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UNDERGRADUATE ONLINE PSYCHOLOGY HANDBOOK

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UNDERGRADUATE ONLINE PSYCHOLOGY HANDBOOK

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
PART I: General Information	2
The Advising Process	2
Requirements for Graduation	3
General Academic Requirements	3
Degree Program Requirements	3
Psychology Requirements	4
Major	4
Psychology Major with a Business Concentration	5
Psychology Major with a Mental Health Concentration	6
Minor	7
Applied Forensic Studies Certificate	7
Applied Forensic Studies Minor	7
Special Issues for Psychology Majors and Minors	9
Double Counting of Courses	9
Variable Credit Courses	9
Transferring Courses	9
List of Psychology Courses	9
PART II: Career Opportunities	10
What can I do with a degree in Psychology?	10
Employment Opportunities	10
Suggested Courses for Specific Career Paths	12
PART III: Graduate School	13
Applying to Graduate School	13
Undergraduate Transcripts	13
Graduate Record Exam (GRE) Scores	13
Letters of Recommendation	13
Research Experience	13
Relevant Work or Volunteer Experience	13
Graduate School Applications	15
Resources to Help with Applications to Graduate School	15
Suggested Courses for Graduate School	15
The Accelerated Master's Program in Experimental Psychology	17
PART IV: Psychology Student Organizations	18
Psi Chi: The National Honor Society in Psychology	18
Association for Psychological Science Student Caucus (APSSC)	18
Student Affiliation of School Psychologists (SASP)	19
Industrial/Organizational Psychology Association (IOPA)	19
PART V: Core Faculty Information	20

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PART I: GENERAL INFORMATION

This *Undergraduate Online Psychology Handbook* is designed to assist you with the academic planning of a major or minor in psychology. This *Handbook* is an important supplement to the *CMU Undergraduate Bulletin* and your faculty advisor. Faculty advisors adjust their advice to the needs of particular students, but this *Handbook* ensures that there is consistency in what students are told. The internet address of this *Handbook* is: <https://www.cmich.edu/academics/colleges/liberal-arts-social-sciences/departments/psychology/student-resources>. Use the website to access links contained herein.

Remember that the *CMU Undergraduate Bulletin*—not this *Handbook*—is the official document of the University. The *CMU Undergraduate Bulletin* provides information on all requirements for graduation whereas this *Handbook* provides information mainly focusing on the psychology requirements for graduation. Though every attempt has been made to accurately highlight the requirements for graduation; you must remember that this *Handbook* is **UNOFFICIAL**. *You are strongly urged to read the Academic Information portion of the CMU Undergraduate Bulletin.*

The Advising Process

All students interested in the Psychology major or minor should meet with a faculty member to receive guidance about Psychology, coursework requirements and career opportunities. Meeting with a faculty member is required in order to sign your Psychology major or minor. An authorized representative of the Psychology Department (such as your faculty advisor, faculty member, undergraduate program director, or department chair) is required to authorize all Psychology Majors and Minors. This authorization should be done during your advising session described below. The authorization process is now completed online, with your advisor, as part of the Degree Progress system; however, authorization forms can still be filled out and accepted in some circumstances. Note: You cannot be audited for graduation until the appropriate authorization has occurred.

To arrange an appointment with a faculty member, visit the Psychology Department office (Sloan Hall, Room 101), email (psy@cmich.edu) or call (989) 774-3001 to be assigned a faculty advisor. It is your responsibility to arrange a meeting with your advisor. It is recommended that you familiarize yourself with the requirements before meeting with your advisor.

Faculty members should be viewed as a valuable resource for you as you are earning your undergraduate degree. You are *encouraged* to routinely meet with your psychology advisor (and other Psychology faculty) throughout your time at CMU even after you have signed your major or minor. as often as you feel it would be beneficial. In particular, it is recommended that the advisor be consulted any time you are thinking of changing your vocational plans or the courses you plan to take. You are free to consult with any member of the Psychology Department, at any time, for additional points of view and to compare advice.

Note: Psychology faculty members are best suited to advise students about psychology classes, the field of psychology and graduate school but not to provide guidance regarding university-level requirements or procedures. If you are seeking advice regarding other aspects of your academic program, you should contact Undergraduate Academic Services (123 Warriner, 989-774-3504) for coursework transfers and graduation requirements (including audits) or Academic Advising (BUC Student Service Court, 989-774-3618) for information about the University Program, competency requirements, and degree structures.

Requirements for Graduation

You will need to satisfy three sets of requirements for graduation: (1) general academic requirements set forth by the University, (2) requirements mandated by your chosen degree program, and (3) psychology major/minor requirements set forth by the Psychology Department.

1. General Academic Requirements

The General Education Program ensures that all graduates possess a common skill set, as well as an understanding of civilization in its broadest sense. General Education Program requirements are described in the *CMU Undergraduate Bulletin* ([here](#)) and on the *General Education Program website* ([here](#)). Undergraduate students at CMU are required to fulfill both the Competency and University Program components of the General Education Program.

