

A Student's Guide to Psychology

at Dalhousie University

2022/23



In this guide, you will find information about:

- University Requirements
- First-Year Requirements
- Major in Psychology (120-credit hour)
- Double-Major with Psychology
- Honours in Psychology
- Combined Honours in Psychology
- Minor in Psychology
- Certificates
- Independent and Directed Research Projects





University Requirements

General Degree Requirements

The University mandates that students in a BA or BSc program must meet specific requirements to complete their degree. In addition to degree requirements, each program (e.g., Psychology) has a set of requirements necessary to complete the program. It is important to know both the degree and program requirements to ensure successful completion of a degree. For a full list of University requirements, please check the Academic Calendar.

Subject Groupings

Course offerings within the College of Arts and Science are placed into three subject groupings: (1) Languages and Humanities, (2) Social Sciences, and (3) Life and Physical Sciences. All BA and BSc programs must include a minimum of 6-credit hours from each of the three subject groupings.

Writing Course Requirements

An approved writing course or set of courses is required for all BA (6-credit hours) and BSc (6-credit hours) degrees. It is recommended that students complete the writing requirement early in their programs, preferably in their first year of study.

Math Requirements (BSc)

A minimum of 6-credit hours in mathematics or statistics are required for all BSc programs. See Academic Calendar for list of approved courses.

Language Requirements (BA)

BA students are required to obtain 6-credit hours in a language course or set of courses. See Academic Calendar for list of approved courses.



Pro Tip:

Use the **Degree Audit Reporting System (DARS)** on DalOnline, to ensure you're on track for graduation. DARS will show you all the requirements you need for your degree; identifying those you've met and those you have yet to complete. You can even use it to see how your requirements might look if you switched programs or changed paths.



First-Year Requirements

All Psychology programs (e.g., BSc, Honours, Double-Major, etc.) have the same program requirements for the first year. Remember to check the Academic Calendar for University requirements for all BA and BSc degrees.

1000-level Program Requirements

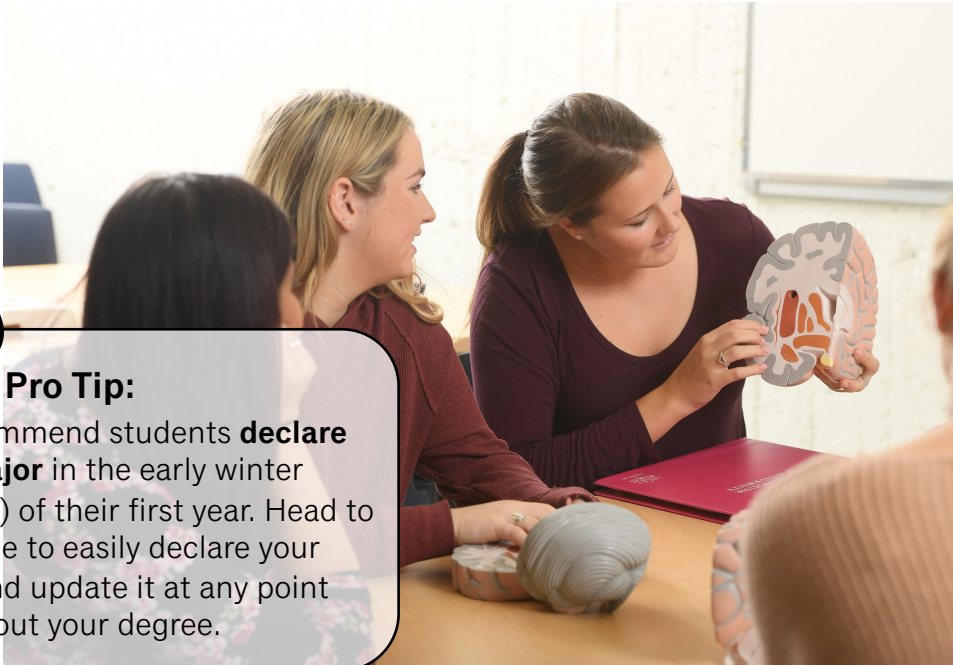
- Introduction to Psychology I (PSYO 1011 or 1031)*
- Introduction to Psychology II (PSYO 1012 or 1032)*
- Note: the Dalhousie Integrated Science Program (DISP) is considered equivalent to all of the above (SCIE 1506/1507)

** Final grade of B- or better is required*

1000-level Recommended Courses

Although these courses are not required for our program, we recommend them as they will likely help students in their upper-year Psychology courses.

