

Submit originals and one copy and electronic copy to Governance/Faculty Senate Office (email electronic copy to [fysenat@uaf.edu](mailto:fysenat@uaf.edu))

**PROGRAM/DEGREE REQUIREMENT CHANGE (MAJOR/MINOR)**

**SUBMITTED BY:**

Department	<b>Psychology</b>	College/School	<b>College of Liberal Arts</b>
Prepared by	<b>Cécile Lardon/Janet Schichnes</b>	Phone	<b>J. Schichnes 474-6163</b>
Email Contact	<b><a href="mailto:jcschichnes@alaska.edu">jcschichnes@alaska.edu</a></b>	Faculty Contact	<b>Janet Schichnes</b>

See <http://www.uaf.edu/uafgov/faculty/cd> for a complete description of the rules governing curriculum & course changes.

**PROGRAM IDENTIFICATION:**

DEGREE PROGRAM	<b>Bachelor's of Psychology</b>
Degree Level: (i.e., Certificate, A.A., A.A.S., B.A., B.S., M.A., M.S., Ph.D.)	<b>BA/BS</b>

**A. CHANGE IN DEGREE REQUIREMENTS: (Brief statement of program/degree changes and objectives)**

- The mission of the program has not changed. We are proposing 4 main changes to the program's structure.
1. A restructuring of the program to allow both students and the department more flexibility and more efficient use of resources. To this end, we have changed some of the courses required for all psychology majors to adapt to a more transient student body.
  2. A simplification of the program structure from 5 sub-specialties from which students had to take classes to 3 main categories (foundation, theory and applications). (comparison of old and new degree worksheet attached)
  3. A basic core curriculum of essential courses that are offered on a regularly scheduled rotation plus a set of courses that can be offered as demand warrants and faculty resources are available.
  4. Removal of Community Service (CS) designator from all courses.
  5. Substitution of our 300-level cross-cultural psychology course with a required 200-level Culture and Psychology course.

We are also making changes in the prerequisites for all of our courses where appropriate and are adding more W and O designators.

**B. CURRENT REQUIREMENTS AS IT APPEARS IN THE CATALOG:**

The Department of Psychology offers B.A. and B.S. degrees in psychology. The department's focus is to provide breadth and depth in the science and profession of psychology with a commitment to honoring diversity and promoting human welfare. The curriculum develops cross-cultural knowledge, critical thinking, imagination, creativity, ethical principles and concern for social justice, as well as respect for and knowledge of diverse points of view that include feminist, multicultural, indigenous, and gay and lesbian perspectives.

In addition to active engagement in the classroom, students participate in research and community service. Programs in psychology facilitate an understanding of the human experience as an interaction of biological, psychological, social and cultural processes.

Graduates of the undergraduate program in psychology have been successful in gaining entrance to graduate school in a variety of fields including psychology, medicine, business and law. Graduation with an undergraduate psychology degree has allowed students to become employed in a variety of entry-level human services and business options.

The Alaska Natives into Psychology (ANPsych) Program helps train Alaska Natives and American Indians as psychologists or other behavioral health professionals to address the significant shortage of these professionals in Alaska, particularly rural Alaska. ANPsych supports native communities in building wellness in their villages. The ANPsych program is housed in the psychology departments at UAF and UAA and serves as a training pipeline to provide social, financial and academic support for students and behavioral health paraprofessionals who wish to continue their education. The program strives to attract Native high school and undergraduate students seeking a degree in psychology. In addition, a select group of Native students receive similar support for advanced training in psychology at the graduate level.

**Major – B.A. or B. S. Degree**

1. Complete the general university requirements.
2. Complete the B.A. or B.S. degree requirements.
3. Complete the following program (major) requirements:\*
  1. Complete the following:  
 PSY F101--Introduction to Psychology--3 credits  
 PSY F275--Introduction to Social Science Research Methods--3 credits  
 PSY F485--Senior Seminar--3 credits
  2. Complete one course from each of the following specialized areas:  
 Research  
 PSY/SOC F250--Introductory Statistics for Behavioral Sciences--3 credits  
 PSY/SOC F480W--Qualitative Social Science Research--3 credits  
 STAT F200X--Elementary Probability and Statistics--3 credits  
  
 Biological Perspectives  
 PSY F335--Physiological Psychology--3 credits  
 PSY F370--Drugs and Drug Dependence--3 credits  
 PSY F470--Sensation and Perception--3 credits  
  
