

## BSc PSYCHOLOGY

HONORS OR SPECIALIZATION PROGRAM

FACULTY OF SCIENCE

UPDATED FEBRUARY 2012

This Academic Planning Guide highlights major points only regarding admission and transfer. Students are advised to read the university and RDC calendars, and the Alberta Transfer Guide for other necessary information. Some courses listed may have prerequisites; refer to [Course Descriptions](#). Access this guide online: [www.rdc.ab.ca/academic\\_advising](http://www.rdc.ab.ca/academic_advising).

### THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN BSC HONORS, SPECIALIZATION, AND GENERAL PROGRAMS AT UOFA

The 4-year **Honors programs** are the most desired route for students continuing to Master of Science (MSc) or Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) and a research or academic career. Honors students focus on their major field of study, and are expected to maintain a higher standard of academic achievement than those in a Specialization or General program.

The 4-year **Specialization programs** do not concentrate on one subject to the same extent as the Honors programs. Specialization students take most of their courses in the major field of study, and are expected to maintain a higher standard of academic achievement than those in a General program. The Specialization degree can provide the background to help you proceed to a higher degree but its primary function is to provide a comprehensive education at the undergraduate level.

Transfer admission to Honors and Specialization programs requires a minimum course load and GPA in each year of post-secondary study preceding admission. Students wishing to move into these programs must meet the requirements regardless of their original/current program of study.

The 4-year **General program** provides a diverse education in more than one branch of study. Each student must complete a Science Major and also a second Science Major or complete a Minor. The Minor may be in Science or in Agricultural, Life & Environmental Science, Arts or Business. The General program allows for subsequent transfer to Specialization and Honors programs or preparation for admission to professional programs.

### BACHELOR OF ARTS PSYCHOLOGY OR BACHELOR OF SCIENCE PSYCHOLOGY?

Students wishing to emphasize the physical, biological, and mathematical sciences should enroll in the Bachelor of Science Psychology program. Students wishing to emphasize the humanities and social sciences should enroll in the Bachelor of Arts Psychology program. Either program is appropriate for students considering postgraduate training in psychology or other fields that require these research skills.

A BSc honors degree is a prerequisite to many psychology graduate studies programs. The honors program is designed to provide students with the experience that will help them determine whether they would like to continue on to graduate work. In the BSc Psychology Honors program you will learn specific skills and acquire knowledge that will help ease the transition from undergraduate to graduate study. In part, this is accomplished by involving honors students in departmental activities.

What can you do with an undergraduate degree in BSc or BA Psychology? A degree in psychology is a springboard for many career paths (<http://www.psych.ualberta.ca/undergraduate/index.php>).

## SUGGESTED COURSE SEQUENCE YEAR 1

FALL	WINTER
BIOL 218 (3)	BIOL 217 (3)
ENGL 219 (3)	ENGL 220 (3)
PSYC 260 (3)	PSYC 261 (3)
SCIENCE OPTION (3) <sup>1</sup>	SCIENCE OPTION (3) <sup>1</sup>
One of: MATH 202 (or 203), 221 (3) <sup>3</sup>	One of: MATH 202 (or 203), 204, 221; CMPT 201 (3) <sup>2,3</sup>

### NOTES:

1. **Specialization students** choose from: CHEM 211, 212; PHYS 205, 226, 241, 247 (MATH 202 is co-requisite for PHYS 241; MATH 204 is co-requisite for PHYS 247).  
**Honors students** choose Science Options from: ASTR 205, BIOL (not 201 or 209), CHEM, CMPT 201, GEOG 230, 231, MATH, PHYS, ZOOL
2. **Specialization students:** choose from MATH & CMPT  
**Honors students:** take MATH courses only
3. Students taking calculus: if you have a grade of 70% or higher in Math 31 you are advised to take MATH 203 instead of MATH 202.

## SPECIALIZATION PROGRAM

### SUGGESTED COURSE SEQUENCE YEAR 2

- PSYC 312 (6)<sup>1</sup>
- PSYC 369
- PSYC 375
- \*6 in: PSYC 341, 353, 358, 383 \_\_\_\_\_
- \*12 ARTS &/or SCIENCE OPTIONS<sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

### NOTES:

1. A combination of STAT 251 and a \*3 (3 credit) Option is also acceptable; however, it is strongly recommended to take the full-year PSYC 312. Do *not* take PSYC 312 and STAT 251 as both cannot be used towards the degree.
2. **Arts Options:** transferable courses in ANTH, ART, DRAM, ECON, ENGL, FILM, FREN, GEOG (not 230 or 231), HIST, MUSE, MUSI, PHIL, POLI, SOCI (not 310 or 312).  
**Science Options:** ASTR 205, BIOC, BIOL (not 201 or 209), CHEM, CMPT 201, GENE, GEOG 230, 231; MATH, MICR, PHYS, ZOOL.
3. A maximum of \*42 at a junior-level (100-level at UofA) is allowed in a Faculty of Science degree.

