Undergraduate Handbook

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See Departmental website for most up-to-date version

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Congratulations on becoming (or thinking of becoming) a Psychology major. Psychology concerns the processes and principles of behavior. Increased understanding of oneself and others through the study of psychology is useful in almost any endeavor. The undergraduate psychology curriculum is diverse in order to reflect the breadth of the field, from the biological bases to the social determinants of behavior. Students gain general familiarity with psychology and have the option to emphasize specific areas in the field. Courses are geared toward the development of evaluative and analytic skills, which are indispensable to advanced study in experimental, clinical, and applied psychology. These skills, together with knowledge of the factors influencing individual and group behavior, are highly valuable for careers in such fields as public health, engineering, medicine, business, administration, law, politics, and education.

**THE FACULTY**

**Full Time**

Professor Lisa M. Shin, *Department Chair* – Clinical neuroscience
Associate Professor Samuel R. Sommers, *Undergraduate Director* – Social psychology
Professor Richard A. Chechile – Cognition, statistics
Professor Robert Cook – Animal cognition
Professor Joseph F. DeBold – Endocrinology and behavior
Assistant Professor Ariel Goldberg – Cognition and language
Professor David W. Harder – Clinical psychology
Professor Phillip J. Holcomb – Cognitive neuroscience
Professor Ray Jackendoff – Linguistics and psychology of language
Professor Robin B. Kanarek – John Wade Professor; Physiological psychology
Professor Gina Kuperberg – Cognitive and clinical neuroscience, psycholinguistics
Associate Professor Keith B. Maddox – Social cognition
Assistant Professor Paul Muentener – Cognitive development
Lecturer Alexander H. Queen – Clinical psychology
Associate Professor Aniruddh Patel – Music cognition
Assistant Professor Elizabeth Race – Cognitive neuroscience
Assistant Professor Jessica Remedios – Social cognition
Associate Professor Matthias Scheutz – Artificial intelligence, cognitive modeling
Professor Holly A. Taylor – Cognition
Associate Professor Ayanna Thomas – Cognition, memory, aging
Professor Linda Tickle-Degnen – Social functioning and wellness
Associate Professor Heather L. Urry – Affective neuroscience

**Part Time Lecturers**

Tad Brunye – Engineering Psychology
Carolyn Cohen – Psychopharmacology
Marcy Goldsmith – Developmental psychology and nutrition
Deborah Greenwald – Clinical psychology
Lara Sloboda – Statistics
Harold Miller-Jacobs – Industrial and organizational psychology

For additional information and department forms: [http://ase.tufts.edu/psychology](http://ase.tufts.edu/psychology)
Eleven courses distributed as follows:

1. Psychology 1;
2. one course from among Psychology 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, and 18;
3. one course from among Psychology 22, 25, 26, 27, 28, and 29;
4. Psychology 31 and 32;
5. one advanced lab course from among Psychology 36, 37, 38, 40, 41, 42, 45, 46, 48, and 49 (all of these courses have specific prerequisites);
6. two Psychology courses numbered above 100;
7. one other course offered by the Psychology Department;
8. and two approved courses in Related Fields (see pp. 8-9 of this handbook).

NOTE: Courses taken to fulfill the major (including Related Field) normally may not be taken pass-fail (PSY 99 is an exception when used as an elective). No more than two independent study courses (Psychology 91 and 92, 97 and 99, 191 and 192, 195, 197, and 198, 199; note that 181 and 182 are not independent study) may be counted toward the major. Only one of the two courses used to fulfill the 100-level requirement may be an independent study course. Also note that Tufts will award students 1 credit for PSY 25 or for PSY 103, but not separate credits for both courses due to their substantial overlap. At least six courses used towards the major must be taken at Tufts (or Tufts programs on other campuses). Biopsychology, Clinical Psychology, Cognitive & Brain Science, and Engineering Psychology majors may not double major in Psychology or any of the other departmental majors. Psychology majors may minor in Cognitive & Brain Science as long as five of the seven courses taken come from other departments.

Course Placement and Substitutions

Students who score 4 or 5 on the Psychology AP test place into two-digit psychology courses and may skip PSY 1. Please note that the AP does not translate into a University credit (that is, it does not count toward the 34 credits needed to graduate). A score of 5 completely substitutes for PSY 1 within the general major, meaning that students need only 10 courses to complete the major; students with an AP score of 4 need 11 courses for the Psychology major, and must take an additional psychology course in lieu of PSY 1 (similar rules apply for our other concentrations that require PSY 1, namely Cognitive & Brain Sciences and Clinical Psychology). Successful completion of CD 1 is treated the same way as an AP score of 4.

