

PSYCHOLOGY HONOURS (B.A.) (60 CREDITS)

Offered by: Psychology (Faculty of Arts)

Degree: Bachelor of Arts

Program credit weight: 60

Program Description

Psychology is the scientific study of the mind and behavior. The B.A. Honours in Psychology (60 credits) is a specialized program that provides students with an in-depth overview of psychological science, covering the core areas as well as more advanced courses. Students are required to take a 2-term research course and seminar; students also have the option to complete additional research course(s) and/or gain additional training in arts related disciplines (see Program Requirements for details). This program emphasizes practice in the research techniques and statistics used in graduate school and professionally later on. It also provides students with the space to take the additional courses they may need for applying to graduate school in psychology and for completing the undergraduate credits in psychology as specified by the Ordre des Psychologues du Québec (which are required by some graduate psychology programs). Students must apply to the Honours program; admission is selective.

Typically, students apply to the Honours program at the end of U1; students may apply at the end of U2, although there are often fewer seats for students applying in U2 (also the Honours program requirements must be completed within the remaining terms). To be eligible to apply to the BA Honours in Psychology, students must have completed a minimum of 27 graded credits in the academic year prior to applying (fall and winter terms only). All applicants must have taken PSYC 204 Introduction to Psychological Statistics., PSYC 211 Introductory Behavioural Neuroscience., PSYC 212 Perception., PSYC 213 Cognition., PSYC 215 Social Psychology. and PSYC 305 Statistics for Experimental Design.. Exceptional performance in these courses is a primary criterion for acceptance into the Honours program. In addition to performance in these psychology courses, a minimum cumulative grade point average (CGPA) of 3.50 is required to apply. However, since enrolment is limited, the typical CGPA cut-off is ~3.75, although this varies from year to year depending on the applicant pool. Once in the Honours program, students must obtain a GPA of 3.00 in the U2 year to continue in the Honours program for U3. Students are also encouraged to continue to complete a minimum of 27 graded credits in their U2 and U3 academic years. This is also the minimum number of credits required to be eligible for fellowships and awards.

The application is available on the Psychology Department website at: <https://www.mcgill.ca/psychology/undergraduate/current-students/research-opportunities/research-courses>. The deadline is specified on the website. Candidates will be informed of the Department's decision via email before classes begin in September.

Awarding of the Honours degree will depend on both CGPA and a minimum grade of B in PSYC 380D1 Honours Research Project Seminar./PSYC 380D2 Honours Research Project Seminar. and PSYC 306 Research Methods in Psychology.. "First Class Honours" is awarded to students who obtain a minimum CGPA of 3.50 and a minimum grade of A- in PSYC 380D1 Honours Research Project

Seminar./PSYC 380D2 Honours Research Project Seminar. and PSYC 306 Research Methods in Psychology.. "Honours" is awarded to students with a minimum CGPA of 3.00 and a minimum grade of B in PSYC 380D1 Honours Research Project Seminar./PSYC 380D2 Honours Research Project Seminar. and PSYC 306 Research Methods in Psychology..

Degree Requirements – B.A. students

To be eligible for a B.A. degree, a student must fulfil all Faculty and program requirements as indicated in Degree Requirements for the Faculty of Arts.

We recommend that students consult an Arts OASIS advisor for degree planning.

Note: For information about Fall 2025 and Winter 2026 course offerings, please check back on May 8, 2025. Until then, the "Terms offered" field will appear blank for most courses while the class schedule is being finalized.

Program Prerequisites (0-6 credits)

Students planning to enter the BA Honours Psychology program, should have completed an introductory course in general psychology, biology and statistics at the CEGEP level. Otherwise, they can complete them in their first year of study at McGill University (see below).

Students who have completed Human Biology or General Biology 1 or 2 in CEGEP would have the recommended biology background. Students who have not completed one of those courses are advised to complete BIOL 115 Essential Biology. or BIOL 111 Principles: Organismal Biology. or BIOL 112 Cell and Molecular Biology. during their first year.

