Bachelor of Science in Psychology

Howard University

College of Arts & Sciences

Catalog: Fall 2023 – Present

Quick Summary - What You Need to Graduate

Total Credits	Minimum GPA	Psychology Credits	Minor Credits	Last 30 Credits
120	2.0	36	15-18 2.0 GPA	At Howard

- **Your Degree Breakdown:**
- Major Requirements: 36+ Psychology credits (12+ courses)
- Minor Requirements: 15-18 credits, 2.0 GPA (5 – 6 courses)
- General Education: 30 credits (approximately 15 courses)
- Math Requirements: 3-4 credits (1 course)
- Free Electives: Remaining credits to reach 120 (varies by track)
- Complete all 7 ELOs (can overlap with courses)
- COAS Experiential Learning (1 course) & COAS Innovative Learning (1 course)
- Undergraduate Comprehensive Exam

Important: Double-Dipping Made Simple!

One course can fulfill BOTH a General Education requirement AND an Essential Learning Outcome (ELO) at the same time. You don't need separate courses for each! This helps you graduate efficiently without taking extra classes.

Major credits **cannot** be double dipped with minor credits. Minors require **15–18 credits that are not applied to their major requirements**. Minor coursework must remain distinct and separate from major coursework.

General Education Requirements (30 Credits)

Essential Learning Outcomes (ELOs)

Students must complete courses covering all seven outcome areas. Remember, these can overlap with other requirements!

- ☐ **ELO 1:** U.S. and Global African Diasporic Developments
- ☐ **ELO 2:** Human Cultures and Creative Expression
- ☐ **ELO 3:** The Physical and Natural World
- ☐ **ELO 4:** Intellectual and Practical Skills
- ☐ **ELO 5:** Social Responsibility and Political Institutions
- ☐ **ELO 6:** Leadership and Applied Learning
- ☐ **ELO 7:** Comprehensive Wellness Practices

Note: ELO courses are tagged in Bison Hub under the course description

Freshman Experience (1 Credit / 1 Course)

- **FRSM 001** - Freshman Seminar (1 credit)

Core Writing & Communication (12 Credits / 4 Courses)

- **ENGW 101, 102, or 104** - First-Year English Writing I (3 credits)
- **ENGW 103 or 105** - First-Year English Writing II (3 credits)
- **Third Writing Course** - Upper-level writing (3 credits)
- **Communication** - Principles of Speech (3 credits)

Mathematics (3-4 Credits / 1 Course)

- **MATH 005 or higher** - College Algebra or higher (3-4 credits)

Health & Wellness (2 Credits / 1 Course)

- **HHPL** – Health/Activity Course (2 credits)

Cultural and Global Awareness (12 Credits / 4 Courses)

- **African American Cluster Course** - (3 credits)

- **Foreign Language** - 3 courses (9 credits total, same language)
  (3 credits can be an intercultural knowledge)

Humanities & Social Sciences (19 Credits / 7 Courses)

- **PHIL - Philosophy Course** (3 credits)
- **Four Humanities Courses** - (3 credits each = 12 credits)
- **Four Social Science Courses** - (3 credits each = 12 credits)

COAS Special Requirements

Experiential Learning (1 course required)

Examples of COAS Experiential Learning Course but are not limited to:

- ☐ Internships
- ☐ Research
- ☐ Any 890 course
- ☐ Study abroad

Innovative Learning Requirement (1 course required)

- ☐ Complete at least one course marked as 'innovative'

Note: COAS Special Requirements courses are tagged in Bison Hub under the course description

Minor Requirements (15-18 Credits / 5-6 Courses)

Choose a minor in a different department

- **Minor Course** - Introductory course in different department (3 credits)
- **Minor Course** - (3 credits)
- **Minor Course** - (3 credits)
- **Minor Course** - (3 credits)
- **Minor Course** - (3 credits)

Psychology Major Requirements (36+ Credits)

Orientation & Foundation Courses (6 Credits / 2 Courses)

Required for all Psychology students

- **PSYC 016** - Psychology New Student Orientation (1 credit)
- **PSYC 001** - Foundations of Psychological Science (4 credits)

Research & Statistics Sequence (12 Credits / 3-4 Courses)

- **PSYC 002** - Research Design & Analysis (4 credits)
- **PSYC 003** - Statistics I (4 credits)
- **PSYC 004** - Statistics II (4 credits)

Core Content Domain Courses (12 Credits / 4 Courses)

Choose 4 courses from approved Psychology core domains

- **PSYC Core Domain Course** (3 credits)
- **PSYC Core Domain Course** (3 credits)
- **PSYC Core Domain Course** (3 credits)
- **PSYC Core Domain Course** (3 credits)

Psychology BS Electives (Variable Credits)

- **PSYC Elective Courses** - Additional upper-level Psychology courses to reach major requirements

Capstone Experience (3 Credits / 1 Course)

- **PSYC 011** - Capstone Senior Seminar (3 credits)
    - *Completed in final year*