 Social Perspectives  
 PSY/SOC F330--Social Psychology--3 credits  
 PSY F390W,O--Industrial and Organizational Psychology--3 credits  
 PSY F445W--Community Psychology--3 credits  
  
 Psychological Perspectives  
 PSY F304--Personality--3 credits  
 PSY F345--Abnormal Psychology--3 credits  
 PSY F440--Learning and Cognition--3 credits  
  
 Multicultural/Diversity  
 PSY F310O--Cross-Cultural Psychology--3 credits  
 PSY/SOC F333/WMS F332--Human Sexualities Across Cultures--3 credits  
 PSY/WMS F360O--Psychology of Women Across Cultures--3 credits
  3. Complete 12 additional PSY credits (you may also choose from the courses listed in the specialized areas above).
  4. Complete one community service course.\*\*
4. Minimum credits required--120 credits

\* Student must earn a C grade or better in each course.

\*\* Community service courses: PSY F310, F345, F445 and F470.

Note: Student may not count more than 6 credits of any combination of PSY F497 and F498 toward the degree.

Note: Student may apply an unlimited number of PSY F392/F492 and PSY F393/F493 credits toward the degree provided the topics are different for each course.

#### Minor

1. Complete the following:  
 PSY F101--Introduction to Psychology--3 credits  
 PSY electives--12 credits
2. Minimum credits required--15 credits



C. **PROPOSED REQUIREMENTS AS IT WILL APPEAR IN THE CATALOG WITH THESE CHANGES:**  
(Underline new wording ~~strike through old wording~~ and use complete catalog format )

The Department of Psychology offers B.A. and B.S. degrees in psychology. The department's focus is to provide breadth and depth in the science and profession of psychology with a commitment to honoring diversity and promoting human welfare. The curriculum develops cross-cultural knowledge, critical thinking, imagination, creativity, ethical principles and concern for social justice, as well as respect for and knowledge of diverse points of view that include feminist, multicultural, indigenous, and gay and lesbian perspectives.

In addition to active engagement in the classroom, students can participate in research and community service. Programs in psychology facilitate an understanding of the human experience as an interaction of biological, psychological, social and cultural processes.

Graduates of the undergraduate program in psychology have been successful in gaining entrance to graduate school in a variety of fields including psychology, medicine, business and law. Graduation with an undergraduate psychology degree has allowed students to become employed in a variety of entry- level human services and business options.

The Alaska Natives into Psychology (ANPsych) Program helps train Alaska Natives and American Indians as psychologists or other behavioral health professionals to address the significant shortage of these professionals in Alaska, particularly rural Alaska. ANPsych supports native communities in building wellness in their villages. The ANPsych program is housed in the psychology departments at UAF and UAA and serves as a training pipeline to provide social, financial and academic support for students and behavioral health paraprofessionals who wish to continue their education. The program strives to attract Native high school and undergraduate students seeking a degree in psychology. In addition, a select group of Native students receive similar support for advanced training in psychology at the graduate level.

Major -- B.A. or B.S. Degree

1. Complete the general university requirements.
2. Complete the B.A. or B.S. degree requirements.
3. Complete the following program (major) requirements: \*
  - a. Foundation (15 credits)  
Complete the following:  
PSY F101--Introduction to Psychology--3 credits  
PSY/SOC F250--Introductory Statistics for Behavioral Sciences--3 credits or STAT F200X--Elementary Probability and Statistics--3 credits  
PSY 201--Psychology and Culture--3 credits  
PSY F275--Introduction to Social Science Research Methods--3 credits  
PSY 475W Research Analysis and Design (3) or PSY 485 Senior Seminar Capstone (3) or PSY 499 Thesis (3-6)
  - b. Theoretical (6 credits)  
Complete ~~one~~ at least 2 courses from each of the following specialized areas:  
Research  
~~PSY/SOC F480W--Qualitative Social Science Research--3 credits~~  
~~STAT F200X--Elementary Probability and Statistics--3 credits~~  
Biological Perspectives  
PSY F304--Personality--3 credits  
PSY F320--History and Systems of Psychology--3 credits  
PSY/SOC F330--Social Psychology--3 credits  
PSY/SOC 333/WMS 332 Human Sexualities  
PSY F335O/2--Physiological Psychology Brain and Behavior--3 credits  
PSY F345--Abnormal Psychology--3 credits  
PSY 350 -- Comparative Psychology  
PSY/WMS F360O--Psychology of Women Across Cultures--3 credits  
PSY F370--Drugs and Behavior Drug Dependence--3 credits  
PSY 380 Environmental Psychology  
PSY F440--Learning and Cognition--3 credits  
PSY F470W, O--Sensation and Perception--3 credits
  - Social Perspectives  
~~PSY/SOC F330--Social Psychology--3 credits~~  
~~PSY F390W,O--Industrial and Organizational Psychology--3 credits~~  
~~PSY F445W--Community Psychology--3 credits~~  
Psychological Perspectives



