

Department of Psychology

East Central University

Major Areas of Study & Minor Recommendations



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Department of Psychology

Major Areas of Study & Minor Recommendations

On the following pages, you will find a **GUIDE** to choosing courses within the Psychology Department. The information provided is a **recommendation** designed to guide you through the process of choosing psychology electives and a minor. At the bottom of each page is a faculty member who is familiar with and/or trained in this content area.

All Psychology Majors are required to take the following courses:

- PSYCH 1113 – General Psychology
- PSYCH 2313 – History & Systems of Psychology
- PSYCH 3833 – Behavioral Science Statistics (*offered Fall & Spring*)
- PSYCH 3933 – Writing and Design for Psychological Research (*offered ONLY in Fall*)
- PSYCH 3114 – Experimental Psychology (*offered ONLY in Spring*)
- PSYCH 4001 – Psychology Senior Seminar

Students are then required to take FOUR of the following REQUIRED ELECTIVES:

- PYSOC 2313 – Social Psychology
- HRPSY 3253 – Psychology of Aging
- PSYCH 3063 – Physiological Psychology
- PSYCH 3613 – Psychology of Learning & Cognition
- PSYCH 4133 – Abnormal Psychology
- PSYCH 4213 – Psychology of Tests & Measurements
- PSYCH 4323 – Behavioral Management
- PSYCH 4413 – Psychology of Personality
- PSYCH 4443 – Child Development
- PSYCH 4453 – Adolescent Development

Lastly, students are required to take FOUR more APPROVED ELECTIVES:

*Note: These are 3000 or 4000 level courses that may include any of the courses from the above required electives but may **NOT** include EDPSY 3513, PSYCH 3463, or PSYCH 4112. These electives may include Seminar Classes (PSYCH 4983), which are classes that are topically based (e.g., Forensic Psychology, Psychology of Prejudice & Discrimination).*

PLEASE NOTE: While the below represents some popular areas within psychology, numerous other areas can be found by examining the **American Psychological Associations Divisions** – each of which represents a different area of study within psychology (more can be found about these divisions on the last few pages of this document).

Counseling

The goal of this concentration is to prepare you for entry into a Master's level counseling program. Counseling Psychology is a specialty within professional psychology that maintains a focus on facilitating personal and interpersonal functioning across the life span. The specialty pays particular attention to emotional, social, vocational, educational, health-related, developmental, and organizational concerns.

The inclusion of a minor in *Human Resources Counseling* will provide an applied focus to the content driven aspects of a Psychology Major.

Recommended Psychology Course Electives:

PSYCH 3063 – Physiological Psychology

PSYCH 4133 – Abnormal Psychology

PSYCH 4213 – Psychology of Tests & Measurements

PSYCH 4323 – Behavioral Management

PSYCH 4413 – Psychology of Personality

AT LEAST ONE of the Developmental Courses – PSYCH 4443, 4453, HRPSY 3253

PLUS two other Psychology Course of your Choosing

Recommended Minor:

Human Resources Counseling; Social Work; Criminal Justice; Juvenile Justice

Please Note: A career as a counselor will require a Master's Degree that offers a licensing option – LPC. Our department offers a Master's of Science in Psychological Services degree that leads to the LPC.

For more information on this concentration, please see:

American Psychological Associations (APA) **Division 17** (Society for Counseling Psychology)

Contact Faculty: Dr. Chris Campbell - ccampbell@ecok.edu
Dr. Ellen Harwell - ellihar@ecok.edu
Dr. Joanna Harris-Young – jharris@ecok.edu

School Psychology

The goal of this concentration is give you the background necessary to pursue an advanced degree (Master's or Doctorate) in School Psychology. School Psychology is a general practice and health service provider specialty of professional psychology that is concerned with the science and practice of psychology with children, youth, families; learners of all ages; and the schooling process. School psychologists are uniquely qualified members of school teams that support students' ability to learn and teachers' ability to teach. They apply expertise in mental health, learning, and behavior, to help children and youth succeed academically, socially, behaviorally, and emotionally. They are trained to carry out psychological and psychoeducational assessment, counseling, and consultation, and in the ethical, legal and administrative codes of their profession.

The inclusion of a minor in *Education* provides the necessary education background that forms an integral part of this discipline.

Recommended Psychology Course Electives:

PSYCH 4443 – Child Development
PSYCH 4453 – Adolescent Development
PSYCH 4213 – Psychology of Tests & Measurements
PSYCH 3063 – Physiological Psychology
PSYCH 3613 – Psychology of Learning & Cognition
PSYCH 4323 – Behavioral Management

PLUS two other Psychology Course of your Choosing

Recommended Minor:

Education (*recommended to take EDPSY 3513 AND PSYCH 4112*)

Please Note: A career as a School Psychologist will require a Master's Degree (ECU offers a Master's degree in this area).