- **Competencies:** All undergraduate students are required to demonstrate competency in writing, oral English, and mathematics. In addition, students must complete 12 credits in courses designated as writing intensive, 3 credits in a course designated as meeting quantitative reasoning requirements, and 3 credits in a course designated as meeting oral English competency. Detailed information on the competencies and lists of the approved courses that meet the competency requirements are available in the *CMU Undergraduate Bulletin* as well as the General Education Program website
- **University Program:** Students must complete 27 credits of course work distributed across four main groups: Humanities, Natural Sciences, Social Sciences, and Studies in Global Cultures and Diversity. Each of these groups are broken down into two subgroups and students must complete three credits of coursework within each of these eight subgroups (24 credits), plus a three credits elective from any of the eight subgroups. Detailed information on the University Program and lists the approved courses in each sub-group are available in the *CMU Undergraduate Bulletin*, as well as on the *General Education Program website*.

To be eligible for graduation, students are required to earn a minimum of 120 credits of acceptable course work, with the exact number determined by the specific degree program. At least 40 of these credits must be earned in courses numbered 300 and above. Students must earn a cumulative grade point average of 2.00 (C) or higher both overall and their major and/or minor area of study. These and other graduation requirements are explained in the *CMU Undergraduate Bulletin*.

2. Degree Program Requirements

Degree requirements are listed in the *Bulletin* ([here](#)). Be aware not all courses are available online. You should seek advice early in your college career as to how to most efficiently satisfy degree requirements. The psychology major can be used in the following degree programs: Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) and Bachelor of Science (B.S.; Plan A [without a minor] or B [with a minor]). In the B.A. and B.S. degree programs, courses taken for the psychology major may be used to satisfy other degree requirements. In the B.S. degree programs, however, psychology courses taken to satisfy University Program requirements may not be used to satisfy area requirements. See your *Bulletin* for specifics.

The psychology minor can be used to satisfy minor requirements for the following degree programs: Bachelor of Arts (B.A.), Bachelor of Applied Arts (B.A.A.), Bachelor of Fine Arts (B.F.A.), Bachelor of Science (B.S.) Plan B (plan A does not require a minor). Courses taken to complete the minor may be used to satisfy other degree requirements with the exception that the same courses cannot be used to satisfy both area and University Program requirements on the B.S. degree programs. In most cases, it is important to talk to your Major advisor before deciding on a minor, psychology or otherwise.

3. Psychology Requirements

Admission Requirements, Retention & Termination Standards for All Psychology Majors

- You must complete a minimum of 18 hours of psychology course work at CMU.
- You must earn a grade of "C" or better in [PSY 211QR](#) to enroll in [PSY 285](#) and earn a "C" or better in [PSY 285](#) and have completed [ENG 201](#) to enroll in [PSY 385](#). Consult individual course descriptions for prerequisites for other courses.
- Credit restrictions: Only [PSY 100](#) may be taken on a CR/NC basis. No more than 9 hours may be counted from the following courses with unspecified content: [PSY 200](#), [PSY 400](#), [PSY 496](#), [PSY 497](#), [PSY 498](#), [PSY 500](#), [PSY 501](#), [PSY 502](#). Further, not more than 3 hours may be counted from any one unspecified content course.

General Psychology Major **(30 Semester hours)**

The general major requires a minimum of 30 semester hours of PSY courses. Note: Though not required, most students take more than 30 semester hours of PSY courses. Students considering graduate work in psychology or related fields are strongly recommended to take additional courses in psychology.

Required Courses (12 hours)

PSY 100 - Introduction to Psychology
PSY 211QR - Introduction to Psychological Statistics
PSY 285 - Research Methods
PSY 385 - Applications of Research Methods

Electives (18 hours): Students must select at least 18 other semester hours of psychology classes. Use information about additional courses detailed in this *Handbook*, along with suggestions from your faculty advisor, to help you select your courses.

Note: You must earn a grade of "C" or better in PSY 211QR to enroll in PSY 285, and earn a "C" or better in PSY 285 and have completed ENG 201 to enroll in PSY 385. Consult individual course descriptions for prerequisites for other courses. The balance of the courses on this major should be decided by you and your psychology advisor, working together. You have the option of electing one of two plans for the B.S. degree: *with or without a minor*. A minor is optional on both the B.A. and B.S. degrees. If you decide to complete a minor, the choice should be a function of your interests and your post-graduation plans.

Note: Students who have already taken [BIO 500](#) Biological Statistics (3) or [HSC 544](#) Biostatistics (3) and received a grade of "C" or better in the course may substitute the requirement for PSY 211. In that case, an additional three (3) hours of Psychology must be taken.

Credit Restrictions. You must complete a minimum of 18 hours of psychology coursework at CMU. Only PSY 100 may be taken on a Credit/No Credit basis. No more than 9 hours may be counted from the following courses with unspecified content: PSY 200, 400, 496, 497, 498, 500, 501 and 502; and not more than 3 hours may be counted from any one of those courses.

Psychology Major with a Business Concentration (36 Semester hours)

This concentration prepares students for employment or graduate study in a variety of fields. It will be helpful for students interested in **industrial & organizational psychology, human resources, marketing, advertising, and consulting.**

36 credit hours (All courses require grade of “C” or better)

Required Courses (21 credit hours):

PSY 100 - Introduction to Psychology
PSY 211QR - Introduction to Psychological Statistics
PSY 285 - Research Methods
PSY 330 - Social Psychology
PSY 336 - Industrial/Organizational Psychology
PSY 337 - Psychology of Advertising
PSY 385 - Applications of Research Methods

Electives I (3 hours)

Choose one of the following:

PSY 459 Stress
PSY 535 Organizational Psychology
PSY 536 Personnel Psychology **
PSY 538 Occupational Health Psychology **

Electives II (6 hours)

Choose two of the following:

PSY 310 Psychological Testing
PSY 340 Studies in Personality
PSY 379 Health Psychology
PSY 459 Stress
PSY 510 Principles of Psychological Measurement
PSY 511 Statistics in Psychology
PSY 535 Organizational Psychology
PSY 536 Personnel Psychology
PSY 537 Organizational Behavioral Management **
PSY 538 Occupational Health Psychology **
PSY 583 Motivation and Emotion **

Electives III (6 hours)

An additional 6 hours of psychology coursework is required.

