Transfer Student Guidebook for Students Entering 2019-2020

Professional Academic Advisor: Courtney Glass
109 Williams Hall
540-231-8148
psycadvising@vt.edu

Director of Undergraduate Studies: Dr. Kurt Hoffman
123 Williams Hall
540-231-4005
psycadvising@vt.edu

Department Web address: http://www.psyc.vt.edu/

Your Faculty Advisor:
# Table of Contents

- Academic Advising Information .................................................. 3-4
- 2019-2020 Academic Calendar ..................................................... 5-6
- Psychology Department Contacts ................................................ 7
- Common Student Resources ......................................................... 8
- University Curriculum for Liberal Education, and College of Science Requirements .................................................. 9
- Psychology Major Requirements ................................................... 10
- Additional Requirements and Notes .............................................. 11
- Graduation Checklist for Psychology Majors .................................. 12-13
- Example Plan of Study ................................................................. 14
- Psychology as Part of a Double Major of Dual Degree ..................... 15
- Psychology Minor Requirements .................................................. 15
- Satisfactory Progress ................................................................. 15
- Psychology Undergraduate Courses ............................................ 16
- Special Courses ........................................................................... 17
- Field Study .................................................................................. 17
- Undergraduate Research .............................................................. 18
- Independent Study ....................................................................... 18
- Virginia Tech Undergraduate Honor System ................................ 19
- The Value of Organization .......................................................... 19
- Common Policies and Procedures ............................................... 20-21
- Undergraduate Honors College ................................................... 22
- Internships and Cooperative Education ........................................ 22
- Undergraduate Organizations in Psychology ................................ 23
Academic Advising Information

Every student with Psychology as their primary major is assigned a faculty advisor as their primary advisor. Their information is on the front of this booklet or you can go to Hokie Spa, then View your General Student Information

- Your faculty advisor will have office hour each semester dedicated to advising. These will be posted on their doors each semester.
- You can also e-mail them or psycadvising@vt.edu if you have questions that don’t require a meeting.

Secondary Majors and Minors are assigned to Courtney Glass, our Professional Academic Advisor.

The Undergraduate Advising Office in 109 Williams Hall (psycadvising@vt.edu) is a secondary resource for primary majors and a primary resource for second majors and minors. Also, notices of interest such as new courses and internship/employment opportunities will be sent via e-mail.

University Advising Mission per the Undergraduate Academic Advising Center (https://advising.vt.edu/advising-resources/advising-mission.html)

Advising at Virginia Tech is a collaborative process between student and advisor leading to the exchange of information that encourages the individual student to make responsible academic and career decisions.

Philosophy
Virginia Tech demonstrates a commitment to advising through recognizing and supporting the needs of students and advisors. Each undergraduate student at the University is provided information and assistance, which aids the individual student in making responsible academic and career decisions. Each advisor is provided the necessary tools to respond to student needs and the opportunity to be recognized and rewarded for exemplary advising. Virginia Tech, in support of this philosophy will provide student focused advising and assist students in developing skills that lead them to take active responsibility for the advising process.

Statement of University Responsibility

Statement of Student Responsibility
The student shares the responsibility for developing an advising partnership with the advisor. Over time, the partnership results in increased responsibility for the student. The student will:

- Communicating goals, needs, wants, and concerns to the advisor in a respectful and sincere manner;
- Keeping abreast of their own academic progress and requirements related to their academic program;
- Making, keeping, and being prepared for appointments with advisor;
- Informing the advisor of changes in plans and/or circumstances that might impact academic performance;
- Knowing departmental procedures for changing advisors; and
- Bringing concerns regarding quality of advising to the attention of the advisor
Statement of Advisor Responsibility
The advisor shares the responsibility for developing an advising partnership with undergraduate students. This is achieved through the advisor:

- Communicating with students and delivering individualized and accurate information in a professional sincere manner;
- Being informed of, and providing accurate information about current academic policies and procedures;
- Keeping appointments and being available for assistance;
- Providing appropriate referrals, contacts, and information;
- Doing appropriate follow-up with students; and
- Seeking out and taking advantage of opportunities for professional development.

Preparing to meet with your academic advisor per the Undergraduate Academic Advising Center (https://advising.vt.edu/advising-resources/advising-tools/preparing-meet-advisor.html):

Because advising is a critical part of success at Virginia Tech, every student is assigned an academic advisor. The relationship between you and your advisor is one of shared responsibility. Though you are ultimately responsible for the choices you make in college, in order to make informed decisions you need the mentoring and advice of academic advisors and others in the University community. Your advisor is your primary resource regarding academic issues, opportunities, and programs.

Another great advising resource for general advising information/questions is https://advising.vt.edu/.
## 2019-2020 Academic Calendar
(*based on published calendar at time of printing. Subject to change per the VT Registrar)*


### Fall 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday, Aug. 26</td>
<td>Classes Begin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, Aug. 30</td>
<td>Last day to add classes, field study, UR or IS hours, and add/drop audit option</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, Sept. 2</td>
<td>Labor Day (No Classes - University Offices Closed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, Oct. 4</td>
<td>Fall Break (No Classes - University Offices Open)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, Oct. 7</td>
<td>Last day to resign without penalty and change grading option from P/F to A-F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, Oct. 8</td>
<td>Last day to web drop a course. *consult your advisor before doing this</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, Oct. 21</td>
<td>Web Course Request Opens for Spring 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, Oct. 29</td>
<td>Web Course Request closes for Spring 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, Nov. 20</td>
<td>Final Exam Change Deadline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, Nov. 23</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Holiday Begins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, Nov. 30</td>
<td>Web Drop/Add for Spring 2020 begins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, Dec. 1</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Holiday Ends</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, Dec. 6</td>
<td>Opening of Course Request for Summer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, Dec. 11</td>
<td>Course Withdrawal Deadline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, Dec. 12</td>
<td>Reading Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, Dec. 13</td>
<td>Beginning of Fall Final Exams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, Dec. 19</td>
<td>Close of Fall Final Exams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, Dec. 20</td>
<td>Fall University and Commencement Ceremonies</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Winter 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, Aug. 1</td>
<td>Drop/Add Opens for Winter 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, Dec. 26</td>
<td>Classes Begin <em>(Virtual, Blended or Winter Experience)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, Jan. 3</td>
<td>Classes Begin <em>(Residential)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, Jan. 17</td>
<td>Course Withdrawal Deadline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, Jan. 17</td>
<td>Classes End</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, Jan. 18</td>
<td>Exam Day</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Spring 2020