Psychological Perspectives  
PSY F304—Personality—3 credits  
Multicultural/Diversity  
PSY F310O—Cross-Cultural Psychology—3 credits  
PSY/SOC F333/WMS F332—Human Sexualities Across Cultures—3 credits

c. Applied (9 credits)

Complete ~~one~~ at least 6 credits from each of the following specialized areas:

PSY/ED F245—Child Development—3 credits

~~PSY F310W, O—Cross-Cultural Psychology—3 credits~~

PSY F337W—Sport Psychology—3 credits

PSY F390W, O—Industrial and Organizational Psychology--3 credits

PSY F445W--Community Psychology--3 credits

PSY F455—Clinical Psychology—3 credits

PSY F469O/2—Health Psychology—3 credits

PSY/SOC F480W--Qualitative Social Science Research--3 credits

PSY F488—Practicum in Psychology—1 - 6 credits

PSY F498—Research in Psychology---1 - 6 credits

d. Complete ~~12~~ 9 additional PSY credits (you may also choose from the courses listed in the specialized areas above).

e. ~~Complete one community service course.\*\*~~

4. Minimum credits required--120 credits

\* Student must earn a C grade or better in each course.

\*\* Community service courses: PSY F310, F345, F445 and F470.

Note: Student may not count more than 6 credits of any combination of PSY F497 and F498 toward the degree major.

Note: Student may apply an unlimited number of PSY F392/F492 and PSY F393/F493 credits toward the degree provided the topics are different for each course.

Minor

1. Complete the following:

PSY F101--Introduction to Psychology--3 credits

PSY electives--12 credits

2. Minimum credits required--15 credits

D. **ESTIMATED IMPACT**

*WHAT IMPACT, IF ANY, WILL THIS HAVE ON BUDGET, FACILITIES/SPACE, FACULTY, ETC.*

**The main impact of these changes is the increased flexibility for both students and the department. This will make it easier for transfer students to complete the degree in a timely manner without explanation and without sacrificing quality. Similarly, students who have other constraints (e.g., work family, etc.) will have more flexibility in completing the degree requirements. The department will be able to use its resources in a more efficient way.**

E. **IMPACTS ON PROGRAMS/DEPTS:**

*What programs/departments will be affected by this proposed action?  
Include information on the Programs/Departments contacted (e.g., email, memo)*

**The psychology department has coordinated changes to specific courses with other departments that will be affected due to cross-listing. These departments included sociology, women's studies, School of Education, Rural Student Services, Rural Human Service, Human Services, and the Center for Distance Education. Changes to courses that are cross-listed have been agreed upon with those departments.**



**F. IF MAJOR CHANGE - ASSESSMENT OF THE PROGRAM:**

*Description of the student learning outcomes assessment process.)*

See attached outcomes assessment plan.

**JUSTIFICATION FOR ACTION REQUESTED**

The purpose of the department and campus-wide curriculum committees is to scrutinize program/degree change applications to make sure that the quality of UAF education is not lowered as a result of the proposed change. Please address this in your response. This section needs to be self-explanatory. If you drop a course, is it because the material is covered elsewhere? Use as much space as needed to fully justify the proposed change and explain what has been done to ensure that the quality of the program is not compromised as a result.