** Courses cannot double count.*

*** Not available online as of Fall 2026*

Psychology Major with a Mental Health Concentration (36 Semester hours)

This concentration prepares students for employment or graduate study in a variety of mental health fields such as **case manager, psychiatric technician, child life specialist, nonprofit manager, grant writer, child protective services, and foster care/adoption case manager**. It will be helpful for students interested in clinical psychology, school psychology, counseling and social work.

36 credit hours (All courses require grade of “C” or better)

Required Courses (21 credit hours):

PSY 100 - Introduction to Psychology
PSY 211QR - Introduction to Psychological Statistics
PSY 250 - Abnormal Psychology
PSY 285 - Research Methods
PSY 310 - Psychological Testing
PSY 350 - Clinical Interviewing and Counseling
PSY 385 - Applications of Research Methods

Electives I (3 hours)

Choose one of the following:

PSY 220 Developmental Psychology
PSY 450 Clinical Psychology **
PSY 459 Stress

Electives II (6 hours)

Choose two of the following:

PSY 220 Developmental Psychology
PSY 322 Psychology of Infancy & Early Childhood **
PSY 324 Childhood and Adolescence
PSY 325 Psychology of Aging **
PSY 334 Psychology of Women
PSY 340 Studies in Personality
PSY 370 Applied Behavioral Analysis **
PSY 379 Health Psychology
PSY 450 Clinical Psychology**
PSY 459 Stress
PSY 509 Behavioral Pharmacology
PSY 510 Principles of Psychological Measurement
PSY 544 Theories of Personality **
PSY 555 Psychopathology of Children **
PSY 562 Therapeutic Intervention: Foundations **
PSY 575 Autism Spectrum Disorder: Characteristics and Etiology **
PSY 579 Behavioral Medicine **
PSY 583 Motivation and Emotion **
PSY 586 Applied Behavioral Analysis in Education**

Electives III (6 hours)

An additional 6 hours of psychology coursework is required.

** Courses cannot double count.*

*** Not available online as of Fall 2026*

Psychology Minor
(21 semester hours)

Required Course (3 hours)

PSY 100 (3) - Introduction to Psychology

Electives (18 hours): A student must complete a minimum of 9 hours of psychology coursework at CMU. If you are minoring in psychology and plan to attend graduate school in psychology, PSY 211QR is strongly recommended. The balance of your credits should be selected by you and your advisor working together to select the set of courses which is most appropriate for you. A minimum 2.7 GPA (B-) must be earned in all teaching minors.

Note: Only 6 hours may be counted from courses of unspecified content: [PSY 200](#), [PSY 400](#), [PSY 496](#), [PSY 497](#), [PSY 498](#), [PSY 500](#), [PSY 501](#), and [PSY 502](#). Further, not more than 3 hours may be counted from any one unspecified content course.

Applied Forensic Studies Certificate
(13-15 semester hours)

Not available fully online as of Fall 2026

Applied Forensic Studies Minor
(22-28 semester hours)

Not available fully online as of Fall 2026

Special Issues for Psychology Majors and Minors

Double Counting of Courses - Up to two *University Program (UP)* courses from the department of the major or minor may be counted toward both UP and major or minor requirements. You should check the *University Program* restrictions to find the conditions under which it can be done.

Hours that are counted toward "psychology" majors or minors may also be counted as partial fulfillment of other "non-psychology" major or minor requirements provided that (1) you complete the required number of semester hours for graduation, (2) no course may be counted toward both the major and minor in the same department, and (3) the courses so counted are specified by number in the Bulletin description of the majors or minors involved. **NOTE: When a course fulfills two or more requirements, it does *not* reduce the total of credits required for graduation.**

Variable Credit Courses - Some courses, such as PSY 496 (*Directed Research*), can be taken for variable credit. The number of credits that can be counted toward graduation is determined by university regulations as reported in the most current *Undergraduate Bulletin* when the course is taken. Therefore, it is important to look up the maximum allowable credits in a current *Undergraduate Bulletin* before enrolling in such courses. **Note:** The credits allowed to count towards the major (e.g., 3 for PSY 496) may be fewer than the total allowed in the bulletin (as of 2008-2009 bulletin, you can take up to 6 credits of PSY 496). This means you can take up to 6 but can only count 3 credits towards the major.

Transferring Courses - CMU maintains "transfer equivalency tables" that tell you how courses which have already been reviewed will transfer to CMU (see [here](#)). However, many courses in Michigan and across the country have never been reviewed, so you must ask the ***Undergraduate Director*** to evaluate courses that are not currently listed to ensure they will transfer. In addition, you may ask for a new review of a listed course if you feel that the transfer arrangement does not match the current content of the course.

