

Recommendation from the Committee on Undergraduate Studies (Fred Hofstetter, Chair) and with the concurrence of the Coordinating Committee on Education (Deni Galileo, Chair) and the Executive Committee (Sheldon Pollack, Chair) for the request to add a BS major in Psychology.

Whereas, we would like to increase the number of students who apply to graduate schools in psychology and the competitiveness of our best students for entrance into top level graduate programs, and

Whereas, we would like to better meet the needs of students with strong science backgrounds and interests who choose Psychology or change majors to Psychology because of changing career aspirations, and

Whereas, we would like to offer dedicated students the opportunity to engage in depth the rigorous scientific approach to Psychology advocated by the faculty, be it therefore

Resolved, that the Faculty Senate recommends that the BS in Psychology be granted permanent status in the College of Arts and Sciences.

UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE FORMS

Academic Program Approval

This form is a routing document for the approval of new and revised academic programs. Proposing department should complete this form. For more information, call the Faculty Senate Office at 831-2921.

Submitted by: _____ Brian Ackerman _____ phone number _____ 2385 _____

Department: _____ Psychology _____ email address _____ bpa@psych.udel.edu _____

Date: _____ Oct 1, 2012 _____

Action: _____ Request for Permanent Status _____

(Example: add major/minor/concentration, delete major/minor/concentration, revise major/minor/concentration, academic unit name change, request for permanent status, policy change, etc.)

Effective

term _____ 13F _____

(use format 04F, 05W)

Current degree _____ BS in Psychology _____

(Example: BA, BACH, BACJ, HBA, EDD, MA, MBA, etc.)

Proposed change leads to the degree of: _____ BS in Psychology _____

(Example: BA, BACH, BACJ, HBA, EDD, MA, MBA, etc.)

Proposed name: _____

Proposed new name for revised or new major / minor / concentration / academic unit
(if applicable)

Revising or Deleting:

Undergraduate major / Concentration: _____

(Example: Applied Music – Instrumental degree BMAS)

Undergraduate minor: _____

(Example: African Studies, Business Administration, English, Leadership, etc.)

Graduate Program Policy statement change: _____

(Must attach your Graduate Program Policy Statement)

Graduate Program of Study: _____

(Example: Animal Science: MS Animal Science: PHD Economics: MA Economics: PHD)

Graduate minor / concentration: _____

Note: all graduate studies proposals must include an electronic copy of the Graduate Program Policy Document, highlighting the changes made to the original policy document.

List new courses required for the new or revised curriculum. How do they support the overall program objectives of the major/minor/concentrations)?

(Be aware that approval of the curriculum is dependent upon these courses successfully passing through the Course Challenge list. If there are no new courses enter "None")

Explain, when appropriate, how this new/revised curriculum supports the 10 goals of undergraduate education: <http://www.ugs.udel.edu/gened/>

Identify other units affected by the proposed changes:

(Attach permission from the affected units. If no other unit is affected, enter "None")

Describe the rationale for the proposed program change(s):

(Explain your reasons for creating, revising, or deleting the curriculum or program.)

The BS major received provisional approval by the University Faculty Senate in April 2007. Five years later, we request permanent approval.

Program Requirements:

(Show the new or revised curriculum as it should appear in the Course Catalog. If this is a revision, be sure to indicate the changes being made to the current curriculum and **include a side-by-side comparison** of the credit distribution before and after the proposed change.)

These are the current requirements for the proposed major with permanent status.

DEGREE: BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

MAJOR: PSYCHOLOGY

University Requirements:

ENGL 110	Critical Reading and Writing	03
First Year Experience		00-04
Discovery Learning Experience		03
Three credits in an approved course or courses stressing multicultural, ethnic, and/or gender-related course content.		03

COLLEGE REQUIREMENTS:

Foreign Language	00-12
Breadth Requirements	24
(Minimum of 6 credits each in Groups A & B; 12 credits in Group C)	

SECOND WRITING REQUIREMENT 03

SCIENCE CORE:

Biological Sciences		11
Take these 3 courses:		
BISC 207	Introductory Biology I	04
BISC 208	Introductory Biology II	04
BISC 306	General Physiology	03

BISC 207 will be taken in the Spring semester and 208 in the Fall semester, as per agreement with the Biology Dept.