Students double majoring in Mathematics and one of the Psychology majors can take Math 162 (Statistics) instead of Psychology 31. The Department does not, however, accept the Statistics AP as a substitute for Psychology 31. Students who are double majoring in Economics and one of the Psychology majors can use Econ 13 (Economics Statistics) as a substitute for Psychology 31; these students should bear in mind that their stats course likely did not cover analysis of variance (ANOVA), a technique with which they will need to familiarize themselves before taking PSY 32 and the advanced lab. Students double majoring in Biology and one of the Psychology majors may use Bio 132 to fulfill their statistics requirement (Biopsychology majors choose either PSY 31 or BIO 132, as spelled out below).
Students completing a Senior Honors Thesis may substitute it for the advanced lab course. A thesis completed in a different department may not be used in this manner. Note that using the thesis to fulfill the advanced lab precludes a student from using it as a 100-level requirement. Also, the rule regarding no more than two independent study courses used towards the major still applies (though PSY 199 is a two-credit course, it only counts as one independent study course towards the major since it only fulfills one major requirement). In other words, students who use an honors thesis to fulfill the advanced lab may use PSY 191 as one of their 100-level courses or PSY 91 as their elective course, but not both. Thesis students should keep in mind that a subsequent decision to drop the thesis or to convert it to a non-PSY 199 independent study will leave them one course short of their major requirements. To be safe, students may wish to take an advanced lab in addition to their thesis; students are also encouraged to have an open conversation with their thesis advisor regarding their thesis progress before spring course registration. For more details regarding the Senior Honors Thesis, see p. 14.

Psychology majors can select either a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degree (see below for more details regarding majoring in Biopsychology, Clinical Psychology, Cognitive & Brain Science, and Engineering Psychology). In recommending students for honors and awards, in addition to the general college requirements, the Psychology Department gives special attention to research experience. To graduate summa cum laude, the department requires that a student conduct independent research supervised or approved by a faculty member in the department.

**Transfer of Credit**

Petitions for credit for a course taken at another institution go through SIS. Students must be sure to provide all the information requested, including a link to the full course description and a syllabus (translated into English if necessary). Such requests often take a month to process and no action will be taken if the student does not provide all the information required. Courses taken for a grade in a non-Tufts program abroad can be counted towards the major with approval from the Transfer of Credit committee, as these are not technically pass-fail courses even though no grade is listed for them on a Tufts transcript. The Transfer of Credit committee will examine each request on an individual basis.

Barring extraordinary personal circumstances, transfer credit will not be approved for PSY 32 or the advanced lab; these courses must be taken at Tufts. Transfer of credit for PSY 31 will only be given if the statistics course was taken in a psychology department and included at least one week’s coverage of ANOVA. A one-semester combination methods/statistics course does not cover either topic thoroughly enough to transfer as either PSY 31 or 32. For petitions to transfer a 100-level course, the committee examines the description, prerequisites, and syllabus to determine whether it is an upper-level class of seminar format with an appropriate reading list. Students who received course credit for an internship or research assistantship supervised by a psychology faculty member at another institution may apply to transfer that credit to Tufts.

Transfer of credit for a Related Field course must go through SIS and the department in question (for more details, see the Related Field section of this handbook). That is, if a student wishes to receive credit for a Biology course taken elsewhere, and to use that credit as a Related Field course, the student must use SIS to petition the Biology Department to approve the course as
equivalent to one of the courses included on the Related Field list. Transfer requests for non-psychology courses will not be approved by our Department.

**Psychology Courses as Distribution Requirements**

Because Psychology courses span all five distribution areas, students are urged to check official Registrar lists for the most up-to-date information by distribution area. Most departmental courses count toward the social science distribution requirement, with notable exceptions including those considered natural sciences (Psychology 9, 25, 26, 27, 29, 32, 40, 41, 45, 46, 48, 49, 103, 104, 112, 123, 124, 127, 128, 129, 142, 146, 148, and 159) and those considered mathematical sciences (Psychology 31, 107, 108, 110 and 140). Please note that Tufts only allows two courses from any one department to count toward the distribution requirement. Therefore, if a student uses a Psychology course to count as a “math” course they would only be allowed to use one Psychology course for a “social science.”

**FOUR ADDITIONAL MAJORS OFFERED BY THE DEPARTMENT**

The Psychology Department offers the following majors in order to fulfill specialized needs of some students. Faculty members associated with each major can provide further information.

