COLLEGE OF SCIENCE
PSYCHOLOGY
VIRGINIA TECH™

First-Year and Transfer Student Guidebook for Students Entering Fall 2021

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Academic Advising Information

Every student with Psychology as their primary major is assigned a specific psychology academic advisor as their primary advisor. Students who declare Psychology as their secondary major will also receive a specific psychology academic advisor as their secondary advisor. You can find this information by going to Hokie Spa, then View your General Student Information
- Your academic advisor will have advising hours each semester dedicated to advising.
- You can also email them or psycadvising@vt.edu if you have questions that don't require a meeting.

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

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 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 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 and questions is https://student.advising.vt.edu/index.html.

2021-2022 Academic Calendar

Please make sure to **bookmark this link**, as the VT Registrar's Office **may change some dates** during the year.
https://www.registrar.vt.edu/dates-deadlines/academic-calendar/2021-2022.html

Fall 2021

Monday	Aug. 23	Classes Begin
Friday	Aug. 27	Last day to add classes, field study, UR or IS hours, and add/drop audit option
Monday	Sept. 6	Labor Day (No Classes- University Offices Closed)
Friday	Oct. 1	Fall Break (No Classes - University Offices Open)
Tuesday	Oct. 5	Last day to web drop a course *consult with your advisor prior to doing this
Tuesday	Oct. 5	Last day to change grading option from A-F to P/F
Tuesday	Oct. 19	Web Course Request Opens for Spring 2022
Monday	Oct. 25	Last day to resign without penalty and change grading option from P/F to A-F
Tuesday	Nov. 2	Web Course Request closes for Spring 2022
Wednesday	Nov. 17	Final Exam Change Deadline
Saturday	Nov. 20	Thanksgiving Holiday Begins
Friday	Nov. 26	Web Drop/Add for Spring 2022 begins
Sunday	Nov. 28	Thanksgiving Holiday Ends
Wednesday	Dec. 8	Course Withdrawal Deadline
Wednesday	Dec. 8	Last day of Classes
Thursday	Dec. 9	Reading Day
Friday	Dec. 10	Beginning of Fall Final Exams
Wednesday	Dec. 15	Close of Fall Final Exams
Friday	Dec. 17	Fall University and Commencement Ceremonies

Winter 2022

Monday	Aug. 2	Drop/Add Opens for Winter 2022
Monday	Dec. 27	Classes Begin (**Virtual, Blended or Winter Experience**)
Monday	Jan. 3	Classes Begin (**Residential**)
Friday	Jan. 14	Course Withdrawal Deadline
Friday	Jan. 14	Classes End
Saturday	Jan.15	Exam Day

Spring 2022

Monday	Jan. 17	Martin Luther King Holiday (No Classes - University Offices Closed)
Tuesday	Jan. 18	Classes begin
Monday	Jan. 24	Last day to add classes, field study, UR or IS hours, and to add/drop audit option.
Monday	Feb. 28	Last day to change grade option from A-F to P/F
Monday	Feb. 28	Last day for students to web drop a course. *consult with advisor before doing this
Monday	Feb. 28	Last day to change grade option from A-F to P/F
Saturday	Mar. 5	Spring Break begins
TBD	TBD	Web Drop/Add begins for Summer 2022
Sunday	Mar. 13	Spring Break ends
Tuesday	Mar. 22	Opening of Web Course Request for Fall Semester 2022
Tuesday	Mar. 29	Last day to resign without grade penalty and change grade option from P/F to A-F
Tuesday	Apr. 5	Close of Web Course Request for Fall Semester 2022
Wednesday	Apr. 20	Final Exam Change Deadline
Friday	Apr. 22	Web Drop/Add begins for Fall Semester 2022
Wednesday	May 4	Last Day of Classes
Wednesday	May 4	Last day to apply for W grade policy
Wednesday	May 4	Last Day of Classes
Thursday	May 5	Reading Day
Friday	May 6	Beginning of Spring Semester final examinations
Wednesday	May 11	Close of Spring Semester final examinations
Thursday	May 12	Graduate Commencement Ceremony and Senior Day