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



Pro Tip:

We recommend students **declare their major** in the early winter (Jan-Feb) of their first year. Head to DalOnline to easily declare your major and update it at any point throughout your degree.



Major in Psychology (120-credit hour)

For 1000-level program requirements, see **page 2**. For all other University degree requirements, see the current Academic Calendar.

2000-level Program Requirements

- PSYO 2000: Methods in Experimental Psychology & Neuroscience
- PSYO 2470: Systems Neuroscience (*or equivalent*)
- PSYO 2501: Statistical Methods
- Additional 9-credit hours selected from: PSYO 2080, PSYO 2090, PSYO 2130, PSYO 2140, PSYO 2150, PSYO 2160, PSYO 2220, PSYO 2444, PSYO 2570

3000/4000-level Program Requirements

- One **lab** course (3-credit hours), selected from:
PSYO 3051, 3082, 3091, 3122, 3131, 3133, 3134, 3137, 3161, 3165, 3370, 3371, 3505, 3511, 3100/3101
(*Note: 3100/3101 can only be used to fulfill 3 credit hours of lab req*)
- Additional 21-credit hours of 3000/4000-level PSYO courses



Pro Tip:

Look ahead to 3000- and 4000-level courses to see what **pre-requisites** you may need, use that info to help you choose your 2000-level classes.



Double-Major in Psychology (120-credit hour)

Students may take a degree that combines a Major in Psychology with another subject, such as Biology or Sociology. Students cannot take Neuroscience as their other subject. If electing to complete a Double-Major, students must select one subject as the primary and one as the secondary. Requirements for the 3000/4000-level differ depending on whether Psychology is selected as the primary or secondary subject.

2000-level Program Requirements (Primary or Secondary)

- PSYO2000: Methods in Experimental Psychology & Neuroscience
- PSYO2470: Systems Neuroscience (*or equivalent*)
- PSYO2501: Statistical Methods
- Three selections from: PSYO 2080, PSYO 2090, PSYO 2130, PSYO 2140, PSYO 2150, PSYO 2160, PSYO 2220, PSYO 2444, PSYO 2570

3000/4000-level Program Requirements (Primary or Secondary)

- One **lab** course (3-credit hours), selected from:
PSYO 3051, 3082, 3091, 3122, 3131, 3133, 3134, 3137, 3161, 3165, 3370, 3371, 3505, 3511, 3100/3101
(*Note: 3100/3101 can only be used to fulfill 3 credit hours of lab req*)
- Additional 15-credit hours of 3000/4000-level Psychology courses



Pro Tip:

If you're **passionate about two topics** and can't decide, a double-major might be the option for you! But don't forget, you can also minor in a subject – an option that is more flexible for scheduling.





Honours in Psychology (120-credit hour)

Admission to the Honours program requires the approval of both the Department and the Registrar. Students apply at the end of the winter term (May) prior to when they intend to complete their Honours project (*e.g., end of 3rd year if completing Honours in 4th year*). Check Department website for official deadline.

Requirements for admission:

- Grade of B+ (or higher) in PSYO 2000
- Average of A- (or higher) in the last six (6) completed PSYO courses
- Confirmed supervisor

2000-level Program Requirements

- Identical to 120-credit hour Major in Psychology (see page 3)

3000-level Program Requirements

- Two **lab** courses (6-credit hours) , selected from:
PSYO 3051, 3082, 3091, 3122, 3131, 3133, 3134, 3137, 3161, 3165, 3370, 3371, 3505, 3511, 3100/3101
(*Note: 3100/3101 can only be used to fulfill 3 credit hours of lab req*)
- Additional 9-credit hours of 3000/4000-level Psychology courses

