

Studying Psychology at the University of Sydney



Psychology as a nationally-accredited sequence of study

In Australia, 'psychologist' is a legally-protected title, and as such, if a person wishes to practice as a psychologist, they must have first completed the relevant sequences of study and then register with the *Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA)*.

There are three sequences of study required: an undergraduate sequence, an Honours sequence, and a postgraduate sequence – all three are accredited by the *Australian Psychological Accreditation Council (APAC)*.

The APAC-accredited undergraduate sequence

At the University of Sydney, the APAC-accredited undergraduate sequence is the **Psychology program** – this 60-credit point sequence can be completed in any of our accredited degrees including (but not limited to):

- Bachelor of Psychology (Honours)
- Bachelor of Psychology
- Bachelor of Science [or Bachelor of Science/Bachelor of Advanced Studies]
- Bachelor of Liberal Arts and Science
- Bachelor of Arts [or Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Advanced Studies]

In the Psychology program, students will complete ten Psychology units, as shown in the table below (Year 1-3).

The APAC-accredited Honours sequence

At the University of Sydney, the APAC-accredited Honours sequence is **Honours in Psychology** – this 48-credit point sequence is completed in one year, as shown in the table below (Year 4). Students complete both coursework and research components in the Honours year.

Students in the Bachelor of Psychology (Honours) degree will automatically progress into Honours in Psychology, while students from all other degrees must apply for admission. Places are limited and applications are ranked according to academic achievement in their undergraduate units of study.

| Year 1, S1 | Year 1, S2 | Year 2, S1 | Year 2, S2 | Year 3, S1 | Year 3, S2 | Year 4, S1 | Year 4, S2 |
|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|-------------|------------|------------|
| PSYC1001 | PSYC1002 | PSYC2012 | PSYC2016 | PSYC3 - - - | PSYC3010 | PSYC4123 | PSYC4000 |
| - | - | PSYC2X15 | PSYC2017 | PSYC3 - - - | PSYC3 - - - | PSYC4124 | PSYC4104 |
| - | - | - | - | - | - | PSYC4125 | PSYC4105 |
| - | - | - | - | - | - | PSYC4103 | PSYC4106 |

Other ways of studying psychology

If a student is certain that they do not wish to become a psychologist, but they are otherwise interested in psychological content, they can elect to take the **Psychological Science major or minor** – this is a 48-credit point (major) or 36-credit point (minor) sequence that can be taken in any degree allowing Table S sequences.

In the Psychological Science major, students will complete eight Units of Study (i.e. one less 2000-level and 3000-level unit than the Psychology program), and in the Psychological Science minor, students will complete six Units of Study (i.e. two less 2000-level and 3000-level units than the Psychology program).

Non-psychologist pathways after graduating

The completion of the above sequence of study keeps open the door to becoming a psychologist. However, completing the sequence does not rule out alternative study and career options. Many graduates opt to pursue further postgraduate study, either through a Higher Degree by Research (HDR) degree (with the aim of becoming a researcher or academic), or other postgraduate coursework to complement their skills (for example, Master of Teaching, Master of Business Administration). Other graduates will go out into the workforce in an area enabled by the skills developed through their tertiary education (for example, research, policy, allied and community health, human resources, marketing, advertising).