Friday	May 13	University Commencement and College and Departmental Ceremonies.
Saturday	May 14	College and Departmental Commencement Ceremonies

Summer I 2022 (First 6 Weeks)

Monday	May 23	Classes begin
Wednesday	May 25	Last day for students to add classes and to add or drop audit option.
Monday	May 30	Memorial Day - Classes Not in Session
Monday	Jun. 6	Last day for students to web drop First Summer Session classes without grade penalty.
Monday	Jun. 6	Last day to change grade option from A-F to P/F by 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday	Jun. 14	Last day for students to resign without grade penalty.
Tuesday	Jun. 14	Last day for students to resign without grade penalty
Tuesday	Jun. 14	Last day to change grade option from P/F to A-F by 5:00pm
Friday	Jul. 1	Last day to apply for W grade policy
Friday	Jul. 1	Classes end for First Summer
Friday	Jul. 1	Final exams held on last day of classes

Summer II 2022 (Second 6 Weeks)

Wednesday	Jul. 6	Classes begin
Friday	Jul. 8	Last day for students to add classes and to add or drop audit option.
Tuesday	Jul. 19	Last day for students to web drop Second Summer Session classes without grade penalty.
Tuesday	Jul. 19	Last day to change grade option from A-F to P/F by 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday	Jul. 27	Last day for students to resign without grade penalty.
Wednesday	Jul. 27	Last day to change grade option from P/F to A-F by 5:00 p.m.
Friday	Aug. 12	Last day to apply for W grade policy
Friday	Aug. 12	Classes end for Second Summer
Friday	Aug. 12	Final exams held on the last day of classes

Summer III 2022 (12 Weeks)

Monday	May 23	Classes begin
Thursday	May 26	Last day for students to add classes and to add or drop audit option.
Monday	May 30	Memorial Day - Classes Not in Session
Tuesday	June 21	Last day for students to web drop Third Summer Session classes without grade penalty.
Tuesday	June 21	Last day to change grade option from A-F to P/F by 5:00 p.m.
Monday	Jul. 4	Independence Day - Classes Not in Session
Thursday	Jul. 7	Last day for students to resign without grade penalty.
Friday	Aug. 12	Last day to apply for W grade policy
Friday	Aug. 12	Classes end for Third Summer
Friday	Aug. 12	Final exams held on last day of classes

Psychology Department Faculty

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Psychology Department Contacts

Psychology Department Main Office and Advising Office - 109 Williams Hall

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Courtney Glass	Profess. Academic Advisor	540-231-8148	clynnb95@vt.edu
Christina Minford	Profess. Academic Advisor	540-231-8147	cminfor@vt.edu