Chemistry and Physics		08
Take two courses in sequence:		
CHEM 103/104	General Chemistry or	08
PHYS 201/202	Introductory Physics I/II	08

Mathematics		03-04
MATH 221	Calculus or	03
MATH 241	Analytic Geometry and Calculus A	04

Computer Science		03
CISC 108	Introduction to Computer Science I	03

BS MAJOR

<u>Current Major Requirements</u>	<u>Credits</u>
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Required	12
General Psychology (PSYC100)	
Research Methodology (PSYC207)	
Measurement and Statistics (PSYC209)	
Research Seminar (PSYC369) *	

Core Competencies: Take 4 Courses	12
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BioPsychology: Take 1
Learning and Motivation (PSYC312)
Brain and Behavior (PSYC314)
Behavioral Neuroscience (PSYC320)

Cognitive Psychology: Take 1
Sensation and Perception (PSYC310)
Cognition (PSYC340)
Psychology of Language (PSYC344)

Developmental/Clinical: Take 1
Developmental Psychology (PSYC350)
Psychopathology (PSYC380)

Social/Personality: Take 1
Research in Personality (PSYC370)

Brian P. Ackerman

From: Randall L. Duncan [rduncan@UDel.Edu]
Sent: Tuesday, September 18, 2012 2:42 PM
To: Brian P. Ackerman; 'David W. Smith'
Subject: RE: BS Major in Psychology

Dear Dr. Ackerman,

This note is to let you know that the Department of Biological Sciences fully supports the move of the Bachelor of Science major in Psychology to permanent status. As you know, this major impacts primarily three courses in Biology and we have been able to make sure that these majors were placed in these classes. Unless there is a dramatic increase in enrollment, I foresee no problems with continuing to be able to serve your majors.

I look forward to seeing your program achieve permanent status.

Best regards,
Randy

Randall L. Duncan, Ph.D.
Professor and Chair
Dept. of Biological Sciences
University of Delaware

From: Brian P. Ackerman [mailto:bpa@psych.udel.edu]
Sent: Monday, September 17, 2012 9:18 AM
To: rduncan@UDel.Edu; David W. Smith
Cc: Brian P. Ackerman
Subject: BS Major in Psychology

Dear Randy,

Our BS major in Psychology is approaching its 5th birthday, and the University Senate requires us to petition for permanent approval and change the status from provisional approval. The major requires students to take three BISC courses (207, 208, 306). This requirement has been in place for these 5 years. On average, we expect about 20 students to meet this requirement each year.

To go forth with the petition, we need a letter of support from you or a Department representative. Return e-mail indicating support will do the trick. Can you support the permanent status of the BS major in Psychology?

I have appended the academic program approval form that contains a description of the major.

Sincerely,

Brian

Brian Ackerman
Professor of Psychology
Director of Undergraduate Studies

Brian P. Ackerman

From: Nowak, Edmund R [nowak@udel.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, September 18, 2012 11:42 AM
To: Brian P. Ackerman
Cc: Nowak, Edmund R
Subject: FW: BS in Psychology
Attachments: BSApprovalForm.12doc

Dear Brian,

The Department of Physics and Astronomy supports the petition for permanent status of the BS major in Psychology.

Best regards,

Dr. Ed Nowak

Professor and Chair

Department of Physics and Astronomy

From: Hadjipanayis, George
Sent: Monday, September 17, 2012 11:42 AM
To: Nowak, Edmund R
Cc: Mulders, Norbert
Subject: FW: BS in Psychology

From: Brian P. Ackerman [mailto:bpa@psych.udel.edu]
Sent: Monday, September 17, 2012 9:25 AM
To: Hadjipanayis, George
Cc: Brian P. Ackerman
Subject: BS in Psychology

Dear Dr. Hadjipanayis,

Our BS major in Psychology is approaching its 5th birthday, and the University Senate requires us to petition for permanent approval and change the status from provisional approval. The major requires students to take either two Physics courses (201, 202) or two Chemistry courses (103, 104). This requirement has been in place for these 5 years. On average, we expect about 20 students to meet this requirement each year.