For more information on School Psychology please see:

American Psychological Associations (APA) **Division 16** (School Psychology) and
National Association of School Psychologists (NASP)

Contact Faculty: Dr. Santa Velez (svelez@ecok.edu) or
Dr. Catherine Roring (croring@ecok.edu)

School Counseling

A school counselor is a counselor and an educator who works in primary (elementary and middle) schools and/or secondary schools to provide academic, career, college access/affordability/admission, and social-emotional competencies to all students through a school counseling program. Today's school counselors are vital members of the education team, ensuring today's students become the productive, well-adjusted adults of tomorrow.

The inclusion of a minor in *Education* provides the necessary education background that forms an integral part of this discipline.

Recommended Psychology Course Electives:

- PSYCH 4443 – Child Development
- PSYCH 4453 – Adolescent Development
- PSYCH 4213 – Psychology of Tests & Measurements
- PSYCH 4323 – Behavioral Management

PLUS *four other Psychology Course of your Choosing*

Recommended Minor:

Education (*recommended to take EDPSY 3513 AND PSYCH 4112*)

Please Note: A career as a counselor will require certification in the teaching field (can be alternatively certified) and a Master's Degree (ECU offers a Master's degree in this area).

For more information on School Psychology please see:

American Psychological Associations (APA) **Division 16 & 17** (School Psychology & Society for Counseling Psychology) and the American School Counselor Association (ASCA).

Contact Faculty: Dr. Usha Fountain (ufountain@ecok.edu)

Developmental Psychology

The goal of this concentration is to prepare you for entry into a career that involves development across the lifespan – from childhood, adolescence, into adulthood, including Master’s and Doctorate level degrees. Developmental psychology is the scientific study of how and why human beings develop over the course of their life. Originally concerned with infants and children, the field has expanded to include adolescence, adult development, aging, and the entire lifespan. Developmental psychology examines issues such as the extent of development through gradual accumulation of knowledge versus stage-like development--and the extent to which children are born with innate mental structures, versus learning through experience.

Numerous minors work well with Developmental Psychology and consideration should be given to future career aspirations. For example, those interested in working with youth in the criminal justice system should complete a minor in *Juvenile Justice*, while those who are interested in working with the school system should complete a minor in *Education*. Those interested in a counseling career focused on a specific developmental age group should look at the section above on counseling psychology.

Recommended Psychology Course Electives:

- PSYCH 4443 – Child Development
- PSYCH 4453 – Adolescent Development
- HRPSY 3253 – Psychology of Aging
- PSYCH 3063 – Physiological Psychology
- PSYCH 3613 – Psychology of Learning & Cognition
- PSYCH 4213 – Psychology of Tests & Measurements

PLUS two other Psychology Course of your Choosing

Recommended Minor:

Education; Juvenile Justice; Criminal Justice; Social Work; Biology.

Please Note:

For more information on this concentration, please see:
American Psychological Associations (APA) **Division 7** (Developmental Psychology)

Contact Faculty: Dr. Ellen Harwell - elijhar@ecok.edu
Dr. Joanna Harris-Young – jharris@ecok.edu
Dr. Robin Roberson - robrrob@ecok.edu

Educational Psychology

The goal of this concentration is give you the background necessary to pursue an advanced degree (Master's or Doctorate) in Educational Psychology. Educational psychology is the study of how humans learn and retain knowledge, primarily in educational settings like classrooms. This includes emotional, social, and cognitive learning processes.

The inclusion of a minor in *Education* provides the necessary education background that forms an integral part of this discipline.

Recommended Psychology Course Electives:

PSYCH 4443 – Child Development
PSYCH 4453 – Adolescent Development
PSYCH 4213 – Psychology of Tests & Measurements
PSYCH 3063 – Physiological Psychology
PSYCH 3613 – Psychology of Learning & Cognition
PSYCH 4323 – Behavioral Management

PLUS *two other Psychology Course of your Choosing*

Recommended Minor:

Education (*recommended to take EDPSY 3513 AND PSYCH 4112*)

Please Note:

For more information on this concentration, please see:

American Psychological Associations (APA) **Division 15** (Educational Psychology)

Contact Faculty: Dr. Robin Roberson - robrrrob@ecok.edu

Cognitive Neuroscience / Biological Psychology

The goal of this concentration is give you the background necessary to pursue an advanced degree (Master's or Doctorate) in cognitive neuroscience. Cognitive neuroscience is a branch of both psychology and neuroscience, overlapping with disciplines such as physiological psychology, cognitive psychology and neuropsychology. This academic field is concerned with the scientific study of biological substrates underlying cognition, with a specific focus on the neural substrates of mental processes. It addresses the questions of how psychological and cognitive functions are produced by neural circuits in the brain. This concentration may also examine the physiological bases of behavior. Biological psychology is concerned primarily with the relationship between psychological processes and the underlying physiological events—or, in other words, the mind-body phenomenon. Its focus is the function of the brain and the rest of the nervous system in activities (e.g., thinking, learning, feeling, sensing, and perceiving) recognized as characteristic of humans and other animals. Biological psychology has continually been involved in studying the physical basis for the reception of internal and external stimuli by the nervous system, particularly the visual and auditory systems.