Monday  Jan. 20  Martin Luther King Holiday (No Classes - University Offices Closed)
Tuesday  Jan. 21  Classes begin
Monday  Jan. 27  Last day to add classes, field study, UR or IS hours, and to add/drop audit option.
Friday  Feb.  7  Closing of Web Course Request for Summer 2020
Friday  Feb. 28  Last day to resign without grade penalty and change grade option from P/F to A-F.
Monday  Mar.  2  Last day for students to web drop course. *consult your advisor before doing this
              Last day to change grade option from A-F to P/F
Saturday Mar.  7  Spring Break begins
Saturday Mar. 14  Web Drop/Add begins for Summer 2020
Sunday  Mar. 15  Spring Break ends
Tuesday Mar. 24  Opening of Web Course Request for Fall Semester 2020
Tuesday Mar. 31  Close of Web Course Request for Fall Semester 2020
Saturday Apr. 18  Web Drop/Add begins for Fall Semester 2020
Wednesday Apr. 22  Final Exam Change Deadline
Wednesday May  6  Last day to apply for W grade policy
              Classes End
Thursday May  7  Reading Day
Friday  May  8  Beginning of Spring Semester final examinations
Wednesday May 13  Close of Spring Semester final examinations
Thursday May 14  Graduate Commencement Ceremony and Senior Day
Friday  May 15  University Commencement and College and Departmental Ceremonies.
Saturday May 16  College and Departmental Commencement Ceremonies

Summer I 2020

Tuesday May 26  Classes begin
Thursday May 28  Last day for students to add classes and to add or drop audit option.
Friday  May 29  Web Drop/Add closes for Fall 2020
Monday  Jun.  8  Last day for students to web drop First Summer Session classes without grade penalty.
Monday  Jun.  8  Last day to change grade option from A-F to P/F by 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday Jun. 16  Last day for students to resign without grade penalty.
              Last day to change grade option from P/F to A-F by 5:00 p.m.
Thursday Jul.  2  Last day to apply for W grade policy
Thursday Jul.  2  Classes end for First Summer
Friday  Jul.  3  Independence Day (University Offices Closed)
Monday  Jul.  6  Beginning of First Summer final examinations
Tuesday Jul.  7  Close of First Summer final examinations

Summer II 2020

Wednesday Jul.  8  Classes begin
Friday  Jul. 10  Last day for students to add classes and to add or drop audit option.
Tuesday Jul. 21  Last day for students to web drop Second Summer Session classes without grade penalty.
Tuesday Jul. 21  Last day to change grade option from A-F to P/F by 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday Jul. 29  Last day for students to resign without grade penalty.
Wednesday Jul. 29  Last day to change grade option from P/F to A-F by 5:00 p.m.
Monday  Aug.  3  Web Drop/Add Re-Opens for Fall 2020
Friday  Aug. 14  Last day to apply for W grade policy
Friday  Aug. 14  Classes end for Second Summer
Saturday Aug. 15  Beginning of Second Summer final examinations
Monday  Aug. 17  Close of Second Summer final examinations
# Psychology Department Contacts

## Psychology Department Main Office and Advising Office - 109 Williams Hall

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>E-mail</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Roseanne Foti</td>
<td>Department Chair</td>
<td>540-231-5814</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rfo@vt.edu">rfo@vt.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michelle Wooddell</td>
<td>Executive Secretary</td>
<td>540-231-9627</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mwo@vt.edu">mwo@vt.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Courtney Glass</td>
<td>Professional Academic</td>
<td>540-231-8148</td>
<td><a href="mailto:clynnibr@vt.edu">clynnibr@vt.edu</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Psychology Department Faculty

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Name</th>
<th>Office Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Office Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Axsom, Danny</td>
<td>540-231-6495</td>
<td><a href="mailto:axsom@vt.edu">axsom@vt.edu</a></td>
<td>313 Williams Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bell, Martha Ann</td>
<td>540-231-2546</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mabell@vt.edu">mabell@vt.edu</a></td>
<td>333 Williams Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bickel, Warren</td>
<td>540-526-2088</td>
<td><a href="mailto:wkbickel@vt.edu">wkbickel@vt.edu</a></td>
<td>VTCRI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calderwood, Charles</td>
<td>540-231-6342</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ccharl2@vt.edu">ccharl2@vt.edu</a></td>
<td>215 Williams Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cate, Anthony</td>
<td>540-231-1811</td>
<td><a href="mailto:acate@vt.edu">acate@vt.edu</a></td>
<td>131 Williams Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chiu, Pearl</td>
<td>540-526-2019</td>
<td><a href="mailto:chiup@vt.edu">chiup@vt.edu</a></td>
<td>VTCRI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clum, George</td>
<td>540-231-5701</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gclum@vt.edu">gclum@vt.edu</a></td>
<td>317 Williams Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooper, Lee</td>
<td>540-231-7709</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ldcoop@vt.edu">ldcoop@vt.edu</a></td>
<td>Psychological Services Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diana, Rachel</td>
<td>540-231-1913</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rdiana@vt.edu">rdiana@vt.edu</a></td>
<td>335 Williams Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diaz, Vanessa</td>
<td>540-231-0973</td>
<td><a href="mailto:vdia@vt.edu">vdia@vt.edu</a></td>
<td>235 Williams Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dunsmore, Julie</td>
<td>540-231-4201</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jrunsmor@vt.edu">jrunsmor@vt.edu</a></td>
<td>323 Williams Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finney, Jack</td>
<td>540-231-6122</td>
<td><a href="mailto:finney@vt.edu">finney@vt.edu</a></td>
<td>Office of the Provost</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foti, Roseanne</td>
<td>540-231-5814</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rfo@vt.edu">rfo@vt.edu</a></td>
<td>109 Williams Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friedman, Bruce</td>
<td>540-231-9611</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bmfriedm@vt.edu">bmfriedm@vt.edu</a></td>
<td>221 Williams Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geller, E. Scott</td>
<td>540-231-6223</td>
<td><a href="mailto:esgeller@vt.edu">esgeller@vt.edu</a></td>
<td>213 Williams Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harrison, David</td>
<td>540-231-4422</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dwh@vt.edu">dwh@vt.edu</a></td>
<td>231 Williams Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hauenstein, Neil</td>
<td>540-231-5716</td>
<td><a href="mailto:nhau@vt.edu">nhau@vt.edu</a></td>
<td>315 Williams Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hernandez, Ivan</td>
<td>540-231-1382</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ivanhernandez@vt.edu">ivanhernandez@vt.edu</a></td>
<td>135 Williams Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hoffman, Kurt</td>
<td>540-231-4005</td>
<td><a href="mailto:hoff@vt.edu">hoff@vt.edu</a></td>
<td>123 Williams Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jones, Russell T</td>
<td>540-231-5934</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rtjones@vt.edu">rtjones@vt.edu</a></td>
<td>137 Williams Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kim-Spoon, Jungmeen</td>
<td>540-231-0951</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jungmeen@vt.edu">jungmeen@vt.edu</a></td>
<td>233 Williams Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King-Casas, Brooks</td>
<td>540-526-2009</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bkcasas@vt.edu">bkcasas@vt.edu</a></td>
<td>VTCRI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lee, Tae-Ho</td>
<td>540-231-6174</td>
<td><a href="mailto:taehol@vt.edu">taehol@vt.edu</a></td>
<td>223 Williams Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Means-Christensen, Adrienne</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:adriennemc@vt.edu">adriennemc@vt.edu</a></td>
<td>Child Study Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ollendick, Thomas</td>
<td>540-231-6451</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tho@vt.edu">tho@vt.edu</a></td>
<td>133 Williams Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panneton, Robin</td>
<td>540-231-5938</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cooperr@vt.edu">cooperr@vt.edu</a></td>
<td>VTCRI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ramey, Craig</td>
<td>540-526-2033</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cramsey@vt.edu">cramsey@vt.edu</a></td>
<td>321 Williams Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ramey, Sharon Landesman</td>
<td>540-526-2033</td>
<td><a href="mailto:slramey@vt.edu">slramey@vt.edu</a></td>
<td>331 Williams Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richey, John</td>
<td>540-231-1453</td>
<td><a href="mailto:richey@vt.edu">richey@vt.edu</a></td>
<td>217 Williams Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scarpa, Angela</td>
<td>540-231-2615</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ascarrow@vt.edu">ascarrow@vt.edu</a></td>
<td>319 Williams Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephens, Robert</td>
<td>540-231-6304</td>
<td><a href="mailto:stephens@vt.edu">stephens@vt.edu</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winett, Richard</td>
<td>540-231-6275</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rswinett@vt.edu">rswinett@vt.edu</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Common Student Resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Office</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Website</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
<th>E-mail</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Career and Professional Development Office</td>
<td>Smith Career Center</td>
<td><a href="https://career.vt.edu/">https://career.vt.edu/</a></td>
<td>540-231-6241</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cpd@vt.edu">cpd@vt.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College of Science Dean’s Office</td>
<td>North End Center, Suite 4300</td>
<td><a href="https://www.science.vt.edu/">https://www.science.vt.edu/</a></td>
<td>540-231-5422</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cosadvising@vt.edu">cosadvising@vt.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cook Counseling Center</td>
<td>240 McComas Hall</td>
<td><a href="https://www.ucc.vt.edu/">https://www.ucc.vt.edu/</a></td>
<td>540-231-6557</td>
<td><a href="mailto:counseling@vt.edu">counseling@vt.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dean of Students Office</td>
<td>1st Floor, Cochrane Hall</td>
<td><a href="https://www.dos.vt.edu/">https://www.dos.vt.edu/</a></td>
<td>540-231-3787</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dean.students@vt.edu">dean.students@vt.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global Education Office</td>
<td>Global Education Office</td>
<td><a href="https://www.globaleducation.vt.edu/Homepage.html">https://www.globaleducation.vt.edu/Homepage.html</a></td>
<td>540-231-5888</td>
<td><a href="mailto:vtabroad@vt.edu">vtabroad@vt.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hokie wellness</td>
<td>195 McComas Hall</td>
<td><a href="https://hokiewellness.vt.edu/">https://hokiewellness.vt.edu/</a></td>
<td>540-231-2233</td>
<td><a href="mailto:hokiewellness@vt.edu">hokiewellness@vt.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honors College</td>
<td>116 Hillcrest Hall</td>
<td><a href="https://honorscollege.vt.edu/">https://honorscollege.vt.edu/</a></td>
<td>540-231-4591</td>
<td><a href="mailto:honors@vt.edu">honors@vt.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schiffert Health Center</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="https://www.healthcenter.vt.edu/">https://www.healthcenter.vt.edu/</a></td>
<td>540-231-6444</td>
<td><a href="mailto:heathcenter@vt.edu">heathcenter@vt.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholarships and Financial Aid Services for Students with Disabilities “SSD”</td>
<td>200 Student Services Building</td>
<td><a href="https://finaid.vt.edu/">https://finaid.vt.edu/</a></td>
<td>540-231-5179</td>
<td><a href="mailto:finaid@vt.edu">finaid@vt.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Affairs</td>
<td>310 Lavery Hall</td>
<td><a href="https://www.ssd.vt.edu/">https://www.ssd.vt.edu/</a></td>
<td>540-231-3788</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ssd@vt.edu">ssd@vt.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Success Center</td>
<td>112 Buruss Hall</td>
<td><a href="https://students.vt.edu/">https://students.vt.edu/</a></td>
<td>540-231-6272</td>
<td><a href="mailto:studentaffairs@vt.edu">studentaffairs@vt.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Success Center</td>
<td>110 Femoyer Hall</td>
<td><a href="https://studentsuccess.vt.edu/">https://studentsuccess.vt.edu/</a></td>
<td>540-231-5499</td>
<td><a href="mailto:studentsuccess@vt.edu">studentsuccess@vt.edu</a>, <a href="mailto:tutoring@vt.edu">tutoring@vt.edu</a>, <a href="mailto:bursar@vt.edu">bursar@vt.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University Bursar</td>
<td>150 Student Services Building</td>
<td><a href="https://www.bursar.vt.edu/">https://www.bursar.vt.edu/</a></td>
<td>540-231-6277</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bursar@vt.edu">bursar@vt.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University Libraries</td>
<td>Carol M. Newman Library</td>
<td><a href="https://lib.vt.edu/">https://lib.vt.edu/</a></td>
<td>540-231-9232</td>
<td><a href="mailto:registrar@vt.edu">registrar@vt.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University Registrar</td>
<td>250 Student Services Building</td>
<td><a href="https://registrar.vt.edu/">https://registrar.vt.edu/</a></td>
<td>540-231-6252</td>
<td><a href="mailto:registrar@vt.edu">registrar@vt.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VT Well Being</td>
<td>112 Buruss Hall</td>
<td><a href="https://well-being.vt.edu/">https://well-being.vt.edu/</a></td>
<td>540-231-6272</td>
<td><a href="mailto:well-being@vt.edu">well-being@vt.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing Center</td>
<td>Carol M. Newman Library</td>
<td><a href="https://lib.vt.edu/spaces/writing-center.html">https://lib.vt.edu/spaces/writing-center.html</a></td>
<td>540-231-5436</td>
<td><a href="mailto:writingcenter@vt.edu">writingcenter@vt.edu</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
To graduate with a major in psychology, students must complete the following requirements for the University Curriculum for Liberal Education and the College of Science. If you have a second major, you need to complete requirements for both or seek possible course substitutions. Meeting requirements for one does not necessarily satisfy both.