Sample Degree Progress Checklist

First Year: Fall Semester (15 Credits / 6 Courses)

- [ ] FRSM 001 - Freshman Seminar (1 credit)
- [ ] ENGW 101/102/104 - First Year Writing I (3 credits)
- [ ] PSYC 016 - Psychology New Student Orientation (1 credit)
- [ ] PSYC 001 - Foundations of Psychological Science (4 credits)
- [ ] Humanities Course - (3 credits)
- [ ] Social Science Course - (3 credits)

First Year: Spring Semester (16 Credits / 5 Courses)

- [ ] ENGW 103/105 - First Year Writing II (3 credits)
- [ ] PSYC 002 - Research Design & Analysis (4 credits)
- [ ] Social Science Course - (3 credits)
- [ ] African American Cluster Course (3 credits)
- [ ] Philosophy course (3 credits)

Second Year: Fall Semester (16-17 Credits / 5 Courses)

- [ ] PSYC 003 - Statistics I (4 credits)
- [ ] PSYC Core Domain Course (3 credits)
- [ ] MATH 005 or higher - (3-4 credits)
- [ ] Humanities Course - (3 credits)
- [ ] Foreign Language I (3 credits)

Second Year: Spring Semester (16 Credits / 5 Courses)

- [ ] PSYC 004 - Statistics II (4 credits)
- [ ] PSYC Core Domain Course (3 credits)
- [ ] Foreign Language II (3 credits)
- [ ] Humanities Course - (3 credits)
- [ ] Social Science Course - (3 credits)

Third Year: Fall Semester (15 Credits / 5 Courses)

- [ ] PSYC Core Domain Course (3 credits)
- [ ] PSYC Elective Course (3 credits)
- [ ] 3rd Writing Course (3 credits)
- [ ] Humanities Course (3 credits)
- [ ] Minor Course (3 credits)

Third Year: Spring Semester (15 Credits / 5 Courses)

- [ ] PSYC Core Domain Course (3 credits)
- [ ] PSYC Elective Course (3 credits)
- [ ] Communication - Principles of Speech (3 credits)
- [ ] Minor Course (3 credits)
- [ ] Social Science Course (3 credits)

Fourth Year: Fall Semester (13-16 Credits / 5-6 Courses)

- [ ] PSYC Elective Course (3 credits)
- [ ] PSYC Elective Course (3 credits)
- [ ] HHPL Health/Activity Course (2 credits)
- [ ] Minor Course (3 credits)
- [ ] Minor Course (3 credits)
- [ ] Innovative Learning Course (if not completed)

Fourth Year: Spring Semester (12-16 Credits / 5-6 Courses)

- [ ] PSYC 011 - Capstone Senior Seminar (3 credits)
- [ ] PSYC Elective Course (3 credits)
- [ ] Minor Course (3 credits)
- [ ] Free Elective to meet minimum 120 (3-6 credits)
- [ ] Experiential Learning Course (if not taken)
- [ ] Complete Undergraduate Comprehensive Exam
- [ ] Apply for graduation

Key Requirements

- **Minimum Major GPA:** 2.0
- **Minimum Minor GPA:** 2.0
- **Credits in Psychology:** 36+ minimum (including orientation, foundation, research/stats sequence, 4 core domains, electives, and capstone)
- **Foreign Language:** 6 credits in the same language required
- **Mathematics:** MATH 005 or higher (3-4 credits)
- **Statistics Sequence:** PSYC 003 and PSYC 004 required for all majors
- **Residency:** Last 30 credits at Howard University
- **General Education:** Must span at least 4 different disciplines

Important Notes

- **New Student Orientation:** PSYC 016 is required for all new Psychology majors and should be taken in the first semester.
- **Research & Statistics:** The PSYC 002, 003, and 004 sequence provides essential quantitative and research skills. Complete these by end of sophomore year.
- **Core Content Domains:** Choose 4 courses from approved Psychology core domains (e.g., Developmental, Social, Cognitive, Biological, Clinical). Consult with your advisor about domain requirements.
- **Foreign Language:** All 6 credits must be in the same language. Complete consecutively.
- **Experiential Learning:** Can be satisfied through research assistantships, internships, practicum courses, or study abroad. Plan early with your advisor.
- **Capstone Seminar:** PSYC 011 integrates your learning and should be taken in your final year.
- **Course Sequencing:** Many upper-level PSYC courses require PSYC 001 as a prerequisite. Some may also require completion of statistics courses.
- **Graduate School Preparation:** Students planning for graduate school should consider additional research experience and advanced coursework in their area of interest.
- Consult with your academic advisor each semester for course planning.

Resources

- **Academic Advisor:** Contact Office of Undergraduate Studies for assignment
- **Department Office:** Psychology Department, College of Arts & Sciences
- **Research Opportunities:** Speak with faculty about laboratory research positions and independent study
- **Experiential Learning:** Connect with the Career Center and department for internship opportunities
- **Graduate School Advising:** Meet with faculty advisors if considering graduate programs in psychology