McGill Freshman students are recommended to complete the following courses in their U0 year:

Course	Title	Credits
PSYC 100	Introduction to Psychology.	3

3 credits from:

Course	Title	Credits
BIOL 111	Principles: Organismal Biology.	3
BIOL 112	Cell and Molecular Biology.	3
BIOL 115	Essential Biology.	3

Required Courses (33 credits)

U1

Course	Title	Credits
PSYC 204	Introduction to Psychological Statistics. ¹	3
PSYC 211	Introductory Behavioural Neuroscience.	3
PSYC 212	Perception.	3

PSYC 213	Cognition.	3	PSYC 488D2	Independent Honours Research 3.	3
PSYC 215	Social Psychology.	3	PSYC 492	Special Topics Seminar 1.	3

¹ Advising note for PSYC 204 Introduction to Psychological Statistics.: CEGEP students are exempt from PSYC 204 Introduction to Psychological Statistics. if they have completed, with a minimum grade of 75%, the following two courses: 1) Quantitative Methods and either 2a) Advanced Quantitative Methods or 2b) Statistics for Social Science. CEGEP students are also exempt from PSYC 204 Introduction to Psychological Statistics. if they have completed Probability & Statistics or Statistics with a minimum grade of 75%.

Bachelor of Arts students will replace this requirement with 3 credits at the 300 level in one of the following disciplines: Psychology (PSYC), Anthropology (ANTH), Linguistics (LING), or Sociology (SOCL).

Bachelor of Arts and Science students will replace this requirement with 3 credits in Psychology at the 300 level or above.

U1 or U2

Expand allContract all

Course	Title	Credits
PSYC 305	Statistics for Experimental Design.	3

¹ Note: Students who wish to apply to the Honours program in Psychology must complete the required courses above, including PSYC 305 Statistics for Experimental Design. in their U1 year to be eligible for admission. Also, all students must complete a minimum of 27 graded credits in the academic year prior to applying (fall and winter terms only). For additional information about applying to Honours, please refer to the Honours program description.

U2

Expand allContract all

Course	Title	Credits
PSYC 306	Research Methods in Psychology.	3
PSYC 380D1	Honours Research Project Seminar.	4.5
PSYC 380D2	Honours Research Project Seminar.	4.5

U2 or U3

Expand allContract all

Course	Title	Credits
PSYC 439	Correlational Techniques.	3

Complementary Courses (27 credits)

3-9 credits must be completed with the following course(s):

Any 500-level Psychology course

Expand allContract all

Course	Title	Credits
PSYC 486	Independent Honours Research 1.	3
PSYC 487	Independent Honours Research 2.	3
PSYC 488D1	Independent Honours Research 3.	3

If the 9 credits are not fulfilled with the above courses, the remaining 3-6 credits are to be completed with any 400-level Psychology course.

Note: Students entering Honours in U3 who previously took PSYC 385 Independent Research Project 1., PSYC 484D1 Independent Research Project 2./PSYC 484D2 Independent Research Project 2. and/or PSYC 485 Independent Research Project 3. may use these courses to fulfill the Honours Complementary course

18 credits of Honours courses are to be completed with the following courses:

Expand allContract all

Course	Title	Credits
PSYC 403	Modern Psychology in Historical Perspective.	3
PSYC 483	Seminar in Experimental Psychopathology.	3
PSYC 495	Psychology Research Project 2.	6
PSYC 496	Senior Honours Research 1.	6
PSYC 497	Senior Honours Research 2.	6
PSYC 498D1	Senior Honours Research.	4.5
PSYC 498D2	Senior Honours Research.	4.5

List A - (Behavioural Neuroscience, Cognition and Quantitative Methods)

6 credits in Psychology from the following:

Expand allContract all

Course	Title	Credits
NSCI 201	Introduction to Neuroscience 2.	3
PSYC 301	Animal Learning and Theory.	3
PSYC 302	Pain.	3
PSYC 306	Research Methods in Psychology.	3
PSYC 310	Intelligence.	3
PSYC 311	Human Cognition and the Brain.	3
PSYC 315	Computational Psychology.	3
PSYC 317	Genes and Behaviour.	3
PSYC 318	Behavioural Neuroscience 2.	3
PSYC 319	Computational Models - Cognition.	3
PSYC 329	Introduction to Auditory Cognition.	3
PSYC 340	Psychology of Language.	3
PSYC 341	The Psychology of Bilingualism.	3
PSYC 342	Hormones and Behaviour.	3
PSYC 352	Research Methods and Laboratory in Cognitive Psychology.	3
PSYC 353	Research Methods and Laboratory in Human Perception.	3
PSYC 403	Modern Psychology in Historical Perspective.	3
PSYC 406	Psychological Tests.	3
PSYC 410	Special Topics in Neuropsychology.	3

