

SPRING 2026

SWIFT THINKING

UNDERGRADUATE PSYCHOLOGY NEWSLETTER



PLANNING FOR FALL 2026

A table showing our course offerings for [FALL 2026](#) is available online. The table includes information on meeting days and times. In addition, it indicates which major and minor requirements each course can fulfill, whether a course is available for pre-registration, and whether you need permission to enroll.

PRE-REGISTERING FOR FALL COURSES

(Please check this table and the [Registrar's website](#) for updates.)

The Psychology Department will offer pre-registration through CAESAR for most of our Fall Quarter courses the week prior to regular registration. All students listed as psychology, cognitive science, or neuroscience majors or minors in the Registrar's system should be able to pre-register through CAESAR for these courses. The only courses not available for pre-registration for Fall Quarter are the PSYCH 101, PSYCH 110, PSYCH 317, and PSYCH 397/398/399 research courses.

Pre-registration times are announced by the Registrar's Office. Students can pre-register for a maximum of two courses.

IN THIS ISSUE

- PLANNING FOR FALL 2026
- PRE-REGISTRATION
- COURSE NUMBER UPDATES
- REGISTERING FOR PSYCH 301
- STATISTICS TUTORIAL RESOURCE
- RESEARCH COURSES
- SPECIAL COURSES FOR FALL 2026
- UPA NEWS
- APPLYING FOR HONORS
- PETITION TO GRADUATE
- PSYCHOLOGY ADVISING
- PEOPLE TO KNOW
- DEPARTMENT NEWS

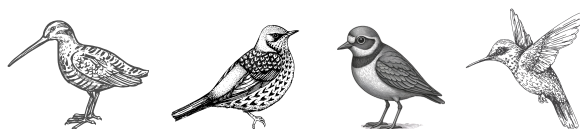
COURSE NUMBER UPDATES

Upcoming Course Number Changes (Effective Fall 2026)

Please note that several upper-level research seminar course numbers will be updated beginning in Fall 2026. These changes will also be reflected in course listings ahead of registration.

Course Title	Current Number	New Number Effective Fall 2026
Advanced Seminar in Social, Personality, or Clinical Psychology	390	365
Advanced Seminar in Cognition/Neuroscience	391	375
Advanced Seminar in Psychology	392	385

These updates affect course numbers only; course content and offerings remain the same. Courses will also count toward the major/minor requirements as they do now.



WAITLISTS

Psychology courses are very popular and they often close during registration. If a course you want to take has closed, use the electronic wait list function* on CAESAR. As students drop and seats become available, instructors will fill open seats with permission numbers. If you're on the waitlist, we'll contact students in order—starting from the top of the waitlist and moving down as spots open up.

Wait lists will be monitored until the last business day before classes begin. If you add yourself to a waitlist but decide you are no longer interested, **please remove yourself from the waitlist! For more help around registration, waitlists, and permission numbers, please see this [FAQ from the Registrar!](#)*

REGISTERING FOR PSYCH 301 - RESEARCH METHODS

Students who are sophomores and beyond, and who are listed in CAESAR as majoring or minoring in psychology, cognitive science, or music cognition may pre-register for PSYCH 301. Make sure you have the statistics prerequisite or an allowed [substitution](#) before you enroll. You **may not** take both PSYCH 301 and the statistics prerequisite during the same quarter. Wait lists for Psych 301 are managed by the Undergraduate Program Assistant, and questions should be directed to [Psychology Advising](#).

Students who are using an AP Stats credit substitution: Caesar does not recognize this approved substitution and it will block your registration. *On the morning of your assigned pre-registration/registration, please email psych-advising@u.northwestern.edu to enroll in Psych 301. Please include which section you'd like to register for, and if there are seats available we will issue you a permission number.*



STATISTICS TUTORIAL RESOURCE

We have a Canvas course with Statistics Tutorials for Psychology students. The site is open to any student at Northwestern who would like to be able to use the resource. It currently has video tutorials on most of the topics covered in Psych 201-Statistics, some more advanced topics, as well as some videos on using SPSS.

All of our current majors and minors should have already been added to the Canvas site. If you have not been added but would like to access the resources, contact psych-advising@u.northwestern.edu. Provide your NetID and request to be added to the Statistics Tutorials Canvas site.

RESEARCH COURSES REQUIRING DEPARTMENT AND INSTRUCTOR PERMISSION

PSYCH 397-1, 397-2, and 399

A great way to learn more about psychological research is to become actively involved in research activities through PSYCH 399-Independent Study or the two-quarter PSYCH 397-Advanced Supervised Research series. This is especially valuable for students considering graduate study in psychology and it can be an educational and enjoyable experience for others as well.