Common Student Resources

Office	Location	Website	Phone Number	E-mail
Career and Professional Development	Smith Career Center	https://career.vt.edu/	540-231-6241	cpd@vt.edu
College of Science Dean's Office	North End Center, Suite 4300	https://www.science.vt.edu/	540-231-5422	cosadvising@vt.edu
Cook Counseling Center	240 McComas Hall	https://www.ucc.vt.edu/	540-231-6557	counseling@vt.edu
Cultural and Community Centers	Varies by Center	https://ccc.vt.edu/	Varies by Center	Varies by Center
Dean of Students Office	1st Floor, Cochrane Hall	https://www.dos.vt.edu/	540-231-3787	dean.students@vt.edu
First-Generation Student Support	109 New Hall West	https://dos.vt.edu/First-Gen.html	540-231-0751	firstgen@vt.edu
Global Education Office	Global Education Office	https://www.globaleducation.vt.edu/Homepage.html	540-231-5888	vtabroad@vt.edu
Hokie wellness	195 McComas Hall	https://hokiewellness.vt.edu/	540-231-2233	hokiewellness@vt.edu
Honors College	116 Hillcrest Hall	https://honorscollege.vt.edu/	540-231-4591	honors@vt.edu
RAFT 24 Hour Crisis Hotline		http://www.nrvcs.org/raft/	540-961-8400	
Schiffert Health Center	McComas Hall	https://www.healthcenter.vt.edu/	540-231-6444	heathcenter@vt.edu
Scholarships and Financial Aid	200 Student Services Building	https://finaid.vt.edu/	540-231-5179	finaid@vt.edu
Services for Students with Disabilities "SSD"	310 Lavery Hall	https://www.ssd.vt.edu/	540-231-3788	ssd@vt.edu
SOAR - Student Opportunity & Achievement Resources	207 W. Roanoke St.	https://www.inclusive.vt.edu/Programs/SOAR.html	540-231-2946	soar@vt.edu
Student Affairs	112 Burruss Hall	https://students.vt.edu/	540-231-6272	studentaffairs@vt.edu
Student Success Center	110 Femoyer Hall	https://studentsuccess.vt.edu/	540-231-5499	studentsuccess@vt.edu, tutoring@vt.edu
University Bursar	150 Student Services Building	https://www.bursar.vt.edu/	540-231-6277	bursar@vt.edu
University Libraries	Carol M. Newman Library	https://lib.vt.edu/	540-231-9232	
University Registrar	250 Student Services Building	https://registrar.vt.edu/	540-231-6252	registrar@vt.edu
Veterans Service Office	Hillcrest Hall 385 W Campus Dr. Suite 111	https://www.veterans.vt.edu/	540-231-5815	veteran@vt.edu
VT Well Being	112 Burruss Hall	https://well-being.vt.edu/	540-231-6272	well-being@vt.edu
Women's Center	206 Washington St. SW	https://www.womenscenter.vt.edu/	540-231-7806	WCsupport@vt.edu
Writing Center	Carol M. Newman Library	https://lib.vt.edu/spaces/writing-center.html	540-231-5436	writingcenter@vt.edu

University Pathways to General Education, and College of Science Requirements

To graduate with a major in psychology, students must complete the following requirements for the University Pathways to General 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 <u>University Pathways to General Education approved courses</u> are listed on the Course Timetable under "Pathways to General Education"; you can find courses for each of the 7 Core Concepts listed below. The core concepts lists are also included in the University Core Guide: https://www.pathways.prov.vt.edu (in particular, see https://www.pathways.prov.vt.edu/content/dam/pathways_prov_vt_edu/8pdf/PathwaysAdvisingGuide.pdf).

Several interdisciplinary Pathways Minors (https://www.pathways.prov.vt.edu/minors.html) are available, and can be used to partially complete at least 3 of the Core Concepts listed below.

- **Core Concept 1: Discourse** - successfully complete **9 credit hours**
  - 6 foundational hours (ENGL 1105 + 1106) + 3 advanced/applied hours
    - COMM 1015-1016 satisfies this concept only for students transferring into PSYC from majors requiring this sequence or double majoring in COMM Studies.

- **Core Concept 2: Critical Thinking in the Humanities** - successfully complete **6 credit hours**
  - Courses used in this concept cannot also fulfill other Core Concepts unless used with Concept 7 (ex.: a course approved as Concept 2 that is also listed as Concept 6 can only fulfill one or the other).

- **Core Concept 3: Reasoning in the Social Sciences** - successfully complete **6 credit hours**
  - Courses used in this concept cannot also fulfill other Core Concepts, unless used with Concept 7 (ex.: a course approved as Concept 2 that is also listed as Concept 6 can only fulfill one or the other).

- **Core Concept 4: Reasoning in the Natural Sciences** - successfully complete **6 credit hours**
  - Courses used in this concept cannot also fulfill other Core Concepts unless used with Concept 7 (ex.: a course approved as Concept 2 that is also listed as Concept 6 can only fulfill one or the other).