To go forth with the petition, we need a letter of support from you or a Department representative. Return e-mail indicating support will do the trick. Can you support the permanent status of the BS major in Psychology?

I have appended a copy of the petition.

Sincerely,

Brian

Brian Ackerman
Professor of Psychology
Director of Undergraduate Studies

Brian P. Ackerman

From: Errol Lloyd [elloyd@udel.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, September 18, 2012 11:09 AM
To: Brian P. Ackerman
Subject: Re: BS in Psychology

Dear Professor Ackerman,

Yes, the Computer and Information Sciences Department is in full support of granting permanent status to the BS major in Psychology, and on the requirement that these students take our CISC108.

I hope that the approval process goes smoothly and please let me know if I can provide any other assistance.

Errol Lloyd
Professor and Chair
Computer and Information Sciences

On Mon, Sep 17, 2012 at 10:00 AM, Brian P. Ackerman <bpa@psych.udel.edu> wrote:

Dear Dr. Lloyd,

Our BS major in Psychology is approaching its 5th birthday, and the University Senate requires us to petition for permanent approval and change the status from provisional approval. The major requires majors to take CISC108 This requirement has been in place for these 5 years. On average, we expect about 20 students to meet this requirement each year.

To go forth with the petition, we need a letter of support from you or a Department representative. Return e-mail indicating support will do the trick. Can you support the permanent status of the BS major in Psychology?

I append the petition.

Sincerely,

Brian

Brian P. Ackerman

From: Murray Johnston [mvj@udel.edu]
Sent: Monday, September 17, 2012 11:05 AM
To: Brian P. Ackerman
Subject: Re: FW: BS in Psychology

Dear Brian,

The chemistry and biochemistry department wholeheartedly supports your petition for permanent status for the BS Psychology major. In particular, we are happy to continue serving your students in CHEM 103/104. Please feel free to contact me if you have any concerns or comments about how we might continue to coordinate our efforts.

Best,
Murray

Murray V. Johnston
Professor and Chair
Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry
University of Delaware
Newark, DE 19716

Office: Brown Laboratory, Room 102C
Phone: 302.831.1247
Fax: 302.831.6335
Email: mvj@udel.edu
Internet: www.udel.edu/chem/johnston/

On 9/17/2012 9:26 AM, Brian P. Ackerman wrote:

Dear Dr. Johnston,

As you can see below, you can see that we seek approval for permanent status for the BS in Psychology. In my message to Dr. Theopold, I neglected to append a copy of the petition. I append it here.

Thank you,

Brian Ackerman

From: Klaus Theopold [<mailto:Theopold@UDel.Edu>]
Sent: Monday, September 17, 2012 9:24 AM
To: Brian P. Ackerman
Cc: Murray Johnston
Subject: Re: BS in Psychology

Dear Brian

Since September 1, 2012, Prof. Murray Johnston (mvj@udel.edu) serves as Chair of UD's Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry; please make a note of the change. Your message has been forwarded to Prof. Johnston.

Regards, Klaus

Prof. Klaus H. Theopold
Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry,
University of Delaware, Newark, DE 19716, USA.
Phone: (302)831-1546 (or 1247); Fax: (302)831-6335
<http://www.udel.edu/theopold/index.html>

On Sep 17, 2012, at 9:19 AM, Brian P. Ackerman wrote:

Dear Dr. Theopold,

Our BS major in Psychology is approaching its 5th birthday, and the University Senate requires us to petition for permanent approval and change the status from provisional approval. The major requires majors to take two CHEM courses (103, 104). This requirement has been in place for these 5 years. On average, we expect about 20 students to meet this requirement each year.

To go forth with the petition, we need a letter of support from you or a Department representative. Return e-mail indicating support will do the trick. Can you support the permanent status of the BS major in Psychology?

Sincerely,

Brian

Brian Ackerman
Professor of Psychology
Director of Undergraduate Studies

Brian P. Ackerman

From: John A. Pelesko [pelesko@math.udel.edu]
Sent: Monday, September 17, 2012 10:06 AM
To: Brian P. Ackerman
Subject: Re: BS in Psychology

Dear Dr. Ackerman,

I'm happy to support the petition for permanent approval of the BS in Psychology. Best of luck with your program.