The inclusion of a minor in *Biology* provides the necessary biological background that forms the foundation of this discipline, and is a content area frequently required by graduate schools in this area.

Recommended Psychology Course Electives:

PSYCH 3613 – Psychology of Learning & Cognition

PSYCH 3063 – Physiological Psychology

PSYCH 4133 – Abnormal Psychology

PSYCH 4213 – Psychology of Tests & Measurements

HRPSY 3253 – Psychology of Aging

AT LEAST ONE of the Developmental Courses – PSYCH 4443 or 4453

PLUS two other Psychology Course of your Choosing

Recommended Minor:

Biology; Chemistry.

Please Note:

For more information on this concentration, please see:

American Psychological Associations (APA) **Division 3** (Society for Experimental Psychology and Cognitive Science); **Division 6** (Society for Behavioral Neuroscience and Comparative Psychology)

Contact Faculty: Dr. Marc Klippenstine – mklippen@ecok.edu

Social Psychology

The goal of this concentration is give you the background necessary to pursue an advanced degree (Master's or Doctorate) in social psychology. Social Psychology is the scientific study of how people's thoughts, feelings, and behaviors are influenced by the actual, imagined, or implied presence of others. Social psychologists therefore deal with the factors that lead us to behave in a given way in the presence of others, and look at the conditions under which certain behavior/actions and feelings occur.

The inclusion of a minor in a discipline focused on group & societal level interactions (e.g., *Sociology, Criminal Justice, and Political Science*) will help provide a balance to the individual level focus of psychology.

Recommended Psychology Course Electives:

PYSOC 2313 – Social Psychology

PSYCH 3613 – Psychology of Learning & Cognition

PSYCH 4413 – Psychology of Personality

AT LEAST ONE Developmental Courses – PSYCH 4443, 4453, or HRPSY 3253)

PLUS *four other Psychology Course of your Choosing.*

Recommended Minor:

Sociology; Criminal Justice; Juvenile Justice; Political Science.

Please Note: While not offered as part of the regular schedule, summer seminar courses frequently fit the goal of social psychology (e.g., Forensic Psychology, Psychology of Prejudice and Discrimination, Minds on Trial).

For more information on this concentration, please see:

American Psychological Associations (APA) **Division 8** (Society for Personality and Social Psychology); **Division 9** (Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues); **Division 14** (Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology); **Division 41** (American Psychology-Law Society); among many others.

Contact Faculty: Dr. Marc Klippenstine – mklippen@ecok.edu

Sports Psychology

Sport psychology is an interdisciplinary science that draws on knowledge from many related fields including biomechanics, physiology, kinesiology and psychology. It involves the study of how psychological factors affect performance and how participation in sport and exercise affect psychological and physical factors.

The inclusion of a minor in *one of the Kinesiology* focuses will provide the necessary sport background that forms an integral part of this discipline.

Recommended Psychology Course Electives:

PYSOC 2313 – Social Psychology

PSYCH 3063 – Physiological Psychology

PSYCH 3613 – Psychology of Learning & Cognition

PSYCH 4323 – Behavioral Management

PSYCH 4413 – Psychology of Personality

AT LEAST ONE Developmental Courses – PSYCH 4443 or 4453

PLUS two other Psychology Course of your Choosing

Recommended Minor:

Kinesiology (*recommended to take KIN 4593 – Psychology of Sport*)

Please Note:

For more information on this concentration, please see:

American Psychological Associations (APA) **Division 47** (Society for Sport, Exercise and Performance Psychology).

Contact Faculty: Dr. Suzanne Pottratz - spotttrtz@ecok.edu

Industrial/Organizational Psychology

Industrial and organizational psychology (also known as I–O psychology, occupational psychology, work psychology, WO psychology, IWO psychology and business psychology) is the scientific study of human behavior in the workplace and applies psychological theories and principles to organizations and individuals in their workplace.

The inclusion of a minor in *one of the Business Administration* areas will provide the necessary sport background that forms an integral part of this discipline.

Recommended Psychology Course Electives:

PYSOC 2313 – Social Psychology
PSYCH 3013 – Industrial and Organizational Psychology
PSYCH 3613 – Psychology of Learning & Cognition
PSYCH 4213 – Psychology of Tests & Measurements
PSYCH 4323 – Behavioral Management
PSYCH 4413 – Psychology of Personality

PLUS *two other Psychology Course of your Choosing*

Recommended Minor:

Business Administration Area.

Please Note:

For more information on this concentration, please see:

American Psychological Associations (APA) **Division 14** (Society for Industrial Organizational Psychology)

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