

CAREER ORIENTATION OVERLAY: **COOL FOR BEHAVIORAL NEUROSCIENCE**

The COOL for Behavioral neuroscience emphasizes the experimental and biological aspects of psychology and the behavioral sciences. In addition to the requirements for the psychology major, this COOL specifies required courses in other scientific disciplines. This COOL is designed for psychology majors who wish to (1) pursue careers in the neuroscience (Psychobiology, Neuroscience) and/or (2) pursue advanced degrees in medicine or other health professions. Thus, students who select this COOL course selection will be prepared for admission to professional schools (medicine, dentistry) or to graduate programs in psychology or neuroscience. [Students are strongly encouraged to contact prospective professional schools for specific program admission requirements].

Behavioral neuroscience can be defined as the study and experimental understanding of behavior (primarily in humans) from a biological and neural perspective. In order to better understand behavior from this scientific perspective, students should take a wide range of science courses, especially in biology/zoology and chemistry. In addition to having a better understanding of the brain and body processes that influence behavior (processes which are themselves often changed by behavior), such a curriculum prepares a student for an alternative career in medicine. At the very least, no modern psychologist can hope to understand human behavior without considering the influence and impact of biology and neuroscience.

Departmental Requirements: Required of ALL Psychology Majors

The Department of Psychology requires at least 30 credits in psychology, which must include Psych 111 (Introduction to Psychology), Psych 350 (Research Methods I), and Psych 351 (Research Methods II). In addition, the department requires successful completion of an elementary statistics course (Stat 330), Computer Science 147 or equivalent, and 15 credits of courses in psychology at the 400 level (e.g., five courses). See “Degree Programs for Majors in Psychology” located in the advising center for specific information regarding psychology requirements for 400 level courses.

Psych 465 (Psychobiology) and Psychology 486 (Neuropsychology) are a requirement of this COOL.

NOTE: Many of the science courses in this COOL are early in the track in order to prepare students for later (advanced) course work AND as preparation for professional school admission examinations. It is strongly recommended that a student following this COOL maintains regular contact with his/her advisor, and checks with professional schools regarding admission requirements.

Biology	150 (General Biology)
Chemistry	121, 122 (General Chemistry I & II)
Chem Lab	121L, 122L (General Chem Lab I & II)

Chemistry 341, 342 (Organic Chemistry I & II)
Chem Lab 341L, 342L, (Organic Chem Lab I & II)
Mathematics 103 (College Algebra or 146 (Calculus)
(Some med schools require a calculus course)
Phys 211, 212 (General Physics I & II)
Physics Lab 211L, 212L (General Physics Lab I & II)
Zoology 170 (General Zoology)
Zoology 315 (Genetics with Lab 315L)

Highly recommended Courses:

Biochemistry	460	Foundations of Biochemistry I
Microbiology	350	General Microbiology
Microbiology	350L	General Microbiology Lab
Psychology	260	Intro to Neuroscience
Zoology	280	Comparative Chordate Morphology
Zoology	370	Cell Biology
Zoology	380	Vertebrate Histology

Recommended Courses for students bound for Graduate School:

For students planning to attend graduate school, Psych 440 (Experimental Methods) is highly recommended. These students should also get research experience by volunteering as a research assistant for a faculty member. This research experience can be taken for Psych 497 (Independent Study) course credit.