John A. Pelesko

On 9/17/2012 9:41 AM, Brian P. Ackerman wrote:

Dear Dr. Pelesko,

Our BS major in Psychology is approaching its 5th birthday, and the University Senate requires us to petition for permanent approval and change the status from provisional approval. The major requires majors to take one of two MATH courses (221, 241). This requirement has been in place for these 5 years. On average, we expect about 20 students to meet this requirement each year.

To go forth with the petition, we need a letter of support from you or a Department representative. Return e-mail indicating support will do the trick. Can you support the permanent status of the BS major in Psychology?

I have appended the petition.

Sincerely,

Brian

Brian Ackerman
Professor of Psychology
Director of Undergraduate Studies

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John A. Pelesko
Professor and Chair
Department of Mathematical Sciences
University of Delaware

Permanent Status Program Review: Self-Study

Bachelor of Science in Psychology

1. Program description

a. Introduction and History

The Department of Psychology proposed a new Bachelor of Science major in the Fall of 2006, which the Faculty Senate approved provisionally for five years in April, 2007. At the time, the Department of Psychology offered a BA in Psychology and a BA in Psychology Education, and a year later the Department offered a new Bachelor's of Science in Neuroscience. We anticipated that we would graduate between 10 and 15 students with a BS degree in Psychology once the program matured.

We conceptualized the new BS major as addressing four goals. The first goal was to find a way to increase the number and rigor of the laboratory experiences of selected students. To this end, the new major required a written thesis that represented at least six credits of advanced laboratory work in a faculty member's laboratory. This goal was consistent with the charge of the Department to teach Psychological Science and consistent with our inclusion in the science portfolio in the College of Arts and Sciences. We could only offer this option to a small number of students because we historically have had a huge number of majors of all sorts and a relatively small number of faculty members. A second and related goal was to increase the numbers of theses by undergraduate majors. The theses could be in-house (PSYC468 for 6 credits) or part of a Degree with Distinction (UNIV401/402) experience. In our view, the thesis represents an opportunity for independent and in-depth work that is not usually available in course work.

The third goal was to create a dedicated focus on the more biological end of Psychological Science and thus to match the interests and meet the needs of students who might otherwise be BA majors or perhaps BISC (Biological Sciences) or NSCI (Neuroscience) majors. The fourth goal was to create a pedigree and a set of skills for our undergraduates that might enhance their interest in and ability to compete for post-graduate laboratory jobs and for PhD programs in psychological science. These programs increasingly are valuing undergraduate applicants with strong research experiences and skills, often in post-graduate laboratory employment, and courses in the physical sciences. Our intent was to create a program that would encourage interest in a career in Psychological and Medical sciences.

The BS major in Psychology proved unexpectedly popular from the outset. We enrolled far more freshman majors every year than we anticipated, and the accumulating numbers seemed to pose a threat to the integrity of the program. One problem is the timing of lab entry. Faculty often are reluctant to be thesis directors for students who haven't worked in the lab prior to the senior year, and students sometimes find themselves to be a bad fit with a particular lab if they wait until senior year to join the lab. A solution is to structure lab participation in the junior year. A second and related problem is that many students wait until late in their academic career to select out of the BS major, perhaps changing majors to a BA in Psychology. The students select out for a variety of reasons, including relatively poor grades in science courses, and lack of interest in independent research and doing a thesis. If students select out early and in a timely manner, there is sufficient time left to take extra breadth courses, etc., and little cost of a change in major. A late switch may incur significant costs that often are not apparent to students. To address these problems, we have proposed a major revision in September 2012 that requires and structures research experience before the senior year, and we hold a mandatory meeting for BS

majors each October to counsel students on the rigor of the major and inform them explicitly about the research requirements. At this meeting, we urge sophomores and juniors to volunteer in laboratories or participate in laboratories for credit, and we advise freshmen about the nature of the major.