- **Core Concept 5: Quantitative and Computational Thinking** - successfully complete 9 **credit hours**
  - 6 foundational hours (MATH 1014-1025)
    - *Pre-med and Pre-Health programs often require MATH 1025-1026 for Pathways 5f
    - For the foundational hours, the courses must come from MATH. Higher-level MATH sequences may be substituted for 1014-1025 if taken in a previous major or required for an additional major.
    - (MATH 1014-1524) and (MATH 1225-1226) are also acceptable for Pathways 5f
  - 3 advanced/applied hours (STAT 3005, 3604 or 3615)

- **Core Concept 6: Critique and Practice in Design and the Arts** - successfully complete **6 credit hours (3 design + 3 arts)**
  - Courses used in this concept cannot also fulfill other Core Concepts unless used with Concept 7 (ex.: a course approved as Concept 2 that is also listed as Concept 6 can only fulfill one or the other).

- **Core Concept 7: Critical Analysis of Equity and Identity in the United States** - successfully complete **3 credit hours**
  - Courses used in this concept **can** be used to fulfill other Core Concepts (ex.: a course approved as Concept 2 that is also listed as Concept 7 can fulfill both Concepts 2/7 at once)

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 methods 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 (Pathways Psychology Major)** – 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.

- **Fundamentals of Psychology - 2 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.

- **8 credits of Introductory science sequence (with labs) in either Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Human Anatomy and Physiology, Geosciences, or Physics, from the courses specified below.** These courses are **in addition to** the Pathways Reasoning in the Natural Sciences.

Biological Sciences (BIOL)
1105+1115 and 1106+1116
(1005+1015 and 1006+1016 only if transferred in upon admission or taken here in a different major)

Geosciences (GEOS)
1004+1104 and
1024+1124

Chemistry (CHEM)
1015+1025 and 1016+1026   OR
1035+1045 and 1036+1046

Physics (PHYS)
1055+1155 and 1056+1156
2205+2215 and 2206+2216 OR
2305-2306

Human Anatomy and Physiology (BMSP)
2135+2145 and 2136+2146

- **3 credits of Exploring Data courses**

Select one course from the options below:
___ ACIS 1504 Introduction to Business Analytics and Business Intelligence
___ BDS 2005 Fundamentals of Behavioral Decision Science
___ CS 1014 Introduction to Computational Thinking
___ HD 3024 Community Analytics
___ SOC/HIST/STS 2604 Introduction to Data in Social Context
___ PHIL 1504 Language and Logic
___ STAT 1014 Data in Our Lives
___ STAT 2004 Introductory Statistics (no credit received if taken after any higher Statistics course)

(Pre: MATH 1014 or 1025 or 1225 or 1524 or 1525)
___STAT 3616 Biological Statistics (Pre: STAT 3615)

▪ **3 credits of Exploring Human Diversity courses**
Select one course from the options below:
___AFST 1714 Introduction to African American Studies
___AFST 1814 Introduction to African Studies
___AFST/SOC 2454 Race and Racism
___AFST 2734 The Black Woman in the US
___AINS 1104 Introduction to American Indian Studies
___APS/HUM 1704 Introduction to Appalachian Studies
___ECON 1104 Economics of Gender
___EDCI 3024 Issues of Schooling in the US
___HD 2314 Human Sexuality
___HD 1134 Introduction to Disabilities Studies
___PSVP 2044 Peace and Violence
___RLCL/AFST/WGS 2204 Race and Gender in Religion and Culture
___SOC 2004 Social Problems
___SOC 2024 Sociology of Race and Ethnicity
___SOC 2034 Diversity and Community Engagement
___SOC/RLCL 2514 Asian American Experience
___SOC 3614 Gender and Work in the US (Pre: SOC 1004)
___WGS 1824 Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies

These requirements are for all students entering Virginia Tech during the 2021-2022 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/Pathways General 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.

- In almost all cases, a single course may not be used to satisfy more than one of the requirements listed above. The one exception is Pathways Core Concept 7 (Critical Analysis of Equity and Identity in the United States), where some courses also count toward the completion of other Core Concepts.

