



# First-Year and Transfer Student Guidebook for Students Entering Fall 2023

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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](mailto:psycadvising@vt.edu) if you have questions that don't require a meeting.

The Undergraduate Advising Office in 109 Williams Hall ([psycadvising@vt.edu](mailto: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*

Another great advising resource for general advising information and questions is  
<https://student.advising.vt.edu/index.html>.

## Academic Calendar

Please make sure to **bookmark this link**, as all academic dates and deadlines are posted here:

<https://www.registrar.vt.edu/dates-deadlines/academic-calendar/2023-2024.html>

The PSYC Advising Team also posts dates and deadlines in the weekly announcement. Please make sure to view your email for that information and check the archives for announcements here: <https://support.psyc.vt.edu/pages/weekly-announcements>

## Psychology Department Faculty

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<a href="#">Brem, Meagan</a>	<a href="mailto:mbrem@vt.edu">mbrem@vt.edu</a>	133 Williams Hall
<a href="#">Breux, Rosanna</a>	<a href="mailto:rbreux@vt.edu">rbreux@vt.edu</a>	Child Study Center
<a href="#">Calderwood, Charles</a>	<a href="mailto:ccharl2@vt.edu">ccharl2@vt.edu</a>	215 Williams Hall
<a href="#">Chiu, Pearl</a>	<a href="mailto:chiup@vt.edu">chiup@vt.edu</a>	VTCRI
<a href="#">Cooper, Lee</a>	<a href="mailto:ldcooper@vt.edu">ldcooper@vt.edu</a>	Psychological Services Center
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<a href="#">Stephens, Robert</a>	<a href="mailto:stephens@vt.edu">stephens@vt.edu</a>	217 Williams Hall

## Psychology Department Contacts

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

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>E-mail</u>
Dr. Jamie Edgin	Department Chair	540-231-5814	
Michelle Wooddell	Executive Secretary	540-231-9627	<a href="mailto:mwooddel@vt.edu">mwooddel@vt.edu</a>
Courtney Glass	Profess. Academic Advisor	540-231-8148	<a href="mailto:clynnb95@vt.edu">clynnb95@vt.edu</a>
Christina Minford	Profess. Academic Advisor	540-231-8147	<a href="mailto:cminfor@vt.edu">cminfor@vt.edu</a>
Taylor Swan	Profess. Academic Advisor	540-231-3202	<a href="mailto:tswan70@vt.edu">tswan70@vt.edu</a>