List of Psychology Courses Offered Online

PSY 100	Introduction to Psychology	PSY 337	Psychology of Advertising
PSY 211	Introduction to Psychological Statistics	PSY 340	Studies in Personality
PSY 220	Developmental Psychology	PSY 350	Clinical Interviewing/Counseling
PSY 250	Abnormal Psychology	PSY 379	Health Psychology
PSY 285	Research Methods	PSY 383	Learning and Memory
PSY 301	Sports Psychology	PSY 385	Applications of Research Methods
PSY 310	Psychological Testing	PSY 387	Behavioral Neuroscience
PSY 324	Childhood and Adolescence	PSY 459	Stress
PSY 330	Social Psychology	PSY 510	Principles of Psychological Measurement
PSY 334	Psychology of Women	PSY 511	Statistics in Psychology
PSY 336	Industrial/Organizational Psychology	PSY 535	Organizational Psychology

PART II: CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

It is not unusual for someone contemplating a psychology major or minor to ask, "What can I do with a degree in psychology?" The answer is rather straightforward: Psychology graduates generally enter the workforce or go on to graduate school. When psychology graduates enter the workforce, they often enter a business field, one of the human service areas, or teaching.

What Can I Do with a Degree in Psychology?

Each year, approximately 75,000 students graduate from a four-year college with a degree in psychology. Psychology is a pre-professional degree that can prepare you for graduate school in law, medicine (including medical school, physician assistant programs, dental school, physical therapy, and others), counseling, social work, and psychology. Graduates find work in social services, companies, or organizations that value the skills taught in psychology classes.

- For information about a career as a Psychiatric Technician and Aide, go [here](#)
- For information about a career as a probation or parole officer, go [here](#)
- For information about adoption case worker, substance abuse counselor, or residential house parent, go [here](#)
- For information about a career as a medical or health services manager, go [here](#)
- If you are interested in a career as a psychologist, please go [here](#)

Employment Opportunities

Psychology graduates generally fare quite well in business fields. Research has shown that psychology graduates are just as upwardly mobile as other college graduates, including those with business degrees. Many personnel recruiters say that they consider the psychology curriculum to be quite rigorous and attractive to business, and some recruiters even cite evidence indicating superior GPAs of psychology majors. Whereas some organizations are biased against liberal arts majors and look for graduates with business or technical degrees, many firms consider a psychology degree excellent preparation. In particular, the critical thinking and computer skills acquired in the statistics and research methods sequence are highly valued by employers. Psychology majors are experienced at generating and evaluating hypotheses, gathering, analyzing, and reasoning from data, and in communicating their findings both orally and in writing. Also, the management of human behavior is an important expense and concern to businesses. People with an understanding of human behavior are often vital additions to management teams charged with organizational decision making.

In addition to opportunities in business, there are opportunities for psychology majors in human service fields. For example, psychiatric aide, adoption caseworker, probation officer, substance abuse counselor, and residential treatment center houseparent are human service jobs often held by psychology graduates. The U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, projects that the human services workforce will continue to be one of the fastest growth areas within the economy in the near future. The Bureau notes:

The increased need for elderly care, mental health services, treatment of substance use disorders, and public health and preventative care are all expected to contribute to strong employment demand for community and social service occupations throughout the next decade. Some of the fastest growing occupations in this group include substance abuse, behavioral disorder, and mental health counselors; marriage and family therapists; and community health workers, which are all projected to grow much faster than the average for all occupations from 2022–32. ([LINK](#))

There are two caveats to this rosy picture. Bachelor's level human service jobs generally do not pay as well, or offer as many opportunities for advancement, as bachelor's level jobs in the business sector. Nevertheless, many psychology graduates obtain satisfying employment in human service careers.

For more information on employment opportunities for psychology graduates, you can (1) visit the Career Development Center, Ronan Hall 240 (989-774-3068) to review employment materials and speak with an advisor; (2) talk to a member of the psychology faculty about your career goals; (3) visit the Psychology website [here](#); (4) check the websites below:

American Psychological Association. (2022, February). *Preparing to use your Bachelor's degree in psychology*. <https://www.apa.org/education-career/guide/bachelors>

Cherry, K. (2024, July 1). *80+ Jobs in Psychology to Consider*. Very Well Mind. <https://www.verywellmind.com/a-list-of-psychology-careers-2794917>

Landrum, R.E. (2018, January). *What can you do with a bachelor's degree in psychology? Like this title, the actual answer is complicated*. <https://www.apa.org/ed/precollege/psn/2018/01/bachelors-degree>

Suggested Courses for Specific Career Paths

The lists propose elective courses relevant to certain career paths. The lists are included as a guide (as opposed to a requirement). Remember that you still have to take the required sequence of courses and the prerequisites (see the Psych. Major requirements above).