**Biopsychology**

Biopsychology is an interdepartmental major for students interested in neurobiology and behavior. Required are five courses in Biology and five in Psychology:

1. Cells and Organisms (Biology 13);
2. General Genetics (Biology 41);
3. Animal Behavior (Biology 130);
4. one course in animal physiology (chosen from among Biology 75, 110, 115, 116, and 134);
5. an elective in Biology;
6. Statistics (Psychology 31 or Biology 132);
7. Experimental Psychology (Psychology 32);
8. Brain and Behavior (Psychology 103);

Majors are encouraged to elect an advanced laboratory course in either department. Independent research (Psychology 91, 92, 191, 192) is strongly encouraged, but cannot be used as an elective in this major. Students majoring in Biopsychology usually receive a Bachelor of Science degree. Consult Professors DeBold, Kanarek, or Miczek for details about this program. As detailed on p. 3 of this Handbook, students can earn 1 credit for PSY 25 or for PSY 103, but not separate credits for both courses. Biopsych majors who took PSY 25 before declaring their major should speak with their advisor about substituting an additional Psychology Biopsych elective for the PSY 103 requirement.
Clinical Psychology

This major is intended for students interested in entering graduate, professional, or medical school in mental health or human services and/or wanting to work with psychiatric patients after graduation. Required courses are:

1. Psychology 1, 12, 31, 38, 71, 106, 181, and 182;
2. two electives in Psychology, one of which must be at the 100 level;
3. and two approved courses in Related Fields.

Students planning to continue on in clinical work will benefit from a course in physiological psychology or cognitive neuropsychology. Students majoring in Clinical Psychology typically receive a Bachelor of Arts degree. However, those students who take Experimental Psychology (Psychology 32) in addition to all of their Clinical Psychology requirements have the option to receive either a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degree. For details about this major, consult Professors Harder, Kuperberg, Queen, or Shin.

Engineering Psychology

Engineering Psychology is an interdisciplinary program offered jointly by the Departments of Engineering Design and Psychology. Engineering Psychology, more commonly called "Human Factors," applies knowledge of human behavior to the design of web sites, software, electronics and other equipment. Areas of application include the internet, computer systems, biomedical engineering, environmental design, and product design. The 15 required courses are:

1. Any one half-credit course in Introductory Engineering;
2. Engineering 2 (half-credit);
3. Engineering Science 2;
4. Engineering Psychology 61, 120, 161, and 162;
5. Mathematics 11 and 12
6. Physics 11 OR Computer Science 11
7. Psychology 1, 17, 31, 32, 53, and 130.

Students in the College of Engineering or Liberal Arts will receive the Bachelor of Science degree from their respective colleges after meeting the general requirements set by each college. For details about this major consult Professor Taylor.

Cognitive & Brain Science

Cognitive and Brain Science is an inherently interdisciplinary area, drawing on psychology, neuroscience, linguistics, philosophy of mind, computer science, and biology. A Cognitive and Brain Science degree provides an excellent preparation for careers in the sciences, computer fields, health professions, law, and education.

**NOTE: Below are the major requirements for students whose first semester on campus was 2014 or earlier. Beginning with the Class of 2019, two changes have been approved for the CBS major: 1) PSY 1 is required, 2) students will only have to take 3 courses from 2 of the groups listed under III. below. Please note that current students are still urged to take PSY 1 before enrolling in PSY 9.** Also note that students whose first semester on campus was 2014 or earlier may opt to use the new requirements; students choosing to do so must email Professor Sommers with this information so that he can have this entered into their record on SIS.
Current Requirements:

1. Psychology 9, 31, 32, and 64 (cross-listed as Philosophy 15/Linguistics 15); Computer Science 11 (or AP credit) and 15;
2. one course from each of the following three groups:
   a. Psychology 11, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 103; Child Development 51;
   b. Computer Science 131, 150BBR, 150CMCS (formerly listed as 150MOD), 171;
   c. Philosophy 3, 33 or 103, 191-02; Psychology 150, 151, 155 (formerly PSY 65);
3. a total of four courses taken from at least two of the following groups (only one of which may be independent study/directed research):
   a. Psychology 80, 91, 92, 103 (if not taken to fulfill 2a. above) 112, 117, 118, 121, 122, 123, 124, 126, 127, 129, 131, 139, 140, 142, 144, 145, 146, 148, 154, 191, 192, 199;
   b. Psychology 149, 150 (if not taken to fulfill 2c. above), 151 (if not taken to fulfill 2c. above), 152, 153, 155 (if not taken to fulfill 2c. above; formerly known as PSY 65), 180; Child Development 145, 152, 155, 156, 177, 195, 250; Education 114 (cross-listed with Linguistics/Modern Languages/German 114);
   c. Computer Science 86, 105, 131 (if not taken to fulfill 2b. above), 135, 150BBR (if not taken to fulfill 2b. above), 150CMCS (formerly listed as 150MOD; only if not taken to fulfill 2b. above), 170, 171 (if not taken to fulfill 2b. above), 193, 194;
   d. Philosophy 38, 114, 117, 126, 132 (cross-listed with Psychology/Anthropology 132), 133, 134, 170, 191-02 (if not taken to fulfill 2c. above);
5. Enrollment in Psychology 195 as a senior.