b. Academic Priorities and General Education Goals

The focus on laboratory work and an empirical thesis is consistent with the University goals of fostering experiential learning (Discovery Learning Experience) and the acquisition of quantitative, writing, and critical thinking skills. In the same vein, the BS program satisfies many of the specific general education goals for undergraduate education. These include Goal 1 (skills in written communication and quantitative reasoning), Goal 2 (critical thinking), Goal 3 (independent and collaborative work), Goal 4 (ethics—in research), Goal 5 (methods of knowledge acquisition), Goal 6 (intellectual curiosity and engagement), and Goal 7 (outside classroom experiences). Similarly, the requirement of background courses in physical science (e.g., BISC207 and 209, CHEM103 and 104) and calculus easily satisfies the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) breadth requirement for the natural sciences and mathematics group. Satisfying this requirement, however, consumes a considerable number of credit hours, and we balanced that burden by reducing to 6 the numbers of hours in each of the other three breadth areas. This solution to the credit burden is consistent with other Bachelor of Science majors in CAS. The courses in the breadth areas for CAS also satisfy the University breadth requirement, given that the students have to sample courses from two majors to satisfy a group requirement.

c. Curricular Requirements

The current requirements are below.

DEGREE: BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

MAJOR: PSYCHOLOGY

University Requirements:

ENGL 110	Critical Reading and Writing	03
First Year Experience		00-04
Discovery Learning Experience		03
Three credits in an approved course or courses stressing multicultural, ethnic, and/or gender-related course content.		03

COLLEGE REQUIREMENTS:

Foreign Language		00-12
Breadth Requirements (Minimum of 6 credits each in Groups A & B; 12 credits in Group C)		24

SECOND WRITING REQUIREMENT		03
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SCIENCE CORE:

Biological Sciences		11
Take these 3 courses:		
BISC 207	Introductory Biology I	04
BISC 208	Introductory Biology II	04
BISC 306	General Physiology	03

BISC 207 will be taken in the Spring semester and 208 in the Fall semester, as per agreement with the Biology Dept.

Chemistry or Physics		08
Take two courses in sequence:		

CHEM 103/104	General Chemistry or	08
PHYS 201/202	Introductory Physics I/II	08

Mathematics		03-04
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MATH 221	Calculus or	03
MATH 241	Analytic Geometry and Calculus A	04

Computer Science		03
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CISC 108	Introduction to Computer Science I	03
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BS MAJOR

<u>Current Major Requirements</u>	<u>Credits</u>
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Required	12
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General Psychology (PSYC100)
 Research Methodology (PSYC207)
 Measurement and Statistics (PSYC209)
 Research Seminar (PSYC369) *

Core Competencies: Take 4 Courses	12
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BioPsychology: Take 1

Learning and Motivation (PSYC312)
 Brain and Behavior (PSYC314)
 Behavioral Neuroscience (PSYC320)

Cognitive Psychology: Take 1

Sensation and Perception (PSYC310)
 Cognition (PSYC340)
 Psychology of Language (PSYC344)

Developmental/Clinical: Take 1

Developmental Psychology (PSYC350)
 Psychopathology (PSYC380)

Social/Personality: Take 1

Research in Personality (PSYC370)

Social Psychology (PSYC390)

Cultural Psychology (PSYC394)

**Specialty Courses: Take 2 400/600
Level Courses Except PSYC466 & 468**

6

Thesis Research (PSYC 468 for 6cr) *

6

Total Credits

36

*** C or better in PSYC369 is a pre-requisite for 468.****d. Outcome Assessments**

Given our goals for the BS degree in Psychology, we focus on two outcomes. The first is that students generate acceptable theses. To ensure acceptability, we require close faculty supervision of thesis drafts, and that students submit in-house theses to our Undergraduate Committee for approval. The students have done so, and all the submissions have been acceptable. For Degree with Distinction students, we rely on the UNIV401/402 work and the thesis committee to judge acceptability. Last Spring, 2012, 5 students won Degrees with Distinction out of 20 BS majors (25%). Here the comparison group is BA majors. Of the 223 majors last year, 7 won Degrees with Distinction (3%).