Careers in

Business

310	Psychological Testing	510	Principals of Psychological Measurement
330	Social Psychology	535	Organizational Psychology **
336	Industrial/Organizational Psychology	536	Personnel Psychology **
337	Psychology of Advertising	537	Organizational Behavior Management **
383	Learning and Memory	538	Occupational Health Psychology**

Social Work

220	Developmental Psychology	334	Psychology of Women
250	Abnormal Psychology	340	Studies in Personality
310	Psychological Testing	350	Clinical Interviewing and Counseling
324	Childhood and Adolescence	370	Applied Behavior Analysis **
325	Psychology of Aging **	459	Stress
330	Social Psychology		

Human Services

220	Developmental Psychology	350	Clinical Interviewing and Counseling
250	Abnormal Psychology	370	Applied Behavior Analysis **
310	Psychological Testing	384	Behavior Analysis **
330	Social Psychology	459	Stress
340	Studies in Personality		

Education

220	Developmental Psychology	340	Studies in Personality
250	Abnormal Psychology	383	Learning and Memory
310	Psychological Testing	384	Behavior Analysis **
324	Childhood and Adolescence	586	Applied Behavioral Analysis in Education **
330	Social Psychology	589	Cognitive Psychology **

Human Factors

325	Psychology of Aging	383	Learning and Memory
330	Social Psychology	459	Stress
336	Industrial/Organizational Psychology	511	Statistics in Psychology
382	Perception **	589	Cognitive Psychology **

Pre-Physical Therapy Majors

Physical Therapy is not an undergraduate major. A number of undergraduates interested in Physical Therapy choose to major in Psychology. To prepare students for admission to the physical therapy training program at CMU ([here](#)), the Psychology Department has available a check-off sheet for completion of the physical therapy program recommendations. Admission to graduate training in Physical Therapy at CMU includes 9 credits of undergraduate coursework in Psychology including a course in developmental psychology (PSY 220) and an introductory course in statistics (PSY 211). A course in rehabilitation (PSY 559) or health psychology (PSY 379) is also strongly recommended.

*** Not available online as of Fall 2026*

PART III: GRADUATE SCHOOL

Psychology students often pursue graduate study either immediately after obtaining the bachelor's degree or after completing a few years of relevant work experience. An undergraduate major in psychology also provides a good background for graduate study in other disciplines, such as management, social work, criminal justice, or counseling. Furthermore, the bachelor's degree in psychology can be used as a pre-professional degree (e.g., pre-law, pre-med, pre-physical therapy, pre-physician's assistant). If you plan to enter a health-related profession, ask your health professions advisor for a checklist of preparatory courses that should be completed in addition to your psychology major.

Applying To Graduate School

New career opportunities open up for students who complete graduate programs in psychology, and these opportunities are a function of the level and area of graduate training which are completed. Generally speaking, there are three different levels of graduate degrees, though not all graduate schools offer all three degrees. A *master's degree* generally entails two years of graduate study (30-45 semester hours) and may or may not require a thesis. Many masters programs are designed to provide preparation for further graduate study, although some master's programs are vocationally oriented. A *specialist's degree* generally requires 60-70 semester hours of graduate study and is generally vocationally oriented rather than serving as preparation for further study. The *doctoral degree* is the highest degree awarded in psychology. The duration of study and specific requirements are quite variable depending on the particular program and the specialty area. Three years of coursework is generally the minimum required, a doctoral dissertation or some equivalent is generally required, and a one-year internship may or may not be required. CMU offers one type of doctoral program in psychology: the Ph.D. (Doctor of Philosophy). This traditional doctoral degree is generally thought of as training scholars or researchers. A number of non-university affiliated professional schools offer the Psy.D. (Doctor of Psychology). The Psy.D degree is generally thought of as preparing practitioners. The above descriptions of degree levels and types are intended to serve as a very general guideline and introduction; programs vary considerably across universities and professional schools. ***It is of the utmost importance that you carefully investigate the specific programs you are considering.***

There are a variety of specialty areas within psychology that offer graduate training; for example, clinical psychology, community psychology, counseling psychology, developmental psychology, experimental psychology, health psychology, industrial/organizational psychology, physiological psychology, school psychology, social psychology, etc. In addition, psychology majors are often well-prepared for graduate study in other disciplines such as management, counseling, social work, or criminal justice. Some areas of graduate study are relatively easy to get into; others are extremely competitive and accept only a small fraction of those who apply. Thus if you are contemplating graduate school, you should begin planning as early as possible.

You should consult your faculty advisor to learn more about the various issues raised in this section of the *Handbook*. In general, graduate school admissions are based on the following factors: undergraduate transcripts and grades, GRE scores, letters of recommendation, research experience and, for applied psychology programs, relevant work or volunteer experience or both.

1. Undergraduate Transcripts

Two aspects of the *undergraduate transcript* are generally considered in evaluating applicants. First is the grade point average; both overall GPA and psychology GPA are considered. Remember that the timing of graduate school applications generally precludes sending one's last semester's grades. Second, consideration is often given to the specific courses completed. Courses both inside and outside psychology are considered. Thus, it is important that the psychology advisor be consulted in determining which classes

to take. The section on the graduate preparation major lists courses suggested for students who intend to pursue graduate study.

2. Graduate Record Exam (GRE) Scores

There are two aspects to the GRE: (1) General Aptitude test (verbal, quantitative, and writing tests), and (2) Advanced Psychology test. Many master's degree programs do not require GRE Scores, but almost all doctoral programs do. The scores that carry the most weight are the verbal and quantitative aptitude scores. Because these tests are based to a great extent on learned skills, you can improve your score by learning to read rapidly, improving your vocabulary, and learning to diagnose and calculate algebra, geometry, and trigonometry problems quickly. You also may need to be sure you are not bothered by test anxiety. The Counseling Center (102 Foust, 989-774-3381) has test anxiety reduction programs each semester. Some graduate programs require only the General Aptitude test, others require both the General Aptitude and the Advanced tests, and others require neither. Occasionally a graduate program requires the Miller Analogies Test (MAT). More information about the GRE can be obtained from the education testing services at www.gre.org or by calling the Computer-Based and Placement Testing Center at 989-774-1092, located in Room 142N of the IET Building. Advice on how to prepare for the GRE should be sought from the faculty advisor and from students who have already taken the exam.