Cognitive and Brain Science majors are encouraged to complete a senior research project which entails either (a) completing an honors thesis in Psychology, Child Development, Computer Science, or Philosophy; (b) completing a year-long research experience with a faculty member in one of these departments or with a faculty member in the Neuroscience Department of the Medical School; or (c) completing a faculty-supervised review paper of the literature on a particular issue within one of these areas. Planning for such projects should begin by the end of junior year. For more details, see: http://ase.tufts.edu/psychology/undergradSeniorResearch.htm

Students are encouraged, after consultation with their advisor, to augment the Cognitive & Brain Science major by taking electives in Psychology, Anthropology (150), Biology (13, 14, 116, 134), and Math (11, 12, 13, 150). Students majoring in Cognitive & Brain Science usually receive a Bachelor of Science degree. For details about this major, consult Professors Goldberg, Holcomb, and Patel (Psychology), Jackendoff (Philosophy), or Souvaine (Computer Science).

A minor in Cognitive & Brain Science and a minor in Linguistics are also available and administered by the Center for Cognitive Studies in Miner Hall. For questions or to declare either minor, please contact Professor Jackendoff or Teresa Salvato.
RELATED FIELD REQUIREMENT

Of the 11 courses comprising the Psychology and the Clinical Psychology major requirements, 2 are Related Field courses approved by the Department. The intent of this requirement is to have the student explore, in some depth, at least one other academic discipline with theories or methods related to Psychology. Beginning level courses, such as those often used to meet Distribution requirements, do not count as Related Field courses. However, in a number of departments, a large array of advanced courses does count, as indicated below.

Students may request a one-time exception to count a non-listed course as a Related Field credit by sending a petition to the Director of the Undergraduate Program, Sam Sommers. Petitions (available on the department website) must include an explanation why the course should be considered (using the criteria above), as well as a syllabus. The committee will examine the prerequisites that demonstrate that the course is beyond the beginning level, as well as the course’s relationship to Psychology. Since most ExCollege courses do not have prerequisites, they are rarely approved as Related Field courses. Of course, Related Field courses must be taken for a grade to count towards the major.

To apply for transfer of credit for a Related Field course, students must go through SIS and specify a course from the list below. It is up to the department in question to approve this petition. In other words, if a student takes a course abroad that she believes is comparable to SOC 141, she must use SIS to petition the Tufts Sociology Department to approve credit for SOC 141. A non-specific Sociology credit is not sufficient; if that is all that Sociology will grant, the student must follow the above procedure for petitioning the Psychology Department regarding a non-listed Related Field course.

Extra Psychology courses (i.e., more than the required nine) cannot be substituted for Related Field courses. However, when a student minors or double majors in a department offering Related Field courses, courses may be used for both purposes, even though those courses are also counting toward a minor or another major. It is recommended, but not required, that both Related Field courses be taken in the same department. Some of the courses below are cross-listed in more than one department. As long as a course is listed below under any department, it counts toward the Related Field requirement regardless of the department in which the student actually registered for the course. However, any course that is cross-listed as a Psychology course is not eligible for Related Field credit. Finally, courses given a few years ago that are no longer listed in the current Tufts Bulletin are generally not found in the following list. Please consult your advisor if you took such a course that should count toward this requirement.

Note: The Department revised this list in the summer of 2013. A few courses were removed from the list, either because they are no longer offered or in an effort to be more consistent across departments in terms of which courses are on the list. The old list, used before the Fall 2013 semester, can be found on the department website. Courses that appear on this old list but no longer are on the current list may still be used to fulfill related fields credit if they were taken in the Fall 2013 semester or earlier. These courses that no longer appear on the list will not count for related fields credit if they are taken in the Spring 2014 semester or later.