**There are five main reasons for undertaking this program change:**

1. Since the last curriculum revision we have made use of our outcomes assessments, program reviews, and benchmarks published by the American Psychological Association to redesign and improve our curriculum. In this effort we considered national standards for undergraduate education in psychology, (such as APA's recommendation to require a statistics course) as well as the interests and needs of our student population. Nearly 85% of graduate programs in psychology require an undergraduate statistics course as part of their admissions requirement.
2. When we last revised our curriculum we based the design on the assumption that most of our students would study at UAF for all of their undergraduate education. This way they could follow the sequence of requirements culminating in an integrative senior seminar. Unfortunately, this design did not work well for the increasing numbers of transfer students who were often held back by those requirements or ended up in courses they were ill prepared for. We will offer a choice from 3 Capstone opportunities in the new curriculum, Research Analysis and Design (PSY 475W), Senior Seminar (PSY 485), or a student thesis (PSY 499). Student will be advised to choose the option which best meets their future academic and career goals.
3. The undergraduate program in psychology has undergone incredible growth over the past decade, going from about 80 majors in 1999 to well over 200 majors in 2010. Unfortunately, the number of faculty teaching undergraduate psychology course has not increased proportionally during that time. The department finds itself in a position of having to offer a very broad curriculum to an increasingly transient and large student body. Furthermore, we don't always have the expertise to offer some of the courses or, a reverse problem, can't offer more specialized courses because our faculty needs to teach multiple sections of the basic courses.
4. The institutional funding situation at UAF has become less predictable, making it difficult for departments and programs to make strategic plans for faculty hires. This financial ambiguity is further complicated by difficulties recruiting qualified faculty, especially in specific sub-disciplines. The psychology department has redesigned the undergraduate curriculum to adapt to this situation with a creative solution to having to do more with less.
5. There has been increasing pressure to provide an applied track in psychology to help fill the gap of human service providers in Alaska. While we are not prepared to offer such a track per se, we are redesigning the curriculum to allow students to focus more on either applied or theory oriented courses. This way, students who plan on advancing to graduate education in psychology can take more of the courses that will prepare them and make them competitive applicants to graduate programs. Students who plan on entering the workforce with a BA can focus more on the applied aspects of the field. Please note that all students have to take both theory and applied courses to graduate.

To adapt to these conditions, we set about designing a curriculum that provides our students with the essentials in psychology while also exposing them to sub-disciplines and special topics that will help them work toward their professional and educational goals. The department, on the other hand, commits itself to offering the essential courses on a regularly scheduled basis (thus permitting planning for students) while also having the flexibility to offer a wider array of courses depending on demand and availability of faculty. Our multi-year plan (see attached) reserves 1 or 2 slots per semester for these as-demand-warrants courses. The specific courses offered during any given semester and year can be chosen to maximize the faculty expertise available while at the same time expanding the students' opportunities for a greater breadth of courses. Please note: we have taken great care to balance the offerings of theory and applied courses, writing and oral intensive courses, and upper division courses.



**In sum, we anticipate the following benefits of the proposed curriculum changes:**

1. Students can better plan their course of study until graduation.
2. Transfer students can graduate in a timelier manner.
3. Students can tailor the program better to fit their educational and professional goals.
4. The department can adapt more easily to changes in the faculty.
5. The department can maximally benefit from the expertise of the faculty.
6. Faculty get to teach in their specialty.
7. There is a higher likelihood of transfer students graduating from UAF.

**APPROVALS:** SEE ATTACHED SIGNATURES (next page)

	Date	
Signature, Chair, Program/Department of:		

	Date	
Signature, Chair, College/School Curriculum Council for:		

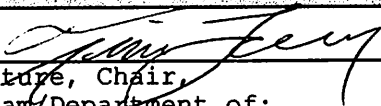
	Date	
Signature, Dean, College/School of:		

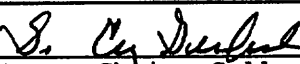
**ALL SIGNATURES MUST BE OBTAINED PRIOR TO SUBMISSION TO THE GOVERNANCE OFFICE**

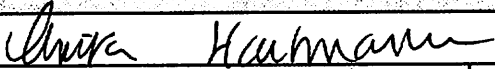
	Date	
Signature, Chair, UAF Faculty Senate Curriculum Review Committee		



**APPROVALS:**

	Date	12/5/11
Signature, Chair, Program/Department of:		

	Date	2/19/2012
Signature, Chair, College/School Curriculum Council for:		

	Date	02-17-2012
Signature, Dean, College/School of: <span style="margin-left: 100px;">CLA</span>		

**ALL SIGNATURES MUST BE OBTAINED PRIOR TO SUBMISSION TO THE GOVERNANCE OFFICE**

  	Date	  
Signature, Chair, UAF Faculty Senate Curriculum Review Committee		