The second outcome is post-graduate work in Psychology, Medicine, or related fields. Here, our primary information source is a card graduating seniors compete at the Department Convocation in late May, and we do not have comparison data. The information suffers from at least three kinds of systematic biases: only about 2/3rds of the seniors come to Convocation in May (some graduated in January and many go to the Convocation of their other majors), many do not identify their major (BS or BA or NSCI), and many seniors either do not fill out the card or fill it out on the basis of aspiration. Nonetheless, the data show that 8 seniors (out of 23 possible) identified themselves as BS majors and that 7 of these are in medical school, psychology graduate school, or social work graduate school. We also know that three other seniors to-date have gained employment in labs throughout the country. A couple of other students with high GPAs are not yet involved in related post-graduate work, but probably will be in the near future. So, the numbers are likely to improve.

e. Student Advisement

For the first three years of the BS program, the Associate Chair was the advisor for all students. The students also had access to our Advisement Office, which is staffed by a faculty Director, a graduate student Assistant Director, and highly trained and carefully selected and paid undergraduate assistants. More recently, we have assigned BS students randomly to individual faculty members, in response to a policy articulated by the CAS Dean's office. Since program inception, we have carefully monitored student progress, and the Associate Chair and Director of Advisement have had individual-and group-meetings with students to make sure students understand the demands and timing of major requirements. Each October, we hold a mandatory meeting for BS majors to counsel students on the rigor of the major and ensure they are aware of the research requirements. At this meeting, we strongly urge sophomores and juniors to get involved in laboratories either on a voluntary or for-credit basis. We inform freshmen in detail about the nature of the major, including the science and research requirements.

f. Changes in Degree Requirements

We recently proposed changes in the major requirements. We added a new Research Seminar (PSYC369) and we deleted one of the three required 400-level or 600-level courses as a way of maintaining the total credit requirement. The purpose of PSYC 369 is to structure timely access to faculty laboratories in the 5th or 6th semesters and prior to the need to commit to or start a thesis project. This new Research Seminar will require students to work in a laboratory and meet commonly once a week for an hour to analyze journal articles, and present and critique laboratory research. Below we present the old and new curricula for the Psychology portion of the major. The CAS and University requirements are unchanged.

<u>Current PSYC Requirements</u>	<u>Credits</u>	<u>Proposed PSYC Requirements</u>	<u>Credits</u>
Required	9	Required	12*
General Psychology (PSYC100)		General Psychology (PSYC100)	
Research Methodology (PSYC207)		Research Methodology (PSYC207)	
Measurement and Statistics (PSYC209)		Measurement and Statistics (PSYC209)	
		Research Seminar (PSYC369) *+	
Core Competencies: Take 4 Courses	12	Core Competencies: Take 4 Courses	12
BioPsychology: Take 1		BioPsychology: Take 1	
Learning and Motivation (PSYC312)		Learning and Motivation (PSYC312)	
Brain and Behavior (PSYC314)		Brain and Behavior (PSYC314)	
Behavioral Neuroscience (PSYC320)		Behavioral Neuroscience (PSYC320)	
Cognitive Psychology: Take 1		Cognitive Psychology: Take 1	
Sensation and Perception (PSYC310)		Sensation and Perception (PSYC310)	
Cognition (PSYC340)		Cognition (PSYC340)	
Psychology of Language (PSYC344)		Psychology of Language (PSYC344)	
Developmental/Clinical: Take 1		Developmental/Clinical: Take 1	
Developmental Psychology (PSYC350)		Developmental Psychology (PSYC350)	
Psychopathology (PSYC380)		Psychopathology (PSYC380)	
Social/Personality: Take 1		Social/Personality: Take 1	
Research in Personality (PSYC370)		Research in Personality (PSYC370)	
Social Psychology (PSYC390)		Social Psychology (PSYC390)	
Cultural Psychology (PSYC394)		Cultural Psychology (PSYC394)	
Specialty Courses: Take 3 400/600	9	Specialty Courses: Take 2 400-600	6*
Level Courses Except PSYC466 & 468		Level Courses Except PSYC466 & 468	
Thesis Research (PSYC 468 for 6cr)	6	Thesis Research (PSYC468 for 6cr)	6*+
Total Credits	36	Total Credits	36

+ C or better in PSYC369 is a pre-requisite for 468.