## HONORS PROGRAM

### SUGGESTED COURSE SEQUENCE YEAR 2

- PSYC 312 (6)<sup>1</sup>
- PSYC 369
- PSYC 375
- \*6 in: PSYC 341, 353, 358, 383 \_\_\_\_\_
- \*6 in: ANTH, ECON, POLI &/or SOCI<sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_
- \*6 SCIENCE OPTIONS<sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

### NOTES:

1. A combination of STAT 251 and a \*3 (3 credit) Option is also acceptable; however, it is strongly recommended to take the full-year PSYC 312. Do *not* take PSYC 312 and STAT 251 as both cannot be used towards the degree.
2. **Approved Options for Honors Students:** In year 2, choose from: ANTH, ECON, POLI and/or SOCI (not SOCI 310 or 312). Take note that in addition to courses specifically listed in years 1 and 2, the Honors program must include, among the student's optional courses, a minimum of \*12 in one or more disciplines related to Psychology, i.e. ANTH,

BIOL, CHEM, CMPT, ECON, GENE, LING, MATH, NEURO, PHIL, PHYS, PHYSL, PMCOL, POLI, SOCI, ZOOL. These courses may not overlap those used to fulfill the Mathematics, Natural Science, or Social Science requirements (UofA Calendar 193.18.1[1]). Courses in LING, NEURO, PHYSL, PMCOL are available at U of A.

3. **Science Options:** ASTR 205, BIOC, BIOL (not 201 or 209), CHEM, CMPT 201, GENE, GEOG 230, 231; MATH, MICR, PHYS, ZOOL.

#### ALL BSC PSYCHOLOGY STUDENTS ARE STRONGLY ADVISED TO:

1. Consult the [Red Deer College Calendar](#) for possible course prerequisites,
2. Check [Alberta Transfer Guide](#) concerning course credit transfer to UofA, and
3. Consult the [University of Alberta Calendar](#) for admission and program information.

## TRANSFER CHECKLIST

1. **Junior level courses:** Not more than \*42 (42 credits) of all courses taken can be at the junior level (100-level at UofA). Any junior course in excess of \*42 will not be counted towards the Science degree.
2. **Students who intend to transfer to this Honors program in Fall 12:** Admission to the Honors program is permitted only at the end of the second year (after completion of a minimum of \*48). A minimum 3.0 GPA on \*24 in *each preceding Fall/Winter* and a minimum 3.3 GPA on attempted or completed Psychology and required Statistics courses. Honors students must complete PSYC 260, 261, 312, 369, 375; two of PSYC 341, 353, 358, 383. Acceptance is dependent upon obtaining approval from a potential research supervisor by August 7th. Therefore, students planning to apply for admission should contact the Department of Psychology Honors advisor at UofA in a timely manner. Possession of the minimum GPA does not guarantee admission.
3. **Students transferring into a Specialization program** require a minimum 2.3 GPA on \*24 in *each preceding Fall/Winter*. Transfer into year two or year three is available. Possession of the minimum GPA does not guarantee admission.
4. **Spring term courses:** a spring term course may be taken in year of transfer if it is not required for admission to the program. The grade will not be calculated in the AGPA nor will it count towards Fall/Winter course load. Ensure the transcript submitted shows registration in the spring course.
5. **Conditional Admission:** If you have higher than average standing in your post-secondary courses, you may be eligible for conditional admission. Transcript deadline for conditional admission: March 15<sup>th</sup>. Check UofA website.
6. **A minimum grade of C-** must be achieved in order for a course to be transferable. However, while courses with grades of D or F will not transfer, they remain on your transcript and will be used in calculation of your GPA. Please consult with Faculty at UofA if necessary.
7. **Course Attempts:** Students attending UofA are allowed to attempt a course no more than two times and cannot retake a course in which a passing grade was received. However, UofA honours the decisions of other institutions with respect to their students; if a student attempts a course twice at RDC (withdrawal, failing grade, or non-transferable grade), UofA will accept the third attempt (if it is a C- or better) when determining transfer credit.  
  
When calculating the AGPA, UofA will use all grades obtained in the most recent terms containing at least \*24, including both a failing/non-transferable grade and a transferable grade in the same course. The first grade of C- or better received in a course is the only grade accepted for that course. Therefore, repeating a course for a higher grade is not advisable. If a student truly believes that he/she needs to repeat a course (in which a transferable grade was already earned) to master the material sufficiently to successfully continue in the program, it is recommended that the student audit the course.
8. **Academic Standing:** If you earn or have earned a GPA below 2.0 in any academic year of post-secondary education you are strongly advised to consult the UofA Calendar and contact the Faculty of Science **now** concerning your future admission to programs in the faculty. See [UofA Calendar](#) 15.15.7(3) and 15.15.7(4) and contact information in *How to Find more Information*.
9. **Application deadline:** May 1<sup>st</sup>. Honors applicants see Note 2.  
**Transcript deadline for transfer students:** June 15th
10. **Regarding course transfer to the University of Alberta & Augustana Faculty:** When checking course transfer to UofA, note that courses with *AU* as the first two letters of the course abbreviation in the Alberta Transfer Guide will transfer only to the UofA Augustana Faculty in Camrose. In order for a course to also transfer to other UofA faculties, there must be another entry indicating transfer as a course not beginning with *AU*. See example below.

CMPT 214 = UofA CMPUT 114 (3) OR AUCSC 1xx (3)

CMPT 261 = UofA AUCSC 1xx (3)

CMPT 214 is transferable to all UofA faculties, including Augustana Faculty. CMPT 261 is accