJECT COURSES

Interested in conducting research for course credit?  
Consider a directed or independent research project!



FULL GUIDELINES  
& SYLLABUS  
TEMPLATES

Linked  
under the  
sidebar!

## Eligibility requirements:

- **B or higher** in PSYO/NESC 2000
- Average of **B+ or higher** in all completed PSYO program courses at the 2000-level and above (i.e., major GPA of 3.3 or higher)
- Confirmed, eligible **supervisor** (see [guidelines document](#) for criteria)
- Submit **completed syllabus & ethics confirmation** by the dates specified in the guidelines document. Syllabus templates are provided in the guidelines document.

## Independent Research Project: PSYO/NESC 3100/3101

**3100**  
Fall

**3101**  
Winter

- **Multi-term** course in which one project spans Fall/Winter
- Must be completed in **consecutive** Fall and Winter terms

Students complete a Fall/Winter research project worth 6 credit hours total. The term “**independent**” is used in the course title because the two-semester duration lets students play an active role in helping to develop the project, collect & analyze data, interpret the results, and complete deliverables (e.g., presentations, reports, etc.).

Satisfies 3 credit hours toward the PSYO **lab** requirement. The remaining 3 credit hours contribute to the “additional PSYO courses at or above the 3000 level” requirement.

## Directed Research Project: PSYO/NESC 3001 or 3002

**3001**  
F, W, or S

**3002**  
F, W, or S

- **Single-term** project completable in 12 weeks (Fall, Winter, or Summer)
- First project = 3001
- If doing a second project, 3002. Must be **distinct** from the 3001 project.
  - May be with the same supervisor **or** a new one

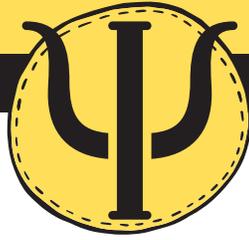
Students complete a single-term research project (in any semester) worth 3 credit hours total. The term “**directed**” is used in the course title because supervisors play a larger role in developing the project (to ensure it is completable within the time constraints of a 12-week semester).

Students who have already completed a 3001 project have the **option** of completing a second directed research project under PSYO/NESC 3002. Guidelines are identical for 3001 and 3002. A 3002 project must have a distinct beginning & end point that separates it from the student’s 3001 project (i.e., it **CAN’T be a continuation** of 3001). The topic may be similar, but it must be a **new** project.

**NOTE:** Students may earn a maximum of 6 credit hours from these research project courses. This means students can complete either one Independent Research Project (3100/3101; 6 credit hours) **or** 1–2 Directed Research Projects (3001 and 3002; 3 credit hours each).

Completing both an Independent and Directed Research Project would exceed this maximum (9 credit hours total). Excess credit hours would be **ignored** from the student’s degree (i.e., the extra 3 credit hours **wouldn’t count** toward PSYO/NESC requirements or overall credit hours).

# Where should you go if you have **QUESTIONS?**



## GENERAL DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

- Run a **degree audit** in DARS (learn how to use DARS [here](#))
  - Try the ‘what-if’ audit and planned courses tools!
- Are you a first or second-year student? **Bissett Student Success Centre advisors** can help you plan your degree.

## PSYCHOLOGY PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

- Contact a **departmental advisor** (book meetings and/or email)
- Check out our **honours program** website
- View **Psychology course offerings** with example syllabi

## GET INVOLVED WITH THE PROGRAM

- View Psychology & Neuroscience **faculty profiles**
- Social media: **@psychneurodal** on Instagram and Bluesky; follow us on [Linkedin](#)
- Follow our student societies: Dalhousie Association of Psychology Students (**DAPS**) and Undergraduate Neuroscience Society (**UNS**)

## CAREER PLANNING RESOURCES

- Explore Dal’s **career advising resources** & meet with an advisor
- Canadian Handbook for Careers in Psychological Science & Neuroscience (**free, online book**)
- Canadian Psychological Association (**CPA**) [careers hub](#)
- Develop and document your **transferrable skills** (use the Skillful Psychology Student [resource](#) & [worksheet](#) as a guide)

Created by Dr. Erin Sparks, [pnugpc@dal.ca](mailto:pnugpc@dal.ca)

**DISCLAIMER:** This guidebook is intended to help clarify our program requirements as outlined in the Academic Calendar. Students should **always check the Calendar** for additional details and information. In the event of disagreement between this document and the Academic Calendar, the Registrar’s Office will always defer to the latter.  
**Notice an error, or have a question about this guidebook? Email [pnugpc@dal.ca](mailto:pnugpc@dal.ca)!**