PSYC 413	Cognitive Development.	3	PSYC 351	Research Methods and Laboratory in Social Psychology.	3
PSYC 415	Electroencephalography (EEG) Laboratory in Psychology.	3	PSYC 408	Principles and Applications of Psychotherapy.	3
PSYC 427	Sensorimotor Neuroscience.	3	PSYC 409	Positive Psychology.	3
PSYC 433	Cognitive Science.	3	PSYC 411	Discrimination & Wellbeing in Marginalized Communities.	3
PSYC 439	Correlational Techniques.	3	PSYC 412	Child Development: Psychopathology .	3
PSYC 443	Affective Neuroscience.	0-3	PSYC 414	Social Development.	3
PSYC 444	Sleep Mechanisms and Behaviour.	3	PSYC 436	Human Sexuality and Its Problems.	3
PSYC 470	Memory and Brain.	3	PSYC 471	Human Motivation.	3
PSYC 502	Psychoneuroendocrinology.	3	PSYC 473	Social Cognition and the Self.	3
PSYC 506	Cognitive Neuroscience of Attention.	3	PSYC 474	Interpersonal Relationships.	3
PSYC 513	Human Decision-Making.	3	PSYC 475	Neuroscience of Social Psychology.	3
PSYC 514	Neurobiology of Memory.	3	PSYC 483	Seminar in Experimental Psychopathology.	3
PSYC 522	Neurochemistry and Behaviour.	3	PSYC 491D1	Advanced Study: Behavioural Disorders.	3
PSYC 526	Advances in Visual Perception.	3	PSYC 491D2	Advanced Study: Behavioural Disorders.	3
PSYC 529	Music Cognition.	3	PSYC 507	Emotions, Stress, and Illness.	3
PSYC 531	Structural Equation Models.	3	PSYC 509	Diverse Clinical Populations.	3
PSYC 537	Advanced Seminar in Psychology of Language.	3	PSYC 512	Advanced Personality Seminar.	3
PSYC 538	Categorization, Communication and Consciousness.	3	PSYC 528	Vulnerability to Depression and Anxiety.	3
PSYC 541	Multilevel Modelling.	3	PSYC 530	Applied Topics in Deafness.	3
PSYC 545	Topics in Language Acquisition.	3	PSYC 535	Advanced Topics in Social Psychology.	3
PSYC 560	Machine Learning Tools in Psychology . ¹	3	PSYC 539	Advanced Topics in Social Psychology 2.	3
PSYC 562	Measurement of Psychological Processes.	3			

¹

1. Students who have taken COMP 202 Foundations of Programming. or COMP 204 Computer Programming for Life Sciences. and who have taken freshman linear algebra and calculus might instead consider taking COMP 551 Applied Machine Learning..
2. Students in both psychology and computer science are strongly encouraged to take COMP 551 Applied Machine Learning. over PSYC 560 Machine Learning Tools in Psychology ..

6 credits at the 300 level or above selected from the following disciplines:

- Anthropology (ANTH),
- Linguistics (LING),
- Psychology (PSYC), or
- Sociology (SOCL).

List B - (Social, Health and Developmental Psychology)

• 6 credits in Psychology from the following:

Expand all Contract all

Course	Title	Credits
PSYC 304	Child Development.	3
PSYC 309	Positive Psychology: Science of Well-Being.	3
PSYC 328	Health Psychology.	3
PSYC 331	Inter-Group Relations.	3
PSYC 332	Introduction to Personality.	3
PSYC 333	Personality and Social Psychology.	3
PSYC 337	Introduction to Psychopathology.	3
PSYC 339	Introduction to Applied Psychology.	3