The University Curriculum for Liberal Education approved courses are listed on the Course Timetable under “Curriculum for Liberal Education”; you can find courses for each of the 7 areas listed below. You can also find a CLE guide by going to this page (https://www.pathways.prov.vt.edu/cle.html).

- **AREA 1** - Writing and Discourse - successfully complete 6 credit hours of first year writing courses, English 1105 and 1106.
  - COMM 1015-1016 satisfies this area only for students transferring into PSYC from majors requiring this sequence or double majoring in COMM Studies.

- **AREA 2** - Ideas, Cultural Traditions and Values - successfully complete 6 credit hours from the University approved list (see CLE Guide).
  - Courses used in this area cannot also fulfill other CLE Areas (ex.: a course approved as an Area 2 that is also listed in Area 6 can only fulfill one or the other area).
  - PHIL classes in this area can only be used here OR our CS/Stat/Phil area, not both.

- **AREA 3** - Society and Human Behavior - successfully complete 6 credit hours from the University approved list (see CLE Guide). **Psychology majors meet this requirement with psychology courses required for the major.**

- **AREA 4** - Scientific Reasoning and Discovery - successfully complete 8 credit hours (6 lecture + 2 lab) of natural sciences in a sequence listed below, they must be from the same discipline. These hours do NOT also count for Psychology major science hours.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Biological Sciences</th>
<th>Geosciences</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1105+1115 and 1106+1116</td>
<td>1004+1104 and/either 1014 OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(1005-1015 and 1006-1016 only if transferred in upon admission or taken here in a different major)</td>
<td>1024+1124</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chemistry</th>
<th>Physics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1015+1025 and 1016+1026</td>
<td>2205+2215 and 2206+2216 OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1035+1045 and 1036+1046</td>
<td>2305-2306</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **AREA 5** - Quantitative and Symbolic Reasoning - successfully complete 6 credit hours of mathematical sciences:
  - For Psychology majors: Math 1014-1025
    - *Pre-Med and Pre-Health programs often require MATH 1025-1026
  - One Math and one Stat WILL NOT fulfill this requirement for PSYC majors. MASC courses will not fulfill this area.
  - Higher-level sequences may be substituted if taken in a previous major or required for an additional major.

- **AREA 6** - Creativity and Aesthetic Experience - successfully complete one 3-credit course from University approved list (see CLE Guide). A 1-hour course required in some other colleges will NOT fulfill this area in our College.

- **AREA 7** - Critical Issues in a Global Context - successfully complete 3 credit hours from the University approved list (see CLE Guide). Courses taken to satisfy this University Core requirement that are also listed as satisfying another CLE area will fulfill both area requirements. This is the only CLE area where that is the case!
Psychology Major Requirements

To graduate with a major in Psychology, a student must successfully complete:

- **The following 2 specific Psychology courses:**
  - PSYC 1004 (Introductory Psychology)
  - PSYC 1094 (Principles of Psych Research)*
  * Research courses in a few other departments will sub for this course for students transferring into Psychology or double majoring in Psychology and another area.

- **PSYC 1024 (Psychology Majors Pathways)** – First year students are automatically enrolled for their first semester. It does NOT count as one of the required PSYC electives listed below and is NOT required for students changing into or adding a PSYC major later. PSYC 2024 is strongly encouraged for incoming Transfer students.

- **Two of the following courses:** Psychology 2034, 2044, 2064, 2084

- **2 Elective courses in Psychology** at the 2000 or 3000 level (more are encouraged; only 2 are required; note that 3000s are not prerequisites for required 4000s). *PSYC 2964, 4964 may NOT be used to satisfy this requirement.

- **10 credits of Psychology courses at the 4000-level** (1 lecture with corresponding 1-credit lab, 1 lecture of your choice [based on prereqs met], and 1 Senior Seminar). PSYC 4964 may NOT be used to satisfy this requirement.

- **One 3-hour Statistics course from the following**: *
  - STAT 2004 (Introductory Statistics)(see Caution below)
  - STAT 3604 (Statistics for the Social Sciences)
  - STAT 3615 (Biological Statistics)

*If you have taken a higher level statistics course, please go to 109 Williams to request a Course Substitution.

- **6 Hours of Natural Science in Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Geological Science, or Environmental Science.** These courses are **in addition to** the CLE Requirements for Area 4.
  - Must be two 3-hour courses in a single discipline (2 Bio classes, or 2 Physics, or 2 Chemistry, or 2 Geoscience, or 2 Environmental Science). They can be additional courses from the discipline used in Area 4 or can be two courses from a different discipline than that in Area 4.

- **6 Hours from Computer Science, Statistics or Philosophy.** These courses are **in addition to** fulfilled CLE Requirements for Area 2 if you take Philosophy courses in this area, and to the 3-hour Statistics requirement listed above.
  - Note: You may combine courses from these three areas (e.g., 3 credit hours of CS and 3 credit hours of PHIL) or take two 3-hour courses in the same area.

**CAUTION:** The Statistics Department does not allow credit for lower-level statistics courses if taken after higher-level courses. This can be a problem for 3604, if taken after 3005; and it is a problem for 2004 if taken after almost any other statistics course.