RELATED FIELD COURSES

American Studies: 131, 141, 181, 182, 183, 185, 186
Anthropology: 102, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 124, 126, 128, 130, 131, 132, 135, 137, 140, 144, 145, 146, 148, 150, 162, 163, 164, 180, 181, 182, 184, 186, 187, 188
COURSES AND PROFESSORS GROUPED BY AREA

Many majors or prospective majors who wish to specialize in a particular area of psychology wonder which course sequences are most appropriate for them. The following groupings are offered as guidelines to assist students in planning their major to meet individual needs and objectives. The faculty encourages flexibility in course selection and each student should plan his or her selections with the help of an advisor or other members of the faculty. Faculty members most closely associated with each area are listed next to it; because Psychology 1, 31, and 32 are basic core courses to psychology required of all majors, they have not been listed.

Cognitive/Learning/Perception/Cognitive Neuroscience
(Chechile, Cook, Goldberg, Holcomb, Kuperberg, Patel, Race, Taylor, Thomas)
Core: 18, 26, 27, 28, 29, 41, 45, 46, 49
Advanced: 109, 122, 124, 129, 140, 143, 144, 146, 148, 149
Related: 80

Biological/Physiological/Psychopharmacology/Neuropsychology
(Cook, DeBold, Holcomb, Kanarek, Kuperberg, Miczek, Urry)
Core: 25, 29, 40, 42, 45, 48, 49
Advanced: 103, 104, 123, 124, 127, 128, 129, 148
Related: 55, 56, 57

Social (Maddox, Remedios, Sommers)
Core: 13, 36
Advanced: 113, 114, 133, 134, 136, 138, 139
Related: 15, 51, 111, 115, 116, 152

Clinical (Harder, Kuperberg, Queen, Shin, Urry)
Core: 12, 38, 71
Related: 14, 15, 51, 54, 55, 56, 111, 116, 123, 138, 152

Developmental (Muentener)
Core: 11, 37
Advanced: 111, 118, 152
Related: 14, 55

Methodological (Chechile)
107, 108, 110, 125, 140

Applied/Industrial/Human Factors
Core: 17, 130
Advanced: 53, 120
Psychology Department Curricular Goals & Objectives

Mission Statement

Preparing undergraduate and graduate students to ask and answer science-based questions about human and animal behavior by introducing students to the data, theories, and research methods from different fields of psychology - biological, clinical, cognitive, developmental, and social

Upon completing a Psychology major, students will be able to:

1. Understand core psychological concepts and processes such as evidence, hypothetical constructs, operational definitions, and inferences.

2. Critically examine theories and empirical findings in at least two subfields of psychology (biological, clinical, cognitive, developmental, and social).

3. Compare, contrast, and synthesize empirical and theoretical perspectives related to the study of behavior and thought using evidence-based reasoning.

4. Read and critically evaluate original journal articles related to psychological topics.

5. Apply theoretical models of behavior and thought to real life settings and skills (e.g., clinical, educational, organizational context)


7. Gain experience with submitting research proposals to the Institutional Review Board (IRB) or to the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC).

8. Initiate, design, implement, control, and analyze original empirical research studies on relevant psychological issues.

9. Show competence in basic quantitative and analytic methods used for scientific investigation in psychology. This involves learning the assumptions and use of these basic statistical analyses: probability, tests of frequency, correlation, t-tests, ANOVA.

10. Gain oral and visual communication skills for reporting empirical research findings.

11. Develop writing, graphic, and verbal skills to communicate empirical data in an appropriate scientific format (APA format being the preferred mode).
DOING RESEARCH IN THE PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT

• How do you get to do research and how do you decide with whom to do it?

To the first question, the answer is by asking a professor. Make an appointment and just ask. Professors doing research want students to work with them. To the second question, the answer is to inspect the list of faculty research areas in this Handbook or on the department website. These should give you some idea of who is doing what. An interest in a professor's area of specialization and some prior reading are useful but not always necessary. In some areas, special knowledge is required, though in most areas professors are able to provide on-the-job training. After a course in the area of expertise of a professor, a student is in a good position to help with research, especially if the student has done well in the course. Sometimes a professor's research group is full, so if your request gets a “no thanks” from Professor A, ask someone else in the department or ask Professor A at a later time.

• Will doing research help me when I apply to graduate school or post-graduate plans?

Definitely. Schools look for distinctive characteristics among their applicants and place an emphasis on your research experience. If you can tell your research story to the graduate schools in a way that shows how much you learned, you will look more qualified and more interesting. Moreover, professors get to know students with whom they do research. Hence, professors' letters of recommendation to graduate schools are often more detailed and interesting when students have worked in their research labs. Starting to get involved with research is often the beginning of the process leading to a capstone Senior Honors thesis in the department.

• Is research fun?

