8. Change in Curriculum

**College of Liberal Arts**
Department of Psychology
  B.A. in Psychology
  B.S. in Psychology
MEMORANDUM

To: Dr. Robert Knight
   University Curriculum Committee

Dr. Pamela Matthews
Associate Dean, College of Liberal Arts

Dr. Les Morey
Head, Department of Psychology

From: Dr. Terry Barnhardt
   Associate Head, Department of Psychology

Re: Rationale for an increase from 33 to 35 in the number of hours required for the Psychology major

We have proposed an increase from 3 to 4 in the number of credits hours for two courses required of every Psychology major (i.e., PSYC 203 and PSYC 204). Given the fact that the minimum number of hours for graduation (i.e., 120) cannot be altered, it became necessary to consider what other requirements or electives would be decreased in order to accommodate this change.

Clearly, the path of least resistance dictated that the decrease of two credit hours occur in electives, rather than requirements, whether they were Psychology requirements or University requirements. Our next decision was whether to reduce Psychology electives or University electives.

We chose to reduce University elective for a number of reasons. First, Psychology currently has only 12 elective hours. This is less than a variety of other departments within the College of Liberal Arts. For example, Economics has 15, History has 18, Political Science has 24, and Sociology has 18. Thus, it seemed unwise to further limit the few choices that Psychology majors had.

Second, reducing the number of Psychology elective credits by 2 from twelve would have left 10 elective credits, a number not divisible by 3. In contrast, reducing the number of University
elective credits by 2 from 11 will leave 9 elective credits, a number easily divisible into three 3-credit courses.

Third, when looking at the Bachelor of Arts degrees in Biology, Chemistry, and Physics, the minimum number of hours required for those degrees ranged from 35 to 40. We’re not sure of the exact reason for the difference between these departments in the College of Science (a body of factual, scientific knowledge that must be disseminated?) and the other departments in the College of Liberal Arts, where the minimum number of hours never rises above 33, and is often less. However, given the scientific nature of modern psychology, it did not seem inappropriate that Psychology should fall within the range of other science departments.

In the end, increasing the number of minimum hours for a Psychology degree from 33 to 35, while decreasing the number of general University elective hours from 11 to 9, seems the best way to accommodate the increase in the number of hours that are credited to students in 203 and 204. This strategy leaves unchanged the other Psychology and University requirements, does not further reduce the number of electives available for Psychology majors, creates a University elective credit hour total that is more easily met in the current credit hour structure, and keeps Psychology’s minimum degree hours well in line with other scientific disciplines.

Thank you.
College of Liberal Arts
Curricula in Psychology

Bachelor of Arts
(120 hour minimum)

Psychology. 33 hours. No more than 33 hours in psychology may be applied to the degree. A grade of C or higher is required if a course is to be counted in the major field. Enrollment in PSYC 107, then the PSYC 203–204 sequence during freshman and sophomore years is strongly recommended.

Credits   Course

3   PSYC 107 Introduction to Psychology

4.3   PSYC 203 Elementary Statistics for Psychology

4.3   PSYC 204 Experimental Psychology

6   Choose two: PSYC 306, 307, 315, 330

6   Choose two: PSYC 311, 319, 320, 335, 340, 345

12   Psychology electives. May include additional courses from above lists. No more than a combined maximum of 6 hours of 484, 485, or 485H are permitted.

Other Departmental, College and University Requirements. The following requirements incorporate College and University requirements, but in some cases (noted) are more stringent. No course can be counted in more than one category.

Credits   Course

Communication:

3   1. ENGL 104.

3   2. ENGL 210, 235, 236, 241, 301 (departmental requirement).

6   3. Two courses chosen from among ENGL 203, 212, 221, 222, 227, 228, 231, 232.

14   4. Foreign Language. Four-course sequence in French, German, Russian, Spanish, Italian, Japanese, Greek or Latin.

Mathematics:

6   MATH 131–467 (except MATH 150, 365, 366); PHIL 240, 341, 342.

Humanities and Visual and Performing Arts (9 hours college requirement + 3 hours department requirement): To be selected from the approved list of courses in such areas as anthropology, architecture, history, humanities, visual and performing arts, literature, philosophy, geography and theatre arts. See approved list available from the Undergraduate Advising Office in the Department of Psychology.