**These requirements are for transfer students entering Virginia Tech during the 2019-2020 academic year**
Additional Requirements and Notes:

- Students must complete a MINIMUM of **120 hours** with a **QCA of 2.00** or above. Of the 120 minimum hours required for graduation in the College of Science, a student may count no more than 12 hours of Independent Study and/or Undergraduate Research (2974, 2994, 4974, 4994) toward those 120. More hours of those courses may be taken but will not count toward the minimum 120.

- Students who did not successfully complete at least two years of a single foreign, classical, or sign language during high school must successfully complete six semester hours of a single foreign, classical, or sign language at the college level. Courses taken to meet this requirement do not count toward the hours required for graduation.

- **No course used to fulfill major, minor, or University/Liberal Education curriculum requirements may be taken pass/fail unless only offered pass/fail.**

- Only students with QCAs of 2.5 or above who have completed at least 30 credit hours at VA Tech may take elective courses pass/fail (unless the course is only offered P/F). Students may take no more than 10% of the hours taken at VA Tech on a pass/fail basis, with a maximum of 12 hours. The 10% limit includes courses only offered P/F. More than the 12-hour maximum P/F hours may be taken, but they WILL NOT count toward the 120 minimum for graduation.

- **NOTE** about pass/fail credits: Only Virginia Tech credits are used to calculate the 10%. If you have transfer hours for classes taken at other colleges and universities (AP credits do NOT apply here), you must subtract these credits from 120 to calculate the number of pass/fail credits you may take and count toward graduation.

- No single course may be used to satisfy more than one of the requirements for areas 1 through 6, the foreign language requirement, and Psychology major requirements (the exception being PSYC courses in Area 3 will satisfy that area and major requirements). In some cases, a course used to fulfill Area 7 may also count as a requirement for Areas 1 through 6 OR possibly for a Psych Major requirement if listed as fulfilling both areas, but not all 3 (2 Areas and the PSYC major).
Graduation Checklist for Psychology Majors

- 120 semester hours minimum (plan to take more!)

- 2.00 GPA
  (If you’re planning to attend a professional/graduate program you will need a higher GPA to be competitive)

- Foreign Language requirement: 2 years of a single language from high school or two semesters of a single language at Virginia Tech

No more than 10% of Virginia Tech hours taken pass/fail

Curriculum for Liberal Education Requirements:

- AREA 1- Writing and Discourse requirement (6 hours)
- AREA 2- Ideas, Cultural Traditions and Values requirement (6 hours)
- AREA 3- Society and Human Behavior requirement (met by Intro Psych plus 2034, 2044, 2054, 2064, 2084, or 3014 classes)
- AREA 4- Scientific Reasoning and Discovery requirement (8 Hours)
  _____Course _____Lab _____Course _____Lab
- AREA 5- Quantitative and Symbolic Reasoning requirement (6 hours)
- AREA 6- Creativity and Aesthetic Experience requirement (3 hours)
- AREA 7- Critical Issues in a Global Context (3 hours)
Psychology Major Requirements:

- A GPA of at least 2.0 in psychology courses (If you’re planning to attend a professional/graduate program you will need a higher GPA to be competitive)
- PSYC 1004 (Introductory Psychology; formerly 2004)
- PSYC 1094 (Principles of Psych Research; formerly 2094)
- PSYC 1024/2024 (Psychology Majors Pathways) (1st-time Freshmen/Transfers)
- Two of the following four courses: PSYC 2034, 2044, 2064, 2084
- Two Psychology Elective courses at the 2000/3000 levels
- 10 credits of Psychology at the 4000-level (1 lecture course with corresponding 1-credit lab)
  - Lecture course with corresponding 1-credit lab; &
  - Senior Seminar
  - 4000 Level Lecture
- Statistics Requirement (2004, 3604, or 3615)
- 6 hours of Science in Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Geosciences, or Environmental Sciences in addition to Area 4 (all 6 required hours must be within the same discipline)
- 6 hours in Computer Science, Philosophy or Statistics (the six hours can come from a combination of two disciplines or be in the same discipline) in addition to the above STAT requirement and any PHIL course that might be taken for area 2

An additional 45-48 credit hours in courses of your choice will be needed to reach the 120 hours minimum required to graduate from Virginia Tech (can be more courses in major, courses toward a minor or 2nd major, or just courses of interest).

**It is strongly suggested that you plan for and take more than 120 hours** to allow for course withdrawals, a failed course, course duplications, too many p/f hours, and other things that may come up that could lower the number of credits toward graduation.

While not required to graduate, Field Study, Independent Study, and Undergraduate Research experiences are highly valued by employers and are required by graduate schools as supplements to coursework. Explanations of these options can be found near the end of this guide.
Example Plan of Study

The following is a strongly recommended Plan of Study for completing your degree in a balanced, timely manner:

- Finishing CLE classes by around the end of the second year is strongly suggested, particularly if you might declare a second major, as many of our students do.

- The timing of the 4000-level Psyc courses is set in that they cannot be taken until 60 semester hours have been completed (i.e., you can register your 1st semester of junior year to take one in the 2nd semester of junior year if you have 60 hours done at the end of your sophomore year).

- The 4000s should not all be taken in a single semester. If taken in two instead of the suggested three semesters, the 4000 with lab can be taken in one semester and the seminar and last 4000 taken together in one semester. Taking more than 3 lower-level psychology courses in one semester is probably not a good idea, as there might be enough overlap between subjects to cause confusion.

### Fall Year One***
- Psychology 1004 (major & Area 3)
- Bio, Chem, Geos, Phys (with lab) (Area 4)
- English 1105 (Area 1)
- Math 1014 (1025 pre-med/pre-health) (Area 5)
- First-Year Experience course

### Fall Year Two
- Area 2, 6, or 7 course of your choice
- Psychology 2034, 2044, 2064, or 2084
- Psychology elective
- Additional Science (Major requirement)
- Free elective for graduation hours

### Fall Year Three
- Psychology elective
- Comp Sci/Stat/Philosophy choice
- Area 2, 6, or 7 course of your choice
- Free elective
- Free elective

### Fall Year Four
- 4000-level Psych course
- Free elective
- Free elective
- Free elective
- Free elective

### Spring Year One
- Psychology 1094 (major)
- Bio, Chem, Geos, Phys (with lab) (Area 4)
- English 1106 (Area 1)
- Math 1025 (1026 pre-med/pre-health) (Area 5)
- Area 2, 6, or 7 course of your choice

### Spring Year Two
- Area 2, 6, or 7 course of your choice
- Psychology 2034, 2044, 2064, or 2084
- Additional Science (Major requirement)
- STAT 2004, 3604, or 3615 (Major requirement)
- Free elective for graduation hours

### Spring Year Three
- 4000-level Psychology course + 1-cr. lab
- Comp Sci/Stat/Philosophy choice
- Free elective
- Free elective
- Free elective

### Spring Year Four
- 4000-level Psych course
- Free elective
- Free elective
- Free elective
- Free elective

Note: Taking 15 hours each academic-year semester yields 120 hours (the minimum necessary for graduation) after 4 years of enrollment.