Yes. The playing with ideas behind research is great fun and figuring out the results is like your own personal puzzle. Sure, there is a lot of effort involved in running a study. You often have to perform the same task many times with skill and dedication, but the rewards are outstanding. Developing and understanding a particular research problem is one of the most exciting things you can do in your academic career and we in the Psychology Department are excited to get you involved.

• Can I get course credit for doing research?

Yes, you can get course credit for independent research at three levels. PSY 91/92 is for students just getting involved in research and PSY 191/192 is a more advanced course in which a greater amount of independence and productivity is expected. However, no more than two independent study type courses (Psychology 91 and 92, 97 and 99, 191 and 192, 197 and 198, 199) may be counted toward the major. Note that these options are available during the summer, but registration for them requires Tufts Summer School enrollment and coordination in advance with a supervising faculty member.

• Do I have to be a psychology major to do research?

No. All you need to do is take the courses required for the research and enjoy yourself while learning.

• Is laboratory work the only type of research a student can do in the Psychology Department?

No. Scoring clinical tests often requires multiple people in order to get reliabilities. Coding conversations, interviews, and social interactions are tasks many psychologists do as part of their
research. Undergraduates have conducted naturalistic observations of children in playgrounds and museums. They’ve also conducted archival analyses of pre-existing data.

• Do I have to do research in which the professors in the department are interested?

Yes and No. It can be helpful, but courses like PSY 91/92 and PSY 191/192 can be based on using your interests, your design, and your execution. Just make sure you ask a professor who's interested in the general area of your research concern to sponsor you. Our department is committed to your civil liberties as a student: you have the right to generate your own research and earn credit for doing it. Seeing students do just that, makes us proud to be your professors.

• I worked in a psychology research lab at another university last semester/summer without receiving credit, so can I get retroactive credit for PSY 91 for this? What about for a research-based internship and PSY 99 credit?

University policy is that students should only get credit for work as it is being done.

• Can I earn course credit for research conducted on a different college campus?

Yes. If the research is to be conducted during the Fall or Spring Semesters and directly supervised by a Tufts faculty member, simply sign up for either PSY 91/92 or PSY 191/192 with permission of your Tufts faculty supervisor as described above. If the research is being supervised remotely by non-Tufts faculty member, you must first find a Tufts faculty member who is willing to serve as your Research Coordinator; this individual is responsible for evaluating your research activities through communications with your off-campus Supervisor. Once a faculty Research Coordinator is obtained, sign up PSY 99. These options are also available during the summer, but requires Tufts Summer School enrollment and advanced coordination with a Tufts faculty member. Students are responsible for finding their own off-campus research opportunities. Paid research assistantships are not eligible for academic credit.
DOING A SENIOR HONORS THESIS OR INDEPENDENT STUDY

Students interested in any form of independent study must find a supervising faculty member before registering for the course via SIS. Those registering for a Senior Honors Thesis (PSY 199) must also fill out and submit to Dowling by early October a Senior Honors Thesis Candidate form that can be found here: http://uss.tufts.edu/registrar/SS_StudentForms.asp. Honors thesis students are also encouraged to take the year-long PSY 195 course, for which 0.5 credits are earned each semester.

Completing a year-long Senior Honors Thesis is one of the most rewarding as well as time-consuming and challenging endeavors a Psychology major can undertake. The process requires designing, executing, and analyzing the data from an original empirical research investigation, writing a comprehensive APA-format report, and then presenting and defending this work before a committee of two faculty members (one of whom, the committee chair, must be from the Psychology Department). Because chairing a Senior Honors Thesis also requires a great deal of time and effort on the part of faculty members, only a small number of seniors can complete a thesis in a given year. Students are therefore encouraged to contact potential thesis chairs no later than the end of their junior year, and preferably even earlier. Because of the high demand for thesis supervision, some faculty may only agree to supervise theses for students who have spent multiple previous semesters working in their lab.

Per University rules, students must appear on the Dean’s List for at least two semesters in order to be eligible to complete a thesis. As mentioned above, our faculty often have additional requirements for thesis students, including previous experience in their research lab (PSY 91/92 or PSY 191/192). In sum, students interested in a Senior Honors Thesis should plan ahead by obtaining independent research experience and by speaking with potential thesis advisors as early as possible during the course of their study in the Department. For students already registered to complete a thesis, additional information regarding expectations for your project and the bases on which it will be evaluated are best obtained from your committee chair.