3. Letters of Recommendation

Letters of recommendation are generally a requisite part of the graduate application. A complete and impressive letter can only be written by someone who knows the student well. A faculty member who knows a student only from one course generally cannot write a detailed letter. Consequently, early in your education, it is important to create opportunities for individual faculty to get to know you. Faculty are accustomed to working with students and writing graduate school letters, so you will generally find them quite understanding and receptive. The most powerful letters tell of actual accomplishments beyond grades, so research experience or volunteer experience often leads to good letters of reference. You do not want a negative letter in your materials, so it is important to ask each potential referee whether he or she can write a positive letter for you. Be sure to supply your recommenders with a stamped addressed envelope, completed and signed forms, if any, and a list of schools organized by deadline. Make sure your recommenders understand your deadlines.

4. Research Experience

Over the years, it has become increasingly important for students to acquire research experience prior to applying to graduate school. This experience must be completed early enough so that it can be evaluated by the graduate admissions committee. You can acquire research experience by assisting faculty with their research or by completing your own research project. To find out about research of interest to you, it is necessary for you to seek out and talk to professors directly. You should ask faculty directly about their research and offer to get involved. PSY 496, *Directed Research*, and PSY 498, *Undergraduate Honors Thesis in Psychology*, both provide opportunities for students to earn course credit and have faculty supervision while completing research. Often faculty require that students complete at least PSY 211 and PSY 285 before participating in research, so it is advantageous to complete the statistics and research methods sequence as early as possible in their program. ***Students who have presented their research at a psychology conference or who have had their research accepted for publication are at a tremendous advantage when applying to graduate schools.*** For more information, you should consult your faculty advisor. Excellent letters of recommendation often come from such experience.

5. Relevant Work or Volunteer Experience

Relevant work or volunteer experience is often weighted heavily in evaluating graduate school applications in clinical psychology, counseling psychology, or school psychology. A variety of experiences are appropriate, including such things as volunteering in a human service agency and working as a resident assistant or camp counselor. The particular experience which is most valuable depends on the area of

graduate study to be pursued. Long term experiences are often more impressive than brief ones. If you are interested in clinical psychology, you should seek relevant experiences as soon as you decide that you will major in psychology. Your faculty advisor can often be very helpful in suggesting or arranging relevant experiences. In addition to enhancing your graduate school application, relevant work and volunteer experience can lead to (1) meaningful, detailed, and impressive letters of recommendation from your supervisor, and (2) a better understanding of your own long-range career goals.

Graduate School Applications

If you are considering graduate study in psychology, you need to investigate graduate programs during your junior year. By the end of the junior year, you should have a prepared list of programs to which you will apply. You should also use the junior year to prepare for the GRE, which is typically taken at the end of the junior or early in the senior year. In order to do well on the GRE, you should begin to prepare as soon as possible by taking literature and math courses.

In early Fall of the senior year, begin to fill out online applications. Note that many programs update their application materials over the summer so do not assume materials obtained earlier are correct. Application deadlines vary, but are generally between November and February. Because it is often anxiety producing to apply for graduate school, many students postpone completing the graduate applications until the last possible moment. This is a serious mistake! Graduate applications should be completed with great care and forethought. Several rough drafts are often necessary before a final draft is ready. Questions should be read carefully and answered completely. The faculty who read graduate applications often have to screen hundreds of applications. They will typically give serious consideration only to those that stand out in excellence.

Resources to Help with Applications to Graduate School

The books and websites listed below contain helpful information on graduate training in psychology and the process of applying to graduate school. You can find these either online through a link or at the University Library.

American Psychological Association (n.d.) *Find your Psychology Graduate Program*.
<https://gradstudy.apa.org/> (subscription required for full access)

American Psychological Association. (2007). *Getting in: A step-by-step plan for gaining admission to graduate school in psychology* (2nd ed.). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association

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Suggested Courses for Graduate School

Clinical Psychology

Consult with advisors for additional courses and experiences relevant to potential specialty areas within Clinical Psychology such as Health Psychology, Child Psychology, Neuropsychology, etc.

220	Developmental Psychology	340	Studies in Personality
250	Abnormal Psychology	409	History of Psychology **
330	Social Psychology	496	Directed Research

Industrial/Organizational Psychology

See Business List above for additional courses.

310	Psychological Testing	330	Social Psychology
336	Industrial/Organizational Psychology	496	Directed Research

School Psychology

Students interested in pursuing graduate education in school psychology would be advised to 1) obtain research experience (PSY 496), 2) take the GRE, 3) obtain experience with children, 4) job shadow a school psychologist, 5) obtain letters of recommendation from faculty with whom you had face-to-face classes, and 6) consider the following courses:

220	Developmental Psychology	330	Social Psychology
250	Abnormal Psychology	350	Clinical Interviewing and Counseling
310	Psychological Testing	370	Applied Behavior Analysis **
324	Childhood and Adolescence	496	Directed Research

Experimental Psychology

220	Developmental Psychology	409	History of Psychology **
330	Social Psychology	496	Directed Research
382	Perception **	511	Statistics in Psychology
383	Learning and Memory	589	Cognitive Psychology **