4000-level Program Requirements

- PSYO 4901: Honours Foundation (*B- required to continue to 4902*)
- PSYO 4902: Honours Thesis
- PSYO3502: Statistical Methods II
- Two 4000-level NESC/PSYO seminar classes (6-credit hours)
(*Note: ALL 4000-lvl NESC/PSYO courses are seminar courses*)
- Additional 6-credit hours of 3000/4000-level PSYO courses

Important Note

- University policy stipulates that Honours students must receive a grade of C or better in all program-related courses

Pro Tip:

If you're interested in pursuing an Honours degree, you may want to gain hands-on research experience in your 3rd year, by completing an **Independent Research Project** (PSYO3100/3101 or 3001/3002).





Combined Honours in Psychology

Students may elect to complete a Combined Honours, combining Psychology with another subject. **Departmental requirements for admission are identical to those for an Honours program** (see page 6). For a full list of University requirements for a Combined Honours degree, please see the Academic Calendar. If electing to complete a Combined Honours, students must select one subject as the primary and one as the secondary*. Requirements differ depending on whether Psychology is selected as the primary or secondary subject.

2000-level Program Requirements (Primary or Secondary)

- Identical to 120-credit hour Major in Psychology (see page 4)

3000-level Program Requirements (Primary)

- Two **lab** courses (6-credit hours), selected from:
PSYO 3051, 3082, 3091, 3122, 3131, 3133, 3134, 3137, 3161, 3165, 3370, 3371, 3505, 3511, 3100/3101
(Note: 3100/3101 can only be used to fulfill 3 credit hours of lab req)
- Additional **6-credit hours** of 3000/4000-level PSYO courses

4000-level Program Requirements (Primary)

- PSYO 4901: Honours Foundation (*B- required to continue to 4902*)
- PSYO 4902: Honours Thesis
- PSYO3502: Statistical Methods II
- Two 4000-level NESC/PSYO seminar classes (6-credit hours)
(Note: ALL 4000-lvl NESC/PSYO courses are seminar courses)

3000-level Program Requirements (Secondary)

- One **lab** course (3-credit hours), selected from:
PSYO 3051, 3082, 3091, 3122, 3131, 3133, 3134, 3137, 3161, 3165, 3370, 3371, 3505, 3511, 3100/3101
(Note: 3100/3101 can only be used to fulfill 3 credit hours of lab req)
- Additional 15-credit hours of 3000/4000-level PSYO courses

* Students cannot take Neuroscience as their other subject.

Minor in Psychology

Students majoring in a subject other than Psychology (with the exception of Neuroscience) may choose to complete a minor in Psychology.

To complete a minor, students must complete 18-credit hours in the subject, above the 1000-level.

Note: PSYO 2000, 2470, & 2501 are restricted to majors only; however, if a student has completed these courses and switches from a major to a minor, these credits can be used to fulfill the requirements of the minor.

Certificates (Additional to Program)

Did you know you can build skills in a specialized area of study by adding a certificate to your degree? Certificates are a great way for students to dive deeper into the topics that interest them, while also adding skills and experience to their resume.

Certificates vary in their learning structure and requirements. While some are course-based, many offer research, practicum and interdisciplinary learning components, ensuring students gain hands-on experience. By adding a certificate to your degree or current skill set, you'll ensure your resume stands out among the rest.

Dalhousie offers certificates in 15+ fields of interest. Certificates of particular interest to Psychology students include:

- **Animal Behaviour**
- **Disabilities Management**
- **Indigenous Studies**
- **Science Communication and Leadership**



Pro Tip:

Although students often enroll in certificate programs in their 3rd or 4th year, it's a good idea to think about these in your 2nd year to ensure you've completed any necessary 2000-level courses. For a **full list of all certificates** offered at Dalhousie, and the full course requirements for each, head to the Academic Calendar (Academic Calendar -> College of Arts and Sciences -> Certificates)



Independent & Directed Research Courses

Students wishing to gain hands-on experience in a lab and receive course credit, especially those interested in pursuing an Honours degree, may want to complete an Independent or Directed Research course.