PSYCH 397 and 399

You can count at most 1 quarter of 397-1 or 399 toward the major. You cannot count both courses toward the major requirements. PSYCH 301-Research Methods in Psychology is a prerequisite for PSYCH 397. The second quarter of the Advanced Supervised Research sequence, PSYCH 397-2, fulfills the upper-level research requirement for the psychology major. For more information on 397 and 399, including the differences between them, how they count toward requirements, and tips on finding a research adviser, see our webpage on [“Research for Course Credit.”](#)

To enroll in PSYCH 397 or PSYCH 399, download the application, fill it out, and have it signed by the professor with whom you will be working. Then, email the form to the Undergraduate Program Assistant at psych-advising@u.northwestern.edu and a student-specific permission number will be generated. Please note that you must turn in your application and register for the course through CAESAR before classes start in the winter!

We cannot guarantee that an application submitted on the final day of the add period can be reviewed in time to generate a permission number before the add deadline. Students will need to obtain permission for the late addition of a course from the Dean's Office in this situation

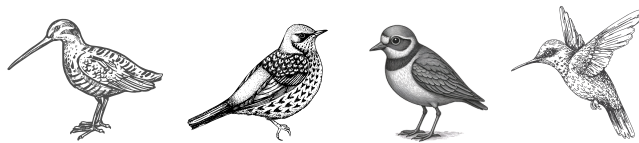


SPECIAL COURSES FOR FALL QUARTER 2026

Psych 350: Special Topics in Psychology: The Psychology of Entrepreneurial Leaders

- Professor Jennifer Tackett
- MW 11-12:20pm

This course will integrate current research on leadership and personality science within the context of entrepreneurialism. We will review current models of personality and leadership and extend this work to entrepreneurial leadership to better understand the characteristics and mechanisms underlying the ability of successful entrepreneurs to disrupt, innovate, and transform. In this course, we will define entrepreneurial leadership and examine aspects of personality that promote effective entrepreneurial leadership as well as those aspects that derail it. The full context of leadership personality will incorporate research on personality traits, motivations, identity, culture, the personality of teams, and the personality of companies. Assignments will include a series of self-assessments that encourage students to apply content from the course to their own leadership style, personality-based analyses of successful founders, and a group analysis of a start-up company's personality.



UNDERGRADUATE PSYCHOLOGY ASSOCIATION (UPA) NEWS

The Undergraduate Psychology Association (UPA) is a group of students who share a passion for exploring Psychology. UPA welcomes students of all majors to participate in academic, career-oriented, and social events during the school year. Our primary goals are to help undergraduate students learn more about psychology in a non-classroom setting, foster student-faculty communications, and facilitate the awareness of professional opportunities related to psychology. If you have any questions or are interested in joining UPA, you can reach us at upa@u.northwestern.edu

APPLYING FOR HONORS

Do you enjoy conducting psychological research? When you read your textbooks or attend psychology classes, do you think of new research questions that you'd like to address? The Psychology Honors Program provides an opportunity for senior psychology majors to explore a research topic in detail under the guidance of a faculty member. In addition, participants discuss current psychological issues and research questions with other outstanding students.

Students interested in participating in the Psychology Honors Program apply in **Spring of their Junior Year**. It's never too early to start thinking about whether this is something you'd like to pursue. In particular, now is a good time to become involved in research with a faculty member to ensure you have a potential honors advisor lined up by the time the application rolls around next Spring!

The Psychology Honors Program is an exciting, intellectually challenging, and worthwhile experience. However, while participating in the honors program is usually a wonderful opportunity, it is not for everyone. You really have to enjoy psychological research and be willing to work hard on your project throughout the academic year. Before you apply to the program, think about whether you will have the time and the motivation to complete a project of this magnitude. Please feel free to talk with the honors coordinator Dan Molden(molden@northwestern.edu) if you have questions.

More information regarding the honors program can be found [**Here**](#).

PETITION TO GRADUATE

All Northwestern undergraduates must complete and submit Graduation Petitions one year prior to their intended graduation date. The latest to submit the petition is two quarters before you anticipate graduating (e.g., before the end of Fall quarter if you expect to graduate in Spring quarter, and during Spring quarter if you plan to graduate in Fall quarter). **You must schedule an advising meeting with a department advisor before your Petition to Graduate can be signed/approved!** You can set up an appointment with one of the department advisers by emailing: psych-advising@u.northwestern.edu.