Additional information regarding how to best make use of the library in writing your thesis:

• Any student planning to write a senior thesis can meet with a reference librarian who has subject expertise in the student’s field of study.
  Contact information: http://www.library.tufts.edu/tisch/refcoll_directory.htm
  Appointment form: http://www.library.tufts.edu/tisch/ra/appt_form.htm
  Drop-in session: http://www.library.tufts.edu/tisch/ra/class_descriptions.htm

• The library also offers a research methods class, EXP 19, a 1/2 credit, 8-week course targeted to students writing a senior thesis or conducting any major research project.

• Completed undergraduate theses are housed in the Digital Collections and Archives. These papers must be used in the DCA offices, Level G, Tisch Library. For complete listing: http://dl.tufts.edu/view_text.jsp?urn=tufts:central:dca:UA069:UA069.001.DO.UA005

• More information on all these library services can be found at: http://www.library.tufts.edu/tisch/ra/undergraduateTheses.html
HOW YOU CAN USE YOUR ADVISOR BETTER

You can better use your advisor by consulting with him or her when you need academic, professional, and even personal advice. While many students go through Tufts knowing only their advisor's signature, such a course of action deprives them of a potential source of useful knowledge.

Advisors who are doing their jobs well can suggest multiple academic alternatives to assist in solving students’ problems. If you find you have an advisor who is having trouble gauging your interests or concerns, find one who is better able to do so! The Psychology Department counts on students figuring out their needs and acting on them. No advisor will be insulted if you switch to someone else who knows more than he or she does about behavior modification, human engineering, or clinical psychology. The advising system is here to help you, not the professors.

Since professors are knee deep in advisees at registration, be smart and consult with your advisor at other times. A list of current office hours for all professors may be obtained in the department office. Non-registration periods are the right time to explore career goals, what's turning you on in your courses, internships, books, etc. Most of us teach at Tufts because we enjoy teaching students. Help us to know you better in order to advise you better. Advisors depend on students expressing interests, preferences, strengths, and weaknesses; based on this knowledge, an advisor can then help an advisee see choices.

You can certainly get through Tufts on advice from friends in your dorms. They know the fun courses, the good teachers, and they know how to deal with scheduling dilemmas. Your advisor knows the professional world outside of Tufts, as well as the academic world within. You need access to both kinds of information, inside and outside Tufts. Advisors are meant to help you in both areas. Consult the earlier list of faculty and their areas of interest if you wish an advisor who specializes in a specific area, but keep in mind that you do not need to have an advisor with the exact same interests as you.
Psi Chi is the National Honor Society in Psychology whose purpose is to recognize, encourage, stimulate, and maintain excellence in scholarship of students of psychology. To achieve these goals, Psi Chi offers a wide range of local, regional, and national programs to enhance the learning experience of its members. Membership in Psi Chi is open to all undergraduates who meet the eligibility criteria for their local chapter. The criteria for the Tufts chapter are:

1. You must have a declared major in Psychology, Clinical Psychology, Biopsychology, Engineering Psychology, or Cognitive and Brain Sciences.

2. You must be at least a second-semester sophomore.

3. You need to have completed at least 3 courses in psychology at Tufts and have a Psychology GPA of at least 3.50.

4. You must have an overall GPA that is in the top 35% of your class. This is currently approximately 3.60, but varies from semester to semester and tends to be a little higher in seniors.

If you would like to be considered for membership in Psi Chi please complete the application form, which can be found in the Psychology Department or on the department website. Return the completed form to the mailbox of Professor DeBold by October 15 for Fall semester induction or February 15 for Spring semester induction. In addition, you must also complete the application form on the Psi Chi website here: [http://memberapp.psichi.org/cfamember/applicationform.aspx](http://memberapp.psichi.org/cfamember/applicationform.aspx).
FAQ • PROSPECTIVE AND DECLARED PSYCHOLOGY MAJORS

1. How do I pick an advisor?
There is no one way to do this. You should look through the departmental website to see the type of research each faculty member conducts and think about classes and instructors that you have particularly enjoyed. But you may ask any full-time member of the faculty to serve as your advisor. Psychology is a very large major and you may find that the person you would like to choose does not have space for additional advisees. Do not take this personally! In fact, it is a good idea to identify 2 or 3 potential advisors and then contact them—again, we have a very big major and it is not unusual to have to ask multiple faculty members before finding an advisor.

2. What courses should I take?
This is a good question to ask your advisor as well as fellow students in Psychology. As a rule, majors should take PSY 31 as early as possible since it is the first in a three-semester sequence of PSY 31, PSY 32, and the advanced lab. Majors are also urged to take 10- and 20-level requirements as soon as possible since this will give them greater flexibility in signing up for 100-level courses and the advanced lab, both of which have prerequisites.