## Common Student Resources

Office	Location	Website	Phone Number	E-mail
Career and Professional Development	Smith Career Center	<a href="https://career.vt.edu/">https://career.vt.edu/</a>	540-231-6241	<a href="mailto:cpd@vt.edu">cpd@vt.edu</a>
College of Science Dean's Office	North End Center, Suite 4300	<a href="https://www.science.vt.edu/">https://www.science.vt.edu/</a>	540-231-5422	<a href="mailto:cosadvising@vt.edu">cosadvising@vt.edu</a>
Cook Counseling Center	220 Gilbert Street, Suite 2400	<a href="https://www.ucc.vt.edu/">https://www.ucc.vt.edu/</a>	<b>540-231-6557</b>	<a href="mailto:counseling@vt.edu">counseling@vt.edu</a>
Cultural and Community Centers	Varies by Center	<a href="https://ccc.vt.edu/">https://ccc.vt.edu/</a>	Varies by Center	<a href="mailto:vtccc@vt.edu">vtccc@vt.edu</a>
Dean of Students Office	109 New Hall West	<a href="https://www.dos.vt.edu/">https://www.dos.vt.edu/</a>	540-231-3787	<a href="mailto:dean.students@vt.edu">dean.students@vt.edu</a>
First-Generation Student Support	109 New Hall West	<a href="https://dos.vt.edu/First-Gen.html">https://dos.vt.edu/First-Gen.html</a>	540-231-0751	<a href="mailto:firstgen@vt.edu">firstgen@vt.edu</a>
Global Education Office	526 Prices Fork Rd.	<a href="https://www.globaleducation.vt.edu/">https://www.globaleducation.vt.edu/</a>	540-231-5888	<a href="mailto:vtabroad@vt.edu">vtabroad@vt.edu</a>
Hokie wellness	195 McComas Hall	<a href="https://hokiewellness.vt.edu/">https://hokiewellness.vt.edu/</a>	540-231-2233	<a href="mailto:hokiewellness@vt.edu">hokiewellness@vt.edu</a>
Honors College	116 Hillcrest Hall	<a href="https://honorscollege.vt.edu/">https://honorscollege.vt.edu/</a>	540-231-4591	<a href="mailto:honors@vt.edu">honors@vt.edu</a>
RAFT 24 Hour Crisis Hotline		<a href="http://www.nrvcs.org/raft/">http://www.nrvcs.org/raft/</a>	540-961-8400	
Schiffert Health Center	McComas Hall	<a href="https://www.healthcenter.vt.edu/">https://www.healthcenter.vt.edu/</a>	540-231-6444	<a href="mailto:health@vt.edu">health@vt.edu</a>
Scholarships and Financial Aid	200 Student Services Building	<a href="https://finaid.vt.edu/">https://finaid.vt.edu/</a>	540-231-5179	<a href="mailto:finaid@vt.edu">finaid@vt.edu</a>
Services for Students with Disabilities "SSD"	310 Lavery Hall	<a href="https://www.ssd.vt.edu/">https://www.ssd.vt.edu/</a>	540-231-3788	<a href="mailto:ssd@vt.edu">ssd@vt.edu</a>
SOAR - Student Opportunity & Achievement Resources	207 W. Roanoke St.	<a href="https://www.inclusive.vt.edu/Programs/SOAR.html">https://www.inclusive.vt.edu/Programs/SOAR.html</a>	540-231-2946	<a href="mailto:soar@vt.edu">soar@vt.edu</a>
Student Affairs	112 Burruss Hall	<a href="https://students.vt.edu/">https://students.vt.edu/</a>	540-231-6272	<a href="mailto:studentaffairs@vt.edu">studentaffairs@vt.edu</a>
Student Success Center	220 Gilbert Street, Suite 2001	<a href="https://studentsuccess.vt.edu/">https://studentsuccess.vt.edu/</a>	540-231-8440	<a href="mailto:studentsuccess@vt.edu">studentsuccess@vt.edu</a> , <a href="mailto:tutoring@vt.edu">tutoring@vt.edu</a>
University Bursar	150 Student Services Building	<a href="https://www.bursar.vt.edu/">https://www.bursar.vt.edu/</a>	540-231-6277	<a href="mailto:bursar@vt.edu">bursar@vt.edu</a>
University Libraries	Carol M. Newman Library	<a href="https://lib.vt.edu/">https://lib.vt.edu/</a>	540-231-6170	
University Registrar	250 Student Services Building	<a href="https://registrar.vt.edu/">https://registrar.vt.edu/</a>	540-231-6252	<a href="mailto:registrar@vt.edu">registrar@vt.edu</a>
Veterans Service Office	220 Gilbert Place, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor	<a href="https://www.veterans.vt.edu/">https://www.veterans.vt.edu/</a>	540-231-5815	<a href="mailto:veteran@vt.edu">veteran@vt.edu</a>
VT Well Being	112 Burruss Hall	<a href="https://well-being.vt.edu/">https://well-being.vt.edu/</a>	540-231-6272	<a href="mailto:wellbeing@vt.edu">wellbeing@vt.edu</a>
Women's Center	206 Washington St. SW	<a href="https://www.womenscenter.vt.edu/">https://www.womenscenter.vt.edu/</a>	540-231-7806	<a href="mailto:WCsupport@vt.edu">WCsupport@vt.edu</a>
Writing Center	Carol M. Newman Library	<a href="https://lib.vt.edu/study-learn/writing-center.html">https://lib.vt.edu/study-learn/writing-center.html</a>	540-231-9270	<a href="mailto:jlwrnc@vt.edu">jlwrnc@vt.edu</a>