Completing your Graduation Petition on time ensures you are on appropriate graduation lists and that you, your adviser, and the Registrar's Office agree on what requirements you have left to complete. It also provides an opportunity to talk about your experiences in the department thus far and your plans for the coming year and beyond.

You can read more about the [petition process](#), including submission deadlines and access petition forms, on the Registrar's website. A good place to start is the [Registrar's Graduation Page](#).

PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT ADVISING

ADVISORS

- Prof. Sara Broaders
- Prof. Ben Gorvine
- Prof. Ginger Pennington
- Prof. Edith Chen
- Prof. H. David Smith
- Prof. Michael Bailey
- Prof. Wendi Gardner
- Prof. Rick Zinbarg

APPOINTMENTS

To make an appointment with any undergraduate advisor, send an email message to psych-advising@u.northwestern.edu; include the the following information:

Name:

Email:

ID #:

Class Year:

Majors/Minors:

Reason for meeting: (Example: Major or minor declaration, Petition to graduate, course questions, Study abroad etc.)

The Undergraduate Program Assistant, Chris Kent, is the person to contact for routine matters such as officially declaring a major or minor, scheduling an advising appointment, or submitting an application for Psych 399-Independent Study or Psych 397-Advanced Supervised Research. They can also answer some questions about our undergraduate program. You can reach them via email at psych-advising@u.northwestern.edu.

PEOPLE TO KNOW

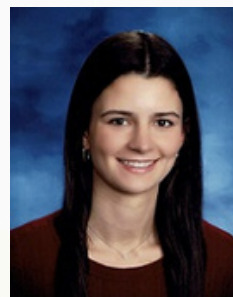


Chris Kent (They/Them)
Undergraduate Program Assistant

- Advising appointments
- Permission numbers
- Major/Minor Declarations
- Assistance with questions concerning courses and other aspects of the undergraduate program

Office: Swift Hall 102

Email: psych-advising@u.northwestern.edu



Charlotte Cagliostro (She/Her)
Participant Pool Coordinator

- Coordinates student research assignments for Psych 110
- Coordinates the paid participant registry for psychology studies at Northwestern
- Manages the Participant pool and paid registry website

Office: Swift Hall 102

Email: charlotte.cagliostro@northwestern.edu

DEPARTMENT NEWS

Featured News

Vijay Mittal has been awarded the 2026 SSCP Lawrence H. Cohen Outstanding Mentor Award. Outstanding mentors are those who have provided exceptional guidance through leadership, role modeling, advising, supervision, instruction, advocacy, and other activities aimed at providing opportunities for scientific growth, professional development, and networking.

Renee Engeln was awarded the Excellence in Mentoring Undergraduate Research Award from Weinberg College. For decades, Renee has set the standard for mentoring excellence and afforded incredible research opportunities to undergraduates in our department.

Publications

Daniel Morris, Gabriela Torres-Platas, Karen Konkoly, Jack Hirschle, Marcia Grabowecky, Robin Nusslock, and Ken Paller published a paper in collaboration with four Tibetan monastic scholars who visited Northwestern in 2022 titled "Inducing lucid dreaming based on a contemplative practice of compassion" in Brain Sciences.

Stephanie Fryberg's Culture Collaboratory education team published a paper in Behavioral Sciences titled "Change in the air: How shifting federal guidance related to DEI influences teachers' use of culturally responsive practices." Led by postdoctoral researcher Kate Morman, the study examines how teachers' use of CRPs varied according to their individual beliefs and contextual support for equity. Results suggest that federal DEI bans may render local equity support less influential in teachers' decisions regarding equity-supportive practices.

Alice Eagly and her collaborators published a comprehensive review of the harmful effects of misogynistic media depictions of women in Psychological Bulletin: "Misogynous messages in the media increase hostility to women: Evidence from a meta-analysis of 257 experimental and nonexperimental studies."

Events

The Department of Psychology offers several venues for presentation of recent research findings and theoretical developments by current faculty and graduate students in the department as well as eminent scientists from other institutions. Undergraduate students are always welcome to attend colloquium talks and department events!

[Schedules for a number of colloquia, brownbag, and program-affiliated talks are available here.](#)

Media

Neuroscience of Consciousness

Recent PhD Karen Konkoly's study published in Neuroscience of Consciousness, demonstrating enhanced problem-solving following dreaming, was covered extensively in the press, including [NPR's All Things Considered](#), [Washington Post](#), [TIME](#), [London Times](#), [Der Spiegel](#), [Nautilus](#), BBC TV, local Fox32 News, Boston Globe, and The Economist.