3. Can I count Psychology courses for different areas of the distribution requirement?
Yes, but keep in mind that students may only count two courses from any one department towards the distribution requirement. So if a student counts PSY 31 towards the math distribution and PSY 32 towards the natural sciences, she must have two non-psychology credits to count towards the social sciences requirement.

4. How does my Psychology AP score affect my major requirements?
A score of 4 or 5 places students out of PSY 1 into a two-digit Psychology course. The difference is that a score of 5 completely substitutes for the PSY 1 requirement, meaning that students need only 10 courses to complete the major. Students with a score of 4 must take a second elective course to complete the major in lieu of taking PSY 1.

5. Can I count CD 1 towards the major instead of PSY 1?
CD 1 can substitute for PSY 1 in a similar manner as a score of 4 on the Psych AP. That is, students can use CD 1 as a substitute prerequisite for PSY 1, placing them into upper-level courses. These students must also take a second elective to replace PSY 1 as a major requirement, giving them the 11 courses needed for the major.

6. Can I count a course taken for the requirements of my second major towards the Psychology major as well if it appears on the related field list?
Yes, a course can count towards both majors if it is on our related field list.

7. What are the requirements to minor in Psychology?
We do not offer a minor in general psychology; students may minor in Cognitive & Brain Science.

8. I have already taken a statistics course in another department; do I still need to take PSY 31?
Double majors in Economics, Math, as well as Biopsychology majors have alternative options to PSY 31. Double majors in Economics can use Econ 13 as a substitute for PSY 31. These students should bear in mind that their stats course likely did not cover ANOVA, a technique with which they will need to familiarize themselves before taking PSY 32 and the advanced lab. Similarly, double majors in Math can use Math 162 (Statistics) instead of Psychology 31. Biopsychology majors may use either BIO 132 or PSY 31 to fulfill their statistics requirement.
9. Can I receive transfer of credit for PSY 31 if I took statistics at another institution? What about a combined statistics/methods course—can I get transfer credits for both PSY 31 and 32? Only statistics courses taken in a psychology department and which include at least one week of coverage of ANOVA can be transferred as PSY 31. A one-semester course that is a mixture of methods and stats does not cover either topic thoroughly enough to receive transfer of credit for either PSY 31 or 32. A two-semester combination course may be able to transfer as PSY 31 credit only, pending review of the syllabus.

10. How do I petition the Department to include a new course on the related field list? Students may petition to count a non-listed course towards the related field requirement on a one-time basis or as a permanent addition to the related field list. This petition (form available on our department website) should include a syllabus and explain why the student believes the course should be considered an upper-level class related to psychology. Keep in mind that introductory courses (or other courses without prerequisites) are unlikely to be approved. Courses cross-listed with our department are ineligible, as are courses taken pass/fail.

11. How do I petition for credit for the courses I took abroad or at another university? These petitions go through SIS. Students need to provide a syllabus and course description, translated into English if necessary. Students specify whether they are asking for a general credit from a department (i.e., “a History credit”) or credit for a specific course in a department (i.e., History 102). Courses taken in departments other than psychology will not be approved for transfer of credit from our department.

12. How can I petition for transfer of credit for a related field course? Use SIS to petition the department in question. If you think that the course you took was equivalent to History 102, petition the History Department for credit for this specific course. If granted, the course will be listed as HIST 102 on her transcript and no action is needed from the Psychology Department because we already include HIST 102 on our related fields list.

13. I took a Psychology course cross-listed with the Music Department. Can I petition to use this as a related field course? A course cross-listed with Psychology may not be used as a related fields course, regardless of which department the student originally enrolled in.

14. How and when do I fill out a senior degree sheet? Seniors who are graduating in May or August must complete the multi-step degree sheet process starting in early November once spring courses are published on SIS (February graduates must complete this process in September): 1) Apply for a graduation date on SIS. 2) Print a degree advisement report (degree audit) from SIS. 3) Complete a major concentration form (available in the Forms & Resources section of the Department website or in hard copy in the Department lobby. 4) Set up a meeting in early November with your advisor who will review the degree advisement and sign the major concentration form (and approve you for spring registration). 5) Submit these signed forms to the staff assistant, Cynthia Goddard, Room 101, who will then obtain the signature of the Chair of the Department. Your signed degree paperwork will be ready to be picked up from Room 101 approximately one week later. 6) While you wait for that form to be ready, complete the on-line Senior Exit Survey via the link sent to you by your advisor. 7) After you have registered for Spring classes, print a new, updated version of your advisement report. Then take that updated advisement report and your signed degree paperwork to Student Services in Dowling Hall by the early December deadline.