It also gives students the required number of hours at the end of each year to move to the next academic level and be able to register for the next level of courses (30 hours complete = sophomore standing; 60 hours = junior; 90 hours = senior). See discussion on the previous page about planning to take more than 120 hours.
Psychology as Part of A Double Major or Dual Degree

*If you declare Psychology as your FIRST Major:*
- Students with psychology as their first or primary major will be assigned a specific faculty advisor in the Psychology Department. Although we want you to see your primary faculty advisor regularly, you may also use the Office of Undergraduate Advising (109 Williams) to answer questions. Upon graduation, you will receive a diploma in psychology.

*If you declare Psychology as your SECOND Major or as a DUAL DEGREE:*
- Students with psychology as their secondary major will keep a primary advisor in their primary major and use the Office of Undergraduate Advising (109 Williams) to answer any questions about psychology.

When you graduate, only the first major will be printed on your diploma. The second major is acknowledged on your transcript, but is NOT printed on the diploma. DUAL DEGREE is another option. It requires an extra 30 hours of coursework (generally 150 total), and can be a good option for students who enter Virginia Tech with a lot of AP or dual enrollment credit. If you apply for dual degree on Hokie Spa, and set the graduation date for the second degree, you will receive a diploma in each major, and will graduate with two separate degrees. If the degrees are completed in different terms, the first should be applied for as First Degree for its completion date, the second applied for a First Degree for its different completion date.

**Psychology Minor Requirements**

If you switch majors but want to keep Psychology as a minor, you must declare such with the Psychology Department (109 Williams).

To graduate with a minor in psychology, a student must successfully complete 18 semester hours in psychology, including:

- PSYC 1004 (Introductory Psychology); AND
- PSYC 1094 (Principles of Psychological Research);
- One of the following — PSYC 2034 (Developmental Psychology), 2044 (Psychology of Learning), 2064 (Introduction to Neuroscience of Behavior), OR 2084 (Social Psychology)
- One more lower-level three-credit Psych courses of your choice
- Two three-hour psychology courses at the 3000-level or above (field study hours cannot be used for this requirement)

**Satisfactory Progress**

For Psychology Majors, satisfactory progress toward the BS in Psychology requires that:

- Upon having attempted 30 semester hours (including transfer, advanced placement, advanced standing, credit by examination), students must have completed 12 semester credits that apply to the Curriculum for Liberal Education, PSYC 1004 and have an overall GPA of 2.00.
- Upon having attempted 72 semester hours, students must have completed 24 semester credits that apply to the Curriculum for Liberal Education and have an overall GPA of 2.00. Also, PSYC 1004, PSYC 1094, an additional 3 hr. PSYC course, and a 3 hr. course in Statistics, must be completed.
- Upon having attempted 96 semester hours, students must have completed all Curriculum for Liberal Education Courses and have an overall GPA of 2.00.

Failure to make satisfactory progress in the degree could result in a probationary status in or dismissal from the major.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Number</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
<th>Pre-requisites</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 1004</td>
<td>Introductory Psychology</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 1024/2024</td>
<td>First-Year Experience Course for incoming First-Year/Transfer students</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 1094</td>
<td>Principles of Psych Research</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 1524</td>
<td>Language and the Mind</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 2014</td>
<td>Psychology of Social Interventions</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 2034</td>
<td>Developmental Psychology</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 2044</td>
<td>Psychology of Learning</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 2054</td>
<td>Psychology of Personality</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 2064</td>
<td>Intro. To Neuroscience of Behavior</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 2074</td>
<td>Animal Behavior</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 2084</td>
<td>Social Psychology</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 2964</td>
<td>Undergrad Field Study</td>
<td>Variable</td>
<td>Consent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 2974</td>
<td>Independent Study (Soph.)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Consent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 2994</td>
<td>Undergraduate Research (Soph.)</td>
<td>Variable</td>
<td>Consent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 3014</td>
<td>Abnormal Psychology</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 3024</td>
<td>Human Behavior &amp; Natural Environment</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 3034</td>
<td>Psych Disorders of Children</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1004, 3014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 3054</td>
<td>Health Psychology</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 3154</td>
<td>Psych. Foundations of Education</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 4014</td>
<td>History &amp; Systems in Psychology</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 4024</td>
<td>Industrial &amp; Organizational Psych.</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1004; STAT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 4034</td>
<td>Spec. Top. In Developmental Psych</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1004, 1094*, 2034</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 4234</td>
<td>Advanced Development Lab</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Co-req: 4044</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 4044</td>
<td>Advanced Learning**</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1004, 1094*, 2044</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 4244</td>
<td>Advanced Learning Lab**</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Co-req: 4044</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 4054</td>
<td>Personality Research**</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1004, 1094*, 2054</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 4254</td>
<td>Personality Psych Lab**</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Co-req: 4054</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 4064</td>
<td>Physiological Psychology</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1004, 1094*, 2064</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 4264</td>
<td>Physiological Psych Lab</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Co-req: 4064</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 4074</td>
<td>Sensation &amp; Perception</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1004, 1094*, 2064</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 4274</td>
<td>Sensation &amp; Perception Lab</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Co-req: 4074</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 4084</td>
<td>Advanced Social Psychology</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1004, 1094*, 2064</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 4284</td>
<td>Advanced Social Psych Lab</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Co-req: 4084</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 4094</td>
<td>Theory of Psych Measurement</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1004, 1094*, STAT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 4294</td>
<td>Psych Measurement Lab</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Co-req: 4094</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 4114</td>
<td>Cognitive Psychology</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1004, 1094*, 2044</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 4214</td>
<td>Cognitive Psych Lab</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Co-req: 4114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 4134</td>
<td>Language Development</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 4194</td>
<td>Predicting Social Behavior</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1094 or ECON 3254, STAT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 4634/4354</td>
<td>Senior Seminar</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Jr/Sr standing; Consent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(special topics course; 5+ offerings each semester, must sign up by completing a survey as the course CANNOT be added through course request or add/drop)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 4964</td>
<td>Undergraduate Field Study (Jr/Sr)</td>
<td>Variable</td>
<td>Consent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 4974</td>
<td>Independent Study (Jr/Sr)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Consent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 4994</td>
<td>Undergraduate Research (Jr/Sr)</td>
<td>Variable</td>
<td>Consent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Students who have completed HD 3014 or SOC 3204 do not need 1094

** Course has not been offered in recent years

For courses listing a “Co-req,” 1-credi lab, the lecture class can be taken without the lab, but the lab needs to be taken in the same semester as the lecture, as the material is linked.
Special Courses

Undergraduate students have available to them special courses and programs that go beyond the lecture and discussion format of most University courses. We place special emphasis on providing research and field experiences that will enrich students’ education and career development. We encourage you to look into the research interests of the psychology faculty in your first or second year (https://support.psyn.vt.edu/labs), and contact them to meet to discuss the possibility of working in their labs. Even if you don’t want a research career (and not many of you will), it is terrific experience looks great on a resume. It is never too early to start reaching out to faculty about their research.

A description of these courses is provided below.

Field Study (PSYC 2964 and PSYC 4964)

Most students enroll in Field Study. It provides the opportunity for a variety of hands-on experiences with psychology. Most field studies involve assisting a faculty member or graduate student with ongoing research, while some involve volunteer work in the community (e.g. for the RAFT Crisis Hotline). Some important points to remember…

- 2964 is for students with 60 or fewer total credit hours; 4964 those with over 60 hours.
- A student must be registered for field study hours before the end of the first week of class for that semester. You will need the signature of the faculty member you will be assisting (or your fieldwork supervisor if working in a community setting), and an academic advisor.
- If taking Field Study credit during the summer, you will have to pay tuition and fees as for any other course.
- Field study is taken on a pass/fail basis, and counts in the 10% of total hours taken at Virginia Tech that can be taken pass/fail.
- It can be taken for 1, 2, or 3 credits. For each credit hour, students should be putting in approximately 3 hours per week.
- It is a good idea for the student and the supervisor(s) to put into writing their understanding of the individual responsibilities and obligations of student and supervisor, and students need to keep close track of their hours to ensure they are filling their obligations.
Undergraduate Research (PSYC 2994 and PSYC 4994)

Undergraduate Research is sometimes used as a follow-up to Field Study, when a student has one or two semesters completed in a research lab, and wants to propose and conduct an independent research project under the supervision of a faculty member. The project usually involves empirical work that is presented in a written report. In addition, many undergraduates present their research at regional and national meetings. To elect this option, the student must be at least a sophomore and have a QCA of 2.50 or above. It is for variable credit and may be taken pass/fail or for a grade. Prior to registering for Undergraduate Research, the student should propose an area of interest and obtain a faculty supervisor. Before the end of the first week of the semester, they should complete a request form that is available in the Undergraduate Advising Office (109 Williams). The request form should specify the question of interest and how the research will be carried out. Also, the project must begin and end during the sixteen-week term.

NOTE: Only 12 hours of Independent Study and Undergraduate Research combined will count toward the 120 hours needed for graduation. More may be taken, but only the first 12 hours will count toward graduation hours.

Independent Study (PSYC 2974 and PSYC 4974)

Independent Study is rarely utilized in the department. It can allow for in-depth reading and discussion of a specialized topic not covered in regular courses offered by the department. PSYC 2974 (60 or fewer credits earned) or PSYC 4974 (> 60 credits) usually require one-on-one sessions with a faculty supervisor and written work. To elect this option, the student must be at least a sophomore and have a QCA of 2.50 or above. It is for variable credit and may be taken pass/fail or for a grade.

A student interested in Independent Study should contact the faculty member will be for the beginning of the semester. Together, before the end of the first week of class, you need to complete a request form that is available in the Undergraduate Advising Office (109 Williams); the form specifies the topic of interest, a preliminary reading list, the work products that will be evaluated, and the schedule of meetings.
Virginia Tech Undergraduate Honor System

All students are expected to follow the **Honor Code**, which states that “every student has the right to live in an academic environment that is free from the injustices caused by any form of intellectual dishonesty”. The Virginia Tech Honor Code embodies a spirit of mutual trust and intellectual honesty that is central to the very nature of the university and represents the highest possible expression of shared values among the members of the university community.

All assignments submitted shall be considered "graded work", and all aspects of your coursework are covered by the honor system. All projects and homework assignments are to be completed individually unless otherwise specified. Honesty in your academic work will develop into professional integrity.

The Office of Academic Integrity takes all reports of suspected violations very seriously. As stated on their website, “Most cases of academic misconduct should result in an F* as the student’s final course grade. An F* sanction indicates that a student failed the course due to an Honor Code violation.” (The * can be removed once the student has completed an online course.) For more information, please see [https://honorsystem.vt.edu/](https://honorsystem.vt.edu/).

**The Value of Organization**

One of the biggest challenges of college is that some weeks seem very light, while for others it will seem like everything is due all at once. Keeping track of those due dates and spacing out your work as much as possible will benefit your grades and your psychological well-being. If there is a paper coming up, there’s no reason you can’t start writing it 2 or 3 weeks ahead. If you are part of a group project (everybody’s favorite), there’s no reason you can’t start meeting right away.

We strongly recommend you keep some kind of formal calendar, either on paper or electronically. Almost all faculty and graduate students use calendar software like Outlook or Google Calendar (everyone at Virginia Tech has access to all the Google Suite apps). At the beginning of the semester, you should look at all your syllabi and put your major exams and assignment due dates in the calendar. This is generally better than relying on reminders from your instructors. Some instructors will send out Canvas messages and announcements reminding students of due dates, but many will not. Some instructors link assignment due dates with their syllabi, but others do not. Keeping track of due dates on your own will definitely help you in almost all your courses.
Common Policies and Procedures

Absence Notifications:

If you must miss classes for a medical or family emergency, contact the Dean of Students Office immediately (https://www.dos.vt.edu/our_services.html). They will get the necessary information from you and contact your College Dean’s office who in turn will notify your professors of the time you will be away from classes. This does not guarantee you’ll be allowed to make up work, but without taking these steps it will be much harder for you when you return.