# 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 University Pathways to General Education approved courses 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](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

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
- EDCI 3144 Educating Exceptional Learners
- 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



## Additional Requirements and Notes:

- Students must complete a MINIMUM of 120 hours with a 2.00 or above overall GPA and in-major GPA. 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 credit hours needed to graduate.
- 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. You are responsible for sending your high school official transcript or other institution official transcript to the Virginia Tech Registrar's Office to prove completion of meeting the foreign language requirement.
- **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 GPAs of 2.5 or above who have completed at least 30 credit hours at Virginia Tech may take free elective courses pass/fail (unless the course is only offered P/F). Students may take no more than 10% of the hours taken at Virginia 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.
- **ADDITIONAL NOTE:** 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.

**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.

**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 standing; 90 hours = senior standing).

Finishing Pathways Core Concept 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 1<sup>st</sup> semester of junior year to take one in the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 not a good idea**, as there might be enough overlap between subjects to cause confusion.

## University Pathways to General Education

### **Core Concept 1: Discourse** – successfully complete **9 credit hours**

- COMM 1015-1016 satisfies this concept only for students transferring into PSYC from majors requiring this sequence or double majoring in COMM Studies.

Pathways 1F: ENGL 1105

Pathways 1F: ENGL 1106

Pathways 1A: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Core Concept 2: Critical Thinking in the Humanities** – successfully complete **6 credit hours**

- Courses used in this concept cannot also fulfill other Core Concepts (ex: a course approved as Concept 2 that is also listed as Concept 6 can only fulfill one or the other).

Pathways 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Pathways 2: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Core Concept 3: Reasoning in the Social Sciences** – successfully complete **6 credit hours**

Pathways 3: \_\_\_\_\_

Pathways 3: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Core Concept 4: Reasoning in the Natural Sciences** – successfully complete **6 credit hours**

- Psychology majors are required to complete 6 credits of Pathway 4 science lectures in addition to the 8 credits of Psychology Additional Science Requirements found above.

Pathways 4: \_\_\_\_\_

Pathways 4: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Core Concept 5: Quantitative and Computational Thinking** – successfully complete **9 credit hours**

- 6 foundational hours (MATH 1014-1025) + 3 advanced/applied hours
  - \*Pre-med and Pre-health programs often require MATH 1025-1026
- For the foundational hours, the courses must come from MATH. Higher-level MATH sequences may be substituted for MATH 1014-1025 if taken in a previous major or required for an additional major.

Pathways 5F: MATH 1014 or \*MATH 1025

Pathways 5F: MATH 1025 or MATH 1026

Pathways 5A: STAT 3604 or 3615

### **Core Concept 6: Critique and Practice in Design and the Arts** – successfully complete **6 credit hours** (3 design + 3 arts)

Pathways 6A: \_\_\_\_\_

Pathways 6D: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Core Concept 7: Critical Analysis of Equity and Identity in the United States** – successfully complete **3 credit hours**

- (May also count in one other concept)

Pathways 7: \_\_\_\_\_

## Graduation Checklist for Psychology Majors

### Psychology Major Requirements:

- 120 semester hours minimum (plan to take more!) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2.00 Overall GPA and 2.00 In-major 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 credits or more than 12 credit hours taken pass/fail \_\_\_\_\_
- PSYC 1004 (Introductory Psychology) \_\_\_\_\_
- PSYC 1094 (Principles of Psych Research; formerly 2094) \_\_\_\_\_
- PSYC 1024/ 2024 (Psychology Majors Pathways) \_\_\_\_\_ (Incoming First-Years/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 \_\_\_\_\_
- 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 2<sup>nd</sup> major, or just courses of interest).