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 ___

Pathways to General Education Requirements:

- Core Concept 1- Discourse (9 hours) _____ _____ _____

- Core Concept 2- Critical Thinking in the Humanities (6 hours) _____ _____

- Core Concept 3- Reasoning in the Social Sciences (6 hours) _____ _____

- Core Concept 4 – Reasoning in the Natural Sciences (6 hours) _____ _____

- Core Concept 5 - Quantitative and Computational Thinking (9 hours) _____ _____ _____

- Core Concept 6- Critique and Practice in Design and the Arts (6 hours) _____ _____

- Core Concept 7- Critical Analysis of Equity and Identity in the United States (3 hours) _____ (some courses may also be counted in one other concepts)

Graduation Checklist for Psychology Majors, continued

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)

    o Lecture course with corresponding 1-credit lab; _____ & _____
    o Senior Seminar _____
    o 4000 Level Lecture_____

- Exploring Data course _____

- Exploring Human Diversity course _____

- 8 hours of science in Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Human Anatomy and Physiology, Geosciences or Physics, in addition to Pathways Core Concept 4

    _____   _____   _____   _____

An additional 36-39 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 Pathways Core Concept classes by around the end of the second year is <u>strongly</u> 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 <u>cannot</u> 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 <u>not</u> 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)
Bio, Chem, Bmsp Geos, Phys (with lab)
English 1105 (Concept 1)
Math 1014 (1025 pre-med/pre-health) (Concept 5)
First-Year Experience course

Fall Year Two
Concept 2, 3, 6, or 7 course of your choice
Concept 2, 3, 6, or 7 course of your choice
Psychology 2034, 2044, 2064, or 2084
Psychology elective
Natural Science (Concept 4)

Fall Year Three
Psychology elective
Exploring Human Diversity course
Concept 2, 3, 6, or 7 course of your choice
STAT 3005, 3604 or 3615 (Concept 5a, adv/appl)
Free elective

Fall Year Four
4000-level Psych course
Concept 2, 3, 6, or 7 course of your choice
Free elective
Free elective
Free elective

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

Spring Year Two
Concept 2, 3, 6, or 7 course of your choice
Psychology 2034, 2044, 2064, or 2084
Natural Science (Concept 4)
Exploring Data course
Free elective for graduation hours

Spring Year Three
4000-level Psychology course + 1-cr. lab
Free elective
Concept 2, 3, 6, or 7 course of your choice
Discourse (Concept 1, advanced/applied)
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 academic advisor in the Psychology Department. Upon graduation, you will receive a diploma in psychology.

If you declare Psychology as your SECOND Major or as a SECOND DEGREE:
- Students with psychology as their secondary major will keep a primary advisor in their primary major and also be assigned a Psychology major secondary advisor.

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. SECOND 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 a second 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 and the second degree applied for a Second 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 Pathways to General 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 Pathways to General 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 Pathways to General 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.