*** Not available online as of Fall 2026*

The Accelerated Master's Program in Experimental Psychology

Outstanding undergraduate students who are interested in pursuing advanced study in Experimental Psychology may want to consider the Accelerated Option in the M.S. in Experimental Psychology program. Students complete their B.S. degree with the Psychology major in four years and complete the M.S. degree in Experimental Psychology in the fifth year. More information on this option can be found in the *Graduate Bulletin* and in the Experimental Psychology Program Handbook, both of which are available on-line. *Students who are interested in this option must be working with an Experimental Psychology program faculty member.* Students apply to the Experimental Program in their junior year and must meet all requirements for regular admission to the program. Students who are accepted to this 12-month program must have completed all of their University Program requirements and still have 12 credit hours remaining in their Psychology major for the required graduate coursework. Students who are interested in this option should contact the Experimental Psychology Program Director early in their program of study for advising.

PART IV: PSYCHOLOGY STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Psi Chi: The National Honor Society in Psychology

Psi Chi is the National Honor Society in Psychology, founded in 1929, for the purpose of encouraging, stimulating, and maintaining excellence in scholarship of the individual members in all fields, particularly in psychology. Psi Chi also promotes the science of psychology. Membership is open to graduate and undergraduate students who are making the study of psychology one of their major interests and who meet the minimum qualifications. Psi Chi is an affiliate of the American Psychological Association (APA) and a member of the Association of College Honor Societies.

Psi Chi serves two major goals. The first of these is the Society's obligation to provide academic recognition to its initiates by the fact of membership. The second goal is the obligation of each of the Society's local chapters to nurture the spark of that accomplishment by offering a climate congenial to creative development. For example, Psi Chi makes active attempts to nourish and stimulate professional growth through programs designed to augment and enhance the regular curriculum and to provide practical experience and fellowship through affiliation with the chapter. Also, national and regional conventions are held annually in conjunction with the psychological associations' conventions. Additionally, there are research award competitions, certificate recognition programs, and a quarterly *Psi Chi Newsletter* that helps to unite the members as well as to inform and recognize their contributions and accomplishments.

At CMU, one of Psi Chi's most popular programs is the Class Hash that occurs just before pre-registration each semester, when students exchange experiences about classes they have taken. Class Hash can help you make decisions about which classes and instructors to take.

Non-members are welcome at all meetings of Psi Chi. Students interested in joining Psi Chi should visit our website [here](#) for information about meetings and other upcoming events. To contact our chapter, please email psichi@cmich.edu. The faculty advisor is Dr. Reid Skeel, skeel1rl@cmich.edu.

Membership Requirements:

1. Completion of 9 semester hours of psychology.
2. Completion of at least 3 semesters of college.
3. Registration for a major or a minor in psychology.
4. An overall GPA in the upper 35% of the students graduating class.
5. A "B" average (3.0) or better in psychology courses.
6. High standards of personal behavior.

Association for Psychological Science Student Caucus (APSSC)

CMU has an active chapter of the Association for Psychological Science Student Caucus (APSSC). As the representative body for the Student Affiliates of the Association for Psychological Science (APS), the APSSC is committed to the goals of that organization: to advance the discipline of psychology, to preserve the scientific base of psychology, to promote public understanding of psychological science and its applications, to encourage the application of psychology in the public interest, and to enhance the quality of education in the science of psychology.

APSSC is a service organization founded to act as a forum for graduate and undergraduate student issues, as a voice for students in APS policy decisions, and as a national networking and information resource. APSSC develops and enacts programs aimed at meeting the needs of both students and APS as a whole. Specific program goals are to promote student research, to provide opportunities for contact between students and psychologists in the field, to make policy recommendations to APS about student concerns, to assist in students' professional development through activities such as arranging funding for travel to conferences, to promote extracurricular educational participation via local chapters of the national student

organization, and to disseminate information about the educational and scientific opportunities available to students.

At the national level, the APS Student Caucus (APSSC) is the representative body for student affiliates of APS and acts as a service organization for graduate and undergraduate students. Keep in mind that all student affiliates of APS are members of the APSSC.

Some of the caucus activities related to APSSC's goals are (1) a student research competition, (2) travel funds for attending the APS annual convention, (3) a local conference matching-funds program, (4) chapter recruitment, (5) an e-mail system for students (APSSCnet), and (6) a mentorship program.

In 1993, 1994, and again in 1995, CMU's Chapter of APSSC earned the National Outstanding Chapter Award for its unique activities during the year! In 1998, CMU's chapter was the only honorable mention ever for that award. The chapter meets bi-weekly to present research, attract new members, and engage in fund-raising. The officers' names and phone numbers are posted on the bulletin board near the elevator in Sloan Hall. Meeting information can be found [here](#). You can also email apsse2k17@gmail.com. The faculty advisor is Dr. Sandra Morgan, morgalsk@cmich.edu.

Student Affiliation of School Psychologists (SASP)

SASP is a nationally registered organization of students in the School Psychology program that is both academic and social in nature. The group is closely advised by faculty, and hosts events for professional development and social connection among members, faculty and students in other programs. SASP provides members an arena to gather and share information, present research, attend conferences and provide peer support. The faculty advisor is Dr. Daniel Drevon, drevoldd@cmich.edu.