PSYO 3001 (or 3002) Directed Research

A single-term project (3 credit hours) designed to ensure all work can be completed in a 12-week span. The term 'directed' is used in the course title because it is expected that the supervisor will play a larger role in developing the project – primarily to ensure it is a reasonable plan considering the time constraints. The final product of this project is often a final paper. These projects can be completed in any term: fall, winter, or summer. Students who have already completed a 3001 project have the option of completing a second 3-credit hour, single term project with the same supervisor or a different supervisor. The guidelines are identical for 3002 as for 3001. A 3002 project must have distinct beginning and end points and CANNOT be a continuation of a 3001 project (though the topic can be similar, it must be a new project).

PSYO 3100/3101 Independent Research

An independent research project spans the fall and winter terms (6 credit hours). The term 'independent' is used in the course title because it is expected that students will play a larger role in helping to develop the project, collect and analyze the data, interpret the results, and create a finished product (e.g., full report and/or poster and/or presentation). This course satisfies 3 credit hours towards the LAB component of our Psychology and Neuroscience programs. This project can only be completed during the fall-winter terms (consecutively).

Permission Requirements (for Directed or Independent):

- Grade of B or higher in NESC/PSYO 2000
- Average of B+ or higher in all completed 2000-level and above NESC/PSYO courses
- Willing supervisor
- Electronic copy of signed syllabus sent to pnistud@dal.ca prior to ADD/DROP date of corresponding start term. A template syllabus can be provided by emailing pnistud@dal.ca



Required Courses (Visual Guide)

The majority of our students tend to complete either the **Major in Psychology** (120-credit hour) or the **Honours in Psychology** program. Below is a visual representation of the required courses for both programs.

Year 1

PSYO 1011* (B-)	Elective	Elective	Elective	Elective
PSYO 1012* (B-)	Elective	Elective	Elective	Elective

* Or equivalent

Year 2

PSYO 2000	PSYO 2501	2000-lvl PSYO Elective ¹	Elective	Elective
PSYO 2470	2000-lvl PSYO Elective ¹	2000-lvl PSYO Elective ¹	Elective	Elective

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

Years 3 & 4 (120-credit hour major)

3000-lvl PSYO LAB Elective ²	3000 or 4000-lvl PSYO Elective	3000 or 4000-lvl PSYO Elective	3000 or 4000-lvl PSYO Elective	Elective (x6)
3000 or 4000-lvl PSYO Elective	3000 or 4000-lvl PSYO Elective	3000 or 4000-lvl PSYO Elective	3000 or 4000-lvl PSYO Elective	Elective (x6)

²Selected 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)

Years 3 & 4 (Honours)

3000-lvl PSYO LAB Elective ³	3000-lvl PSYO LAB Elective ³	3000 or 4000-lvl PSYO Elective	3000 or 4000-lvl PSYO Elective	3000 or 4000-lvl PSYO Elective	3000 or 4000-lvl PSYO Elective	Elective (x4)
PSYO 4901	PSYO 4902	PSYO 3502	PSYO 4000-lvl Seminar	PSYO 4000-lvl Seminar	3000 or 4000-lvl PSYO Elective	Elective (x4)

³Selected 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)



My Plan

Year: _____

Fall term

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Winter term

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Year: _____

Fall term

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Winter term

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Year: _____

Fall term

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Winter term

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Year: _____

Fall term

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Winter term

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Year: _____

Fall term

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Winter term

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Notes: _____

Who do I speak to about...?

- General degree (e.g., BA, BSc, etc.) requirements?
 - Academic Advising (dal.ca/advising)
- Program requirements (e.g., Major, minor, etc.)?
 - Faculty Advisor (dal.ca/psychandneuro)
- Courses required to graduate?
 - Consult the Degree Audit Report System (DARS) through DalOnline and/or speak to an advisor (dalonline.dal.ca)
- Class offerings?
 - Consult the Academic Calendar (academiccalendar.dal.ca), speak to an advisor, or seek advice from other students (e.g., Undergraduate Neuroscience Society)
- Getting more involved?
 - Check out all our resources posted on our departmental website: dal.ca/psychandneuro



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.