Psychology Undergraduate Courses

Course Number	Course Name	Credit Hours	Pre-requisites
PSYC 1004	Introductory Psychology	3	- - -
PSYC 1024/2024	First-Year Experience Course for incoming First-Year/Transfer students	2	- - -
PSYC 1094	Principles of Psych Research	3	1004
PSYC 1524	Language and the Mind	3	- - -
PSYC 2014	Psychology of Social Interventions	3	- - -
PSYC 2034	Developmental Psychology	3	1004
PSYC 2044	Psychology of Learning	3	1004
PSYC 2054	Psychology of Personality	3	1004
PSYC 2064	Intro. To Neuroscience of Behavior	3	1004
PSYC 2074	Animal Behavior	3	1004
PSYC 2084	Social Psychology	3	1004
PSYC 2964	Undergrad Field Study	Variable	Consent
PSYC 2974	Independent Study (Soph.)	3	Consent
PSYC 2994	Undergraduate Research (Soph.)	Variable	Consent
PSYC 3014	Abnormal Psychology	3	1004
PSYC 3024	Human Behavior & Natural Environments	3	1004
PSYC 3034	Psych Disorders of Children	3	1004, 3014
PSYC 3054	Health Psychology	3	1004
PSYC 3154	Psych. Foundations of Education	3	1004
PSYC 4014	History & Systems in Psychology	3	1004
PSYC 4024	Industrial & Organizational Psych.	3	1004; STAT
PSYC 4034	Spec. Top. In Developmental Psych	3	1004, 1094*, 2034
PSYC 4234	Advanced Developmental Lab	1	Co-req: 4044
PSYC 4044	Advanced Learning	3	1004, 1094*, 2044
PSYC 4244	Advanced Learning Lab	1	Co-req: 4044
PSYC 4054	Personality Research**	3	1004, 1094*, 2054
PSYC 4254	Personality Psych Lab**	1	Co-Req: 4054
PSYC 4064	Physiological Psychology	3	1004, 1094*, 2064
PSYC 4264	Physiological Psych Lab	1	Co-req: 4064
PSYC 4074	Sensation & Perception	3	1004, 1094*, 2064
PSYC 4274	Sensation & Perception Lab	1	Co-req: 4074
PSYC 4084	Advanced Social Psychology	3	1004, 1094*, 2064
PSYC 4284	Advanced Social Psych Lab	1	Co-req: 4084
PSYC 4094	Theory of Psych Measurement	3	1004, 1094*, STAT
PSYC 4294	Psych Measurement Lab	1	Co-req: 4094
PSYC 4114	Cognitive Psychology	3	1004, 1094*, 2044
PSYC 4214	Cognitive Psych Lab	1	Co-req: 4114
PSYC 4134	Language Development	3	1004
PSYC 4184	The Science of Giving	3	1004, 1094*
PSYC 4194	Predicting Social Behavior	3	1094 or ECON 3254, STAT
PSYC 4634/4354	Senior Seminar	3	Jr/Sr standing; Consent

(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)

Course Number	Course Name	Credit Hours	Pre-requisites
PSYC 4964	Undergraduate Field Study (Jr/Sr)	Variable	Consent
PSYC 4974	Independent Study (Jr/Sr)	3	Consent
PSYC 4994	Undergraduate Research (Jr/Sr)	Variable	Consent

*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.psyc.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 a terrific experience that 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)

Field Study provides the opportunity for a variety of hands-on experiences with psychology, usually outside of the department. Most field studies involve volunteer work in the community, like for the RAFT Crisis Hotline, or the Women's Resource Center in Radford. Some important points to remember…

- 2964 is for students with 60 or fewer total credit hours; 4964 for 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 permission of 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 during the semester.
- 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.
- For questions on signing up for Field Study, and the expectations, please contact Kurt Hoffman, hoff@vt.edu.

Undergraduate Research (PSYC 2994 and PSYC 4994)

Undergraduate Research is highly encouraged, and most psychology majors do it for at least a couple semesters. Most Undergraduate Research experiences involve assisting a faculty member or graduate student with ongoing research in their labs, and these experiences are usually graded on a pass/fail basis. 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, he or she often takes Undergraduate Research for a letter grade (A-F). The independent project usually involves empirical work that is presented in a written report. Some important points to remember…

- 2994 is for students with 60 or fewer total credit hours; 4994 for those with over 60 hours.

- A student must be registered for Undergraduate Research hours before the end of the first week of class for that semester. The student will need the permission of the faculty supervisor (the head of the lab), and an academic advisor.
- If taking Undergraduate Research for credit during the summer, you will have to pay tuition and fees as for any other course.
- Undergraduate Research can be taken for 1, 2, or 3 credits. For each credit hour, students should be putting in approximately 3 hours per week during the semester.
- 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 have an agreement with the faculty supervisor about the specific responsibilities, and how many hours of work are required per week.

NOTE: Only 12 hours Undergraduate Research and Independent Study 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 during 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/ .

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 them all through 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 at 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 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)

We do not force add into lower-level, 1000-3000 level, PSYC elective. These courses will be opened to max seating capacity for drop/add. Force add's into PSYC 4000 level courses for graduating seniors are processed on a case by case and space-available basis by emailing psycadvising@vt.edu.

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 can find course equivalencies on the Transfer Equivalency Guide, https://www.tranguide.registrar.vt.edu/ .

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/), 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.

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. PFor more information about Psychology Club and Psi Chi, please see https://gobblerconnect.vt.edu/organization/psychclub .

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/