Industrial/Organizational Psychology Association (IOPA)

IOPA is an organization for undergraduate and graduate students interested in the subfield of psychology known as industrial and organizational (I/O) psychology. It promotes interest in I/O psychology by arranging for outside guest speakers, CMU faculty and students presenting their research and applied projects, and trips to major conferences in I/O psychology. Students interested in the field also can get more contact with relevant faculty and advising about careers in the field through membership in IOPA. The faculty advisor is Dr. Neil Christiansen, chris1nd@cmich.edu.

PART V: CORE FACULTY INFORMATION

Note: SL = Sloan Hall HP = Health Professions RW=Rowe Hall

<u>NAME</u>	<u>OFFICE</u>	<u>PHONE</u>	<u>E-MAIL</u>	<u>RESEARCH INTERESTS</u>
Bloesch, Emily	SL 215	989-774-3001	bloeslek@cmich.edu	Cognitive aging, visual attention and perception, action-perception links Director – Experimental Undergraduate Director
Christiansen, Neil	SL 223	989-774-6495	chris1nd@cmich.edu	Personality in the workplace, personnel selection, and structural equation modeling in I/O psychology
Davoli, Chris	SL 210	989-774-3001	davollcc@cmich.edu	Perception, attention, visual cognition, embodied cognition, action, tool-use
Drevon, Daniel	SL 104	989-774-6477	drevoldd@cmich.edu	Academic and behavior interventions for school-age children, single-case design, psychoeducational assessment, and natural mentoring relationships Director – School
Dunbar, Gary	HP 2182	989-774-3282	dunbalg@cmich.edu	Behavioral neuroscience and stem cell and pharmacological treatment of brain damage and neurodegeneration diseases Neuroscience Advisor
Han, Kyunghhee	SL 206	989-774-3001	hanlk@cmich.edu	Scientific study of culture, quantitative methods, psychological test/scale development, and evaluation
Hixson, Mike	SL 224	989-774-3001	hixsolmd@cmich.edu	Behavior analysis, direct instruction, precision teaching, behavior development, curriculum-based measurement

<u>NAME</u>	<u>OFFICE</u>	<u>PHONE</u>	<u>E-MAIL</u>	<u>RESEARCH INTERESTS</u>
Kanouse, Sandra	SL 222	989-774-3001	morgalsk@cmich.edu	Academic and behavioral assessment/intervention and pediatric consultation APSSC Advisor
Marchalant, Yannick	HP 2181	989-774-6492	march1y@cmich.edu	Normal and pathological aging, rodents models of Alzheimer's disease Neuroscience Advisor
Meadows, Elizabeth	SL 209	989-774-6499	meado1ea@cmich.edu	Anxiety disorders, especially post-traumatic stress disorder and panic disorder
O'Brien, Kimberly	SL 226	989-774-3001	obrie1ke@cmich.edu	Job stress, organizational citizenship behavior, counterproductive work behavior, mentoring, and emotional abuse
Otani, Hajime	SL 101B	989-774-6481	otani1h@cmich.edu	Human memory and cognition
Park, Kevin	HP 2180	989-774-3819	park1kh@cmich.edu	Investigation of pathological mechanisms in neurodegenerative diseases and preclinical therapeutic development utilizing animal models of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, Huntington's disease, and Alzheimer's disease Neuroscience Advisor
Peart, Allison	SL 214	989-774-2598	brown40a@cmich.edu	School-based behavioral interventions to support students and examine effectiveness of interventions SASP Advisor
Prewett, Matt	SL 203	989-774-3001	prewe1ms@cmich.edu	Team performance management: staffing, training, group motivation, and performance appraisal Director – Industrial/Organizational IOPA Advisor

<u>NAME</u>	<u>OFFICE</u>	<u>PHONE</u>	<u>E-MAIL</u>	<u>RESEARCH INTERESTS</u>
Reilly, Mark	Rowe 228	989-774-3988	reill1mp@cmich.edu	Experimental analysis of behavior, operant/respondent conditioning, quantitative models, animal learning, behavioral pharmacology, and substance abuse
Rhymer, Katrina	SL 138	989-774-6468	rhyme1kn@cmich.edu	Academic interventions used with children, especially the explicit timing intervention and interspersal intervention for mathematics and the relationship between empirically-validated academic interventions and general anxiety, test anxiety, and math anxiety
Sandstrom, Michael	HP 2179	989-774-2881	sands1m@cmich.edu	Brain plasticity, compensatory neuronal activity, and behavior associated with deteriorative diseases such as using animal models Neuroscience Advisor
Scherr, Kyle	SL 101B	989-774-3001	scher1kc@cmich.edu	Psychology and law topic of police interrogations. This research has looked at various psychological causes for why suspects offer confessions during police interrogations and psychological factors that influence suspects' comprehension of and willingness to waive their Miranda rights Applied Forensic Studies Certificate Advisor Department Chair

<u>NAME</u>	<u>OFFICE</u>	<u>PHONE</u>	<u>E-MAIL</u>	<u>RESEARCH INTERESTS</u>
Skeel, Reid	SL 136	989-774-6485	skeel1rl@cmich.edu	Ecological validity of neuropsychological assessment, cognition and medication adherence, influence of affective variables on cognitive performance, decision-making and risk-taking, malingering Psi Chi Advisor
Weed, Nathan	SL 212	989-774-3001	weed1nc@cmich.edu	Psychological assessment, validation of clinical inferences from psychological tests, MMPI instruments