## Sample Plan of Study for the Psychology Major: 2023 Entrance Requirements<sup>1</sup>

FALL SEMESTER FIRST YEAR		Credits	SPRING SEMESTER FIRST YEAR		Credits
PSYC 1004 Introductory Psychology	3		PSYC 1094 Principles of Psyc Research <i>Pre: 1004</i>	3	
BIOL, CHEM, GEOS, PHYS (with Lab) <sup>2</sup>	4		BIOL, CHEM, GEOS, PHYS (with Lab) <sup>2</sup>	4	
Pathways 1F: ENGL 1105 First Year English	3		Pathways 1F: ENGL 1106 First Year English	3	
Pathways 5F: MATH 1014 (1025 pre-med/pre-health)	3		Pathways 5F: MATH 1025 (1026 pre-med/pre-health)	3	
PSYC 1024 or First Year Experience course	2		Pathways 2 course of your choice	3	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15</b>		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16</b>	
FALL SEMESTER SOPHOMORE		Credits	SPRING SEMESTER SOPHOMORE		Credits
PSYC 2034, 2044, 2064 or 2084 (Pick 1 of 2) <i>Pre: 1004</i>	3		PSYC 2034, 2044, 2064 or 2084 (Pick 2 of 2) <i>Pre: 1004</i>	3	
PSYC Elective <sup>3</sup>	3		Pathways 5A: STAT 3604 or 3615 (Major requirement)	3	
Pathways 2 course of your choice	3		Free Elective	3	
Pathways 3 course of your choice	3		Pathways 6A course of your choice	3	
Pathways 4 science lecture of your choice	3		Pathways 4 science lecture of your choice	3	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15</b>		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15</b>	
FALL SEMESTER JUNIOR		Credits	SPRING SEMESTER JUNIOR		Credits
PSYC Elective <sup>3</sup>	3		4000-level PSYC course + 1-credit lab <sup>4</sup>	4	
Exploring Data course (list on <a href="#">page 5</a> )	3		Exploring Human Diversity course (list on <a href="#">pages 5-6</a> )	3	
Pathways 3 course of your choice	3		Pathways 7 course or Free Elective (if 7 is combined with another Pathway concept)	3	
Pathways 1A course of your choice	3		Free Elective	3	
Free Elective	3		Free Elective	2	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15</b>		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15</b>	
FALL SEMESTER SENIOR		Credits	SPRING SEMESTER SENIOR		Credits
4000-level PSYC course <sup>5</sup>	3		PSYC 4364 Senior Seminar	3	
Pathways 6D course of your choice	3		Free Elective	3	
Free Elective	3		Free Elective	3	
Free Elective	3		Free Elective	3	
Free Elective	2		Free Elective	3	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14</b>		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15</b>	

<sup>1</sup> 120 credit hours required for graduation.

<sup>2</sup> BIOL 1105/1115 + 1106/1116, BMSP 2135/2145 + 2136/2146, GEOL 1004/1104 + 1024/1124, CHEM 1015/1025 + 1016/1026 or CHEM 1035/1045 + 1036/1046, PHYS 2205/2215 + 2206/2216, OR PHYS 2305 + PHYS 2306.

<sup>3</sup> Select from PSYC 1524, 2014, 2034, 2044, 2054, 2064, 2074, 2084, 2974, 3014, 3024, 3034, 3054, and 3154.

<sup>4</sup> Select from PSYC 4034/4234, 4044/4244, 4054/4254, 4064/4264, 4074/4274, 4084/4284, 4094/4294 or 4114/4214.

<sup>5</sup> Select from PSYC 4014, 4024, 4034, 4044, 4054, 4064, 4074, 4084, 4094, 4114, 4134, 4154, 4184, 4194 or 4454.

## 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. You will receive a certificate of completion of second major. 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.