Course Request:

Course Request is an opportunity to inform VT of the courses you would like to be enrolled in for the following semester (ex. Spring Course Request occurs in the Fall & vice versa). The purpose of course request is to help departments plan enough seats to meet demand. However, the courses you request are not guaranteed; you may not get the section or the course you requested. You will have an opportunity during the drop/add periods to make changes to your schedule.

Course withdrawal:

Course withdrawal is a policy that allows students to withdraw from a course after the drop deadline. This policy designates a grade of W to the course and it does show on your transcript. You only get three withdrawals for your entire time a Virginia Tech; you must consult with your advisor to fill out the paperwork and make the decision about withdrawing from the course.

- Advising Glossary Definition: https://advising.vt.edu/advising-resources/advising-tools/advising-glossary.html?term=coursewithdrawal
- College of Science Course Withdrawal Information: https://www.science.vt.edu/resources/forms.html

Degree Audit Reports “DARs” and Degree Application:

Upon completion of 60 hours (attaining Junior standing), students should go onto Hokie Spa and apply for their degree. This tells the Registrar’s office your major and when you anticipate graduating. Any of the information can be changed later very easily. With that information in the system, a Degree Audit Report (DARS) can be generated which will tell you what requirements you’ve met, what you still need to meet, and what classes you’ve taken are being counted toward which requirement.

Your primary faculty advisor or the departmental advisor would be happy to help you interpret your DARS if you have any questions.

Before officially applying for your degree, you can still review your requirements in the same manner, by ordering a “What-if DARS.” This can be done for ANY major on campus that you are considering switching to or adding.

Final exam policy:

If you have 3 exams in a 24 hour period or 2 exams at the same time you can move one per the approval of the instructor. If you have 4 exams in a 24 hour period you can move two per the instructor’s approval.

You must submit a final exam change form (https://www.science.vt.edu/resources/forms.html) to the College of Science Dean’s Office by a certain deadline each semester (always refer to the academic calendar, https://registrar.vt.edu/dates-deadlines-accordion/index.html).
Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress “SAP”:

Keep in mind that a student can be making satisfactory progress to degree, but still not be in good standing with financial aid. One of the biggest factors involved is students not completing courses that they enroll in.

The Financial Aid Office has a specific set of progress requirements, listed on their website; other grants, fellowships, and loans will have their own progress requirements as well, and you should be familiar with them.

For more information, please see https://finaid.vt.edu/undergraduate/policies-regulations/satisfactory-academic-progress-sap.html.

**Force-Add:**

Force-adds are processed by the department offering the course (example: BIOL courses are processed by the Biological Sciences Department)

Force-adds for PSYC courses are approved in 109 Williams Hall on a case by case and space-available basis.

**Overhours:**

If you want to take over 19 credits a semester you must fill out an overhours request. You must get the approval of your advisor and then the College of Science to take overhours.

College of Science Overhours form: https://www.science.vt.edu/resources/forms.html

**Taking courses elsewhere:**

Students have the opportunity/option to take courses at other schools. This isn’t necessary but some students choose to take courses elsewhere to get ahead, stay busy during the summer, or re-take a course if needed.


You must fill out an Authorization to Take Course Elsewhere form (https://www.science.vt.edu/resources/forms.html) and obtain the signature of your academic advisor or someone in the Undergraduate Advising Office. The form then goes to the College of Science for approval. *Note: during prime times it can take 3+ weeks for College approval, so plan ahead if taking courses elsewhere.
**Undergraduate Honors College**

For students who wish to pursue a more challenging undergraduate education, the Honors College provides the following opportunities: priority registration, special Honors colloquia and Honors sections of classes, credit for undergraduate research, access to and assistance in application to major national scholarship programs, special housing, and small group interaction with faculty.

First year students are accepted into the college out of high school based on an applicant's experiences and quality of engagement over sheer quantity, and self-awareness and reflection on involvement. Continued participation requires a 3.5 overall QCA.

Students at Virginia Tech may apply to join the Honors College upon achieving a 3.6 and with at least four semesters remaining until graduation.

For more information and to apply, visit the Honors College website ([https://honorscollege.vt.edu/](https://honorscollege.vt.edu/)), and talk to the Psychology Department’s Honors Director, Dr. Danny Axsom (313 Williams; 231-6495).

**Internships and Cooperative Education**

Students can find summer or academic-year internship placements almost anywhere by working with the Internship Program in Career Services. It is never too early to get started. Please look over their web page at [https://career.vt.edu/job-search.html](https://career.vt.edu/job-search.html).
Undergraduate Organizations in Psychology

Get involved! Please see 1st floor bulletin boards by the stairs and outside 134 Williams

Psychology Club

Membership in the Psychology Club is open to all who are interested. It meets once or twice a month and sponsors various activities including guest speakers, discussions, field trips, and philanthropy. Watch your email and the bulletin boards in Williams Hall for posted announcements of the times, places, and topics of these meetings.

Psi Chi

Psi Chi is the National Honorary in Psychology. Sophomore, junior, and senior psychology majors and minors are eligible for membership if they have successfully completed at least nine semester hours in psychology, have a QCA that places them among the top 30% of the majors in their class (the approximate cut-off is above 3.2) and have outstanding grades in their psychology courses (3.4 or better).

Psi Chi provides members the opportunity to attend regional and national meetings and encourages members to present their own research at these meetings. It is appropriate that Psi Chi members be active participants in the Psychology Club.

During the Spring Semester, eligible students are invited to join Psi Chi. It is not always possible to identify every student who is eligible, so please do not wait for an invitation if you believe you qualify. Please contact Dr. Friedman, the Psi Chi advisor (231-9611; bhfriedm@vt.edu), or the Psychology Club officers, for application information.

Association of Black Psychologists

The Association of Black Psychologists promotes diversity in the field of psychology, and provides education and support to students interested in graduate school. The group works closely with graduate students, holds regular meetings and seminars, and participates in special events.

Active Minds

Active Minds raises awareness about mental health, and works to promote positive mental health and well-being. They hold meetings every other week, and organize several campus events and service projects.

These and 100’s of organizations can be found on Gobbler Connect, https://gobblerconnect.vt.edu/