* denotes proposed changes in the curriculum.

g. Recruitment

We do not do anything special to recruit students to any of the major programs in our Department. We are concerned that we perhaps have too many students, rather than too few. The goal of advisement is to make sure students are in the BS program for the right reasons.

2. Students

a. Enrollment History and Grades

In the table below, we provide total enrollments by semester for the BS program and enrollments and mean GPAs for seniors. For comparison purposes, we provide senior enrollment and GPA data for BA majors. We note several trends. First, starting with Fall, 2009, as students in the program began progressing to junior and senior status, the Table shows consistent declines in enrollment from the Fall to the Spring semesters. We think this finding shows that Freshmen and Sophomores tend to change out of the major after the initial enthusiasm in declaring a major and in response to our advising meetings. Second, the mean GPAs of senior BS majors consistently exceed that of senior BA majors starting in Fall, 2008. Note that this advantage occurs despite the fact that the BS majors are taking science courses that tend to associate with lower course grades. We haven't put the data in the table, but other data show that the BS in Psychology majors also have mean GPAs slightly above those in the BS in Neuroscience in 6 of the 7 semesters in which the Department has housed both majors.

	<u>Semester</u>						
	Fall07	Spring08	Fall08	Spring09	Fall09	Spring10	Fall10
<u>BS</u>							
Total	9	35	61	79	106	86	101
Seniors	1	2	8	14	13	10	10
GPA	2.9	3.23	3.24	3.34	3.47	3.38	3.43
<u>BA</u>							
Seniors	197	221	152	188	170	189	176
GPA	3.10	3.13	3.11	3.13	3.12	3.14	3.13
	Spring11	Fall11	Spring12	Fall12			
<u>BS</u>							
Total	89	94	84	107			
Seniors	24	19	20	23			
GPA	3.31	3.44	3.38	3.29			
<u>BA</u>							
Seniors	219	194	223	250			
GPA	3.08	3.14	3.23	3.10			

b. Student Placement

The Department's placement efforts reflect a mentor approach. The approach is that thesis supervisors and other faculty members advise about graduate opportunities, write letters of recommendation in support of graduate applications, and help students identify and complete for BS-level laboratory jobs across the country. From student self-reports for the senior class of 2012, at least 10 of the 20 graduates are in graduate schools or employed in labs. We have no information about 10 of the graduates.

3. Demand and Competition

We conceptualized the new BS major as a way to increase student interest in and competitiveness for PhD graduate programs. The thesis requirement was a key here because it was a way of demonstrating to graduate programs that a student had some extended experience with laboratory methods in Psychology, some data analytic and computer skills, experience in writing an extended research report, fairly deep knowledge of a content area (i.e., reflecting the thesis topic), and demonstrated ability to conduct quasi-independent research and think in an hypothetico-deductive manner. In our own graduate admissions process, we increasingly require evidence of serious research involvement by applicants. We are confident other major institutions require the same.

4. Unique Program Features

Our program is fairly typical of other BS programs across the country. In designing the BS major, we wanted a basic and rigorous major, consistent with the guidelines of the American Psychological Association. In its "Guidelines for the Undergraduate Psychology Major," the APA emphasizes this basic content approach rather than a specialized program. As far as we know, there is nothing unique about our approach compared to psychology programs in major universities nationally.

5. Interdisciplinary Relationships

The BS major requires a host of credits in the physical sciences, including BISC, CHEM, and PHYS. To this extent, the major is interdisciplinary in building a strong science frame for credits in psychological science. In addition, some of our students double major in Neuroscience (NSCI). Outside of NSCI, many students have other double majors but the choices do not reflect any discernable pattern.

6. Facilities

When we designed the BS major, we thought that 10 to 15 senior majors would be appropriate for the number of faculty and fully functional and productive laboratories in the Department. The number of senior majors now is about 20, so we are a bit stretched. Fortunately, we hired four new research faculty this year who will help meet demand, and some of our BS majors have migrated to the labs of our Neuroscience faculty. Thus, we are confident we will be able in the future to meet the thesis needs of approximately 20 to 23 seniors. If we have more seniors than that amount, we might need to consider adding admissions criteria to the BS major to fit resources and student demand.

7. Budgetary Requirements

There are no budgetary requirements beyond the typical unit and faculty expenses.