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 additional 1000-2000-level three-credit psychology courses of your choice
- Two three-credit 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 3094	Advanced Research Methods	3	1004, 1094, STAT
PSYC 3154	Psych. Foundations of Education	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 4154	Bilingual Development and Cognition	3	1004 or 1524
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)			
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 (<https://support.psyc.vt.edu/centers>), 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:

- PSYC 2964 is for students with 60 or fewer total credit hours; PSYC 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. You must complete an Experiential Learning form that is available on the College of Science forms page here: <https://www.science.vt.edu/resources/forms.html>.
- 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 [psycadvising@vt.edu](mailto:psycadvising@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 typically 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:

- PSYC 2994 is for students with 60 or fewer total credit hours; PSYC 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. You must complete an Experiential Learning form that is available on the College of Science forms page here: <https://www.science.vt.edu/resources/forms.html>.
- 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 GPA 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. You must complete an Experiential Learning form that is available on the College of Science forms page here: <https://www.science.vt.edu/resources/forms.html>.

**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 GPA 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 an Experiential Learning form that is available on the College of Science forms page here: <https://www.science.vt.edu/resources/forms.html>. 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.

The Undergraduate Honor Code pledge that each member of the university community agrees to abide by states:

“As a Hokie, I will conduct myself with honor and integrity at all times. I will not lie, cheat, or steal, nor will I accept the actions of those who do.”

All assignments submitted shall be considered “graded work” and all aspects of your coursework are covered by the Honor Code. All projects and homework assignments are to be completed individually unless otherwise specified. The Academic Integrity expectations for Hokies are the same in an online class as they are in an in-person class. Hokies are expected to meet the academic integrity standards at Virginia Tech at all times. Ignorance of the rules does not exclude any member of the University community from the requirements and expectations of the Honor Code.

The Office of Academic Integrity takes all reports of suspected violations very seriously. As stated on their website, “The University’s recommended sanction for academic misconduct shall be an F\* sanction 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. 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 all of 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](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 Virginia Tech 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. It also helps you get the courses you want. However, the courses you request are not guaranteed; you may not always get the course or the specific section 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 should consult with your advisor to make the decision about withdrawing from a 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 and Hokie GPS:

<https://support.psync.vt.edu/sites/default/files/2021-03/2022%20DARS%20Student%20Guide.pdf>

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 adds into PSYC 4000 level courses for graduating seniors are processed on a case-by-case and space-available basis by emailing [psycadvising@vt.edu](mailto: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 by clicking on VCCS Course Equivalents or Transfer Equivalency Database, on the Transfer Guide website, <https://www.transferguide.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 3.4 overall GPA.

Students at Virginia Tech may apply to join the Honors College upon achieving a 3.4 GPA 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 email [honors@vt.edu](mailto:honors@vt.edu).

## **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>.

You can also find a list of Relevant Undergraduate Experiences on this page here related to Clinical and Counseling Psychology: <https://support.psyc.vt.edu/undergrads/career-paths-psychology/clinical-and-counseling-psychology>.

# Undergraduate Organizations in Psychology

## 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 for the [psycadvising@vt.edu](mailto:psycadvising@vt.edu) weekly announcement emails about the biweekly Psychology Club meetings about announcements of the times, places, and topics of these meetings. For more information about Psychology Club, please see <https://gobblerconnect.vt.edu/organization/psychclub>.

## 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 GPA) and have outstanding grades in their psychology courses (3.4 GPA 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.

Eligible students are invited to apply to join Psi Chi. But is not always possible to identify every student who is eligible, so please do not wait for an invitation if you believe you qualify. You probably do, so talk to the Psychology club officers about it. For more information about Psi Chi, please see <https://gobblerconnect.vt.edu/organization/psychclub>. You can also look for the Psi Chi meeting information in the weekly announcement emails that will be sent to you from [psycadvising@vt.edu](mailto:psycadvising@vt.edu).

## 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. You can find more information at the main website here: <https://blogs.lt.vt.edu/abpsi/>. You can also look for the Association of Black Psychologists meeting information in the weekly announcement emails that will be sent to you from [psycadvising@vt.edu](mailto:psycadvising@vt.edu).

## 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. You can find out more about Active Minds here: <https://gobblerconnect.vt.edu/organization/activeminds>. We post information about the weekly Active Mind meetings in the weekly announcement emails sent to you from [psycadvising@vt.edu](mailto:psycadvising@vt.edu).

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