Social and Behavioral Sciences: To be selected from the approved list of courses in such areas as cultural anthropology, geography, political science, sociology, applied ethics and economics. Courses in psychology may not be used to satisfy this requirement. See the approved list in the Undergraduate Advising Office in the Department of Psychology.

Natural Sciences: Two or more science courses (at least one of which shall include a corresponding laboratory) must be selected from the approved list of science requirements in the University Core Curriculum. For a copy of the Core list, see the University Core Curriculum section of this catalog or the Undergraduate Advising Office in the Department of Psychology.

U.S. History and Political Science: POLS 206 and 207; HIST 105 and 106 or other courses in American and Texas history, except courses pertaining solely to Texas history may not comprise more than 3 hours.
International and Cultural Diversity: To be selected from approved list in the University Core Curriculum section of this catalog. This course may also be used to satisfy any other requirement.

*2 Kinesiology: KINE 198 Health and Fitness Activity and KINE 199 Required Physical Activity.

15-18 Minor Field of Study: A minor is not required.

Electives: Sufficient elective hours (not in psychology) to bring the total credit hours to 120. No more than 9 hours of any combination of military science, naval science, aerospace studies and physical activity may be counted.

Residency Requirement: Complete a minimum of 36 hours of 300- and 400-level course work at Texas A&M.

120 hour minimum

* See University Core Curriculum, Item 7.
## College of Liberal Arts

### Curricula in Psychology

#### Bachelor of Science

**Psychology.** 33 hours. No more than 33 hours in psychology may be applied to the degree. A grade of C or higher is required if a course is to be counted in the major field. Enrollment in PSYC 107, then the PSYC 203-204 sequence during the freshman and sophomore years is strongly recommended.

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Residency Requirement: Complete a minimum of 36 hours of 300- and 400-level course work at Texas A&M.

120 hour minimum

* See University Core Curriculum, item 7.
Department of Psychology (PSYC)
Undergraduate Course List


107. Introduction to Psychology. (3-0). Credit 3. Introductory course dealing with elementary principles of human behavior.

203. Elementary Statistics for Psychology. (2-3). Credit 3. Practical knowledge of statistics up through analysis of variance. Practice sessions devoted to numerical problems. Will not satisfy mathematics requirement in College of Liberal Arts curricula. Prerequisites: PSYC 107; MATH 141/166 or equivalent; major in psychology.

204. Experimental Psychology. (2-3). Credit 3. Research techniques in psychology with emphasis on the experimental method. Laboratory exercises applied to specific problems in psychology. Prerequisites: PSYC 107 and 203; major in psychology.

300. Psychology of Women. (3-0). Credit 3. Theoretical and research literature relevant to psychological assumptions about the female personality. How these assumptions are being questioned or verified by recent experimental studies. Prerequisite: PSYC 107. Cross-listed with WMST 300.

304. Psychology of Sport and Physical Activity. (3-0). Credit 3. The relationship of psychology to sport; topics include history, application of learning principles, social psychology, personality variables, psychological assessment, youth sport, women in sport, the psychology of coaching, sports law and ethics. Prerequisite: Junior classification. Cross-listed with KINE 304.

305. Psychology of Adjustment. (3-0). Credit 3. Adjustment problems of normal people; application of psychological principles to family, school and community life.

306. Abnormal Psychology. (3-0). Credit 3. Survey of behavior pathology; functional and organic psychoses, psychoneurosis, character disorders, psychophysiological disorders, alcohol and drug addiction and mental retardation; therapeutic and diagnostic methods. Prerequisite: Junior classification or PSYC 203 and 204.

307. Developmental Psychology. (3-0). Credit 3. Growth and development of the normal child from infancy to adolescence with emphasis on elementary school years. Prerequisites: PSYC 107; PSYC 203 and 204 or junior classification.

311. Comparative Psychology. (3-0). Credit 3. Survey of problems, principles, and methods of animal psychology; animal learning, motivation, discriminative processes and abnormal, social and instinctual behaviors. Prerequisites: PSYC 107; PSYC 203 and 204 or junior classification. Cross-listed with NRSC 311.

315. Social Psychology. (3-0). Credit 3. Social psychological variables operating on the individual; results of experimental laboratory findings; interaction of personality and social behavior. Prerequisite: PSYC 107; PSYC 203 and 204 or junior classification.

319. History and Systems of Psychology. (3-0). Credit 3. Historical analysis of pre-scientific psychology in philosophy and psychology through the period of the psychological "schools." Prerequisites: PSYC 107.