



SWIFT THINKING

UNDERGRADUATE PSYCHOLOGY

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2025



PLANNING FOR FALL 2025

A table showing our course offerings for [FALL 2025](#) 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.

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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, and the 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.

WAIT LISTS

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, we will reach out to those first on the waitlist to fill open seats with permission numbers.

**Wait lists will be monitored until the last business day before classes begin.*

REGISTERING FOR PSYCH 301 - RESEARCH METHODS

We are changing the number of Research Methods in Psychology from Psych 205 to Psych 301, which will be effective starting Fall 2025! Please refer to Page 4 for more information! 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. *Please email psych-advising@u.northwestern.edu to obtain a permission number to register for Psych 301.*

STATISTICS TUTORIAL RESOURCE AVAILABLE

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 205-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 chris.kent@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 Fall!

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

Psych 310: Special Topics in Social/Personality/Clinical - Trauma and Recovery: Diagnostics, Treatment, and Research

- Dr. Yair Bar-Haim (visiting scholar)

This course is being offered by an eminent visiting scholar, Dr. Yair Bar-Haim. This course offers a comprehensive introduction to the study of psychological trauma, from its historical roots to cutting-edge treatment and research. Students will explore the definitions, neurobiological and cognitive underpinnings, diagnostic frameworks, and treatments for trauma-related disorders. The course will cover the foundations of trauma, trauma reactions and diagnosis, trauma treatment and prevention, and future directions in research and treatment innovation.

- Yair Bar-Haim is Professor of Psychology and Neuroscience at Tel Aviv University, Israel. Prof. Bar-Haim's research focuses on stress-related disorders and on translation of basic science into effective evidence-supported therapies and prevention programs.

Psych 350: Special Topics in Psychology: Adult Development & Aging

- Professor Dan Mroczek

The number of older adults in the world is growing rapidly due to lengthening life expectancy and more effective treatments for diseases that in the past cut lives short at age 50 or younger. Scientists who study human development (e.g., developmental biologists, developmental psychologists, life-course sociologists) have primarily studied children. However, recent decades have witnessed much greater understanding of the profound changes that occur in adulthood and late life. This class will examine a number of key issues in the area of adult development and aging. While we will draw mainly on studies from the social and behavioral sciences, we will take an interdisciplinary approach and consider biological and biomedical studies as well.

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

- Professor Jennifer Tackett

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, and personality-based analyses of successful founders.

SPECIAL COURSES FOR FALL QUARTER 2025

Psych 391: Advanced Seminar in Cognition or Neuroscience: Left Brain, Right Brain

- Professor Mark Beeman

This course will examine the how the two hemispheres of the human brain differ, in cognitive processing, anatomy, and computation. We will explore this specific topic in depth, as a model for cognitive neuroscience methods and theoretical approaches. We will link to other topics, potentially including complex language processing, visual perception and attention, emotion, mental illness, and others. The course will be taught in a mix of lecture, student presentations, experiment design and potentially data collection, depending on the enrollment. Students will be graded on class discussion participation, presentations, very brief reaction papers, and a brief experiment proposal paper at end of term.

RESEARCH METHODS IN PSYCHOLOGY – COURSE NUMBER CHANGING

Effective September 1, 2025, the course number for Research Methods in Psychology will be changing from PSYCH 205 to its new number of PSYCH 301. Changing the number will more accurately reflect the role of the course in our curriculum. You may enroll in Research Methods if you are a Sophomore, Junior, or Senior. You should be taking Research Methods after you have had some more topic-based classes like Personality, Cognitive, Developmental, Social, or Psychopathology, and have a better sense of the issues psychologists investigate.

The Research Methods course fulfills the Advanced Expression requirement for WCAS. The revised course number also makes its place in the larger WCAS curriculum more transparent since the Advanced Expression courses in other disciplines are at the 300-level and are intended to be taken after broader exposure to a given field.

The prerequisites for Research Methods are still PSYCH 110-Introduction to Psychology and PSYCH 201-Statistical Methods in Psychology (**or an approved substitute**). With its revised course number, PSYCH 301-Research Methods in Psychology will also continue to be a pre-requisite for all upper-level (Row 2) research courses.

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 in Spring!

Applications for Honors will be due in Spring 2026.

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



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

PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT ADVISING

Advisors

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

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:

ID #:

Class Year:

Majors/Minors:

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

Email:

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 (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

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. *Please include:

Full name,

Student ID #,

Year,

Psych Major/Minor/other,

Reason (to match with advisor).*

Email

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](#).

Graduation Petition Deadlines

Graduation Quarter	Deadlines
Fall quarter 2024	June 1, 2024
Winter quarter 2025	October 8, 2024
Spring quarter 2025	December 1, 2024
Summer quarter 2025	March 1, 2025
Fall quarter 2025	June 1, 2025
Winter quarter 2026	October 8, 2025
Spring quarter 2026	December 1, 2025
Summer quarter 2026	March 1, 2026