

# School of Social Sciences



Psychology majors study perception, language, memory, and reasoning.

*As a cognitive science psychology major at UCI, I have finally been able to study topics relevant to my natural interests. Some of my favorite classes have included clinical psychology, tests and measures, and attention and learning deficits in children. My coursework and the personable and inspiring faculty have helped me to fine-tune my interests and realize my ultimate passion.*

*When I transferred to UCI, I was aware of my interests in general, but I had not yet pinpointed my long-term career goals, and that felt a little scary. By taking the courses that most interested me, I was able to discover my passion without forcing myself to choose – it happened naturally!*

*-Vanessa Lewis*  
Psychology Major

## Psychology

### What is psychology?

Have you ever wondered how we perceive, learn, and solve problems? What causes one individual to adapt to stress in our society and another to develop deviant, antisocial behavior? How does neurobiology relate to cognition? How do people change from infancy to adulthood because of biological, family, cultural, and social influences?

Psychologists address these sorts of questions with a scientific rigor that requires a thorough knowledge of sensory, perceptual, cognitive, developmental, and social processes, as well as familiarity with the basic functioning of the nervous system.

### What can I do with a psychology degree?

The psychology major gives students a strong foundation in general psychology and provides a suitable background for postgraduate training and careers in all branches of psychology.

### Topics of research in psychology

Psychology majors in the Department of Cognitive Sciences may become involved in research through research methods by enrolling in courses associated with the Child Development Center, HABLA (a broad-spectrum Latino-focused educational outreach program), or by working with faculty members in research areas such as visual and auditory perception, memory and attention, thinking and decision-making, language acquisition and neuroscience.

### Opportunities in psychology at UC Irvine

Explore the opportunities available to students interested in studying psychology at UC Irvine.

#### Honors Program

The honors program is designed for students in the psychology (Cognitive Sciences) major who are interested in pursuing graduate study in psychology and/or seeking challenging research experiences as a capstone to their undergraduate experience. Students in the program have carried out research in a wide variety of areas over the years, some of which include: eye witness testimony, memory in Alzheimer's disease, color perception, concept formation in children, short-term memory, reading and spelling ability, language acquisition and processing, bilingualism, face recognition, and sex differences in mental skills. Learn more online at <http://www.socsci.uci.edu/ugs/15.php>.

#### Psychology Minor

Are you interested in psychology but don't feel that a major is right for you? Learn more about our minor in psychology and requirements online at [www.socsci.uci.edu/ugs/15.php](http://www.socsci.uci.edu/ugs/15.php).

#### Psychology Student Association

The Psychology Student Association is designed to offer valuable knowledge for students concerning internships, graduate school criteria, research opportunities, and career options. The club sponsors guest speakers and social events to help students become better acquainted with one another and with faculty members who share similar interests. Learn more online at [www.cogsci.uci.edu/undergraduates.php#psychologyclub](http://www.cogsci.uci.edu/undergraduates.php#psychologyclub).

## Suggested four year curriculum

### Freshman<sup>1</sup> (12 to 16 units per quarter)

Lower division writing (two courses)  
Psychology 9A,B,C  
Social Sciences intro courses (two courses)  
ICS 21, Informatics 41, or Social Science 3A  
General Education VI<sup>2</sup>

### Sophomore (16 units per quarter)

General Education II or IV (three courses)  
Psychology 10A-B-C or another series for School math requirement  
Psychology upper division core (three courses)  
General Education VII  
General Education VIII  
General Education IX

### Junior (16 units per quarter)

Upper division writing (one course)  
Psychology upper division core (one course)  
Psychology module or upper division (three courses)  
Psychology research and lab  
Psychology upper division courses

### Senior (16 units per quarter)

Psychology upper division courses (three courses)  
Psychology 199 or 190 (two courses)  
Electives

<sup>1</sup>Students should move from a 12 to 16 unit work load sometime in first year when comfortable with the change

<sup>2</sup>Language may be satisfied in high school prior to matriculation

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## Department of Cognitive Sciences

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University of California  
Irvine, CA 92697-5100  
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## Suggested two year curriculum

This plan assumes that a student has completed Psychology 9A-B-C (or equivalent) and most General Education requirements.

### Junior (16 units per quarter)

Junior (16 units per quarter)  
Social Sciences Intro courses (two courses)  
ICS 21, Informatics 41, or Social Science 3A  
Lower or upper-division Psychology course (one course)  
Psychology 10A-B-C or another series for School math requirement  
Psychology Upper Division Core (four courses)  
Electives

### Summer Session

Students can also take up to four courses during Summer Session

### Senior (16 units per quarter)

Upper-division writing (one course)  
Upper-division Psychology for module (three courses)  
Upper-division Psychology (three courses)  
Psychology research and lab  
Electives

## Undergraduate Counseling Office

The Social Sciences Undergraduate Counseling Office provides numerous services and special programs for undergraduate students including course planning, change of major request, financial aid appeals, course substitutions, and information concerning honors, graduate and professional school, and career and internships.

Visit the Counseling Office online at [www.socsci.uci.edu/ugs](http://www.socsci.uci.edu/ugs) or call (949) 824-6803 today to set up an appointment.

## Academic Resource Center

A great starting point for information about academic-related endeavors is the School of Social Sciences Academic Resource Center (SSARC) where students may obtain information about internships, graduate school, and careers in a number of Social Sciences related fields.

Visit them online at [www.socsci.uci.edu/ssarc](http://www.socsci.uci.edu/ssarc) or call (949) 824-8322 to set up an appointment.

Learn more about the cognitive sciences psychology major online at [www.cogsci.uci.edu](http://www.cogsci.uci.edu).



*Pictured at right:*  
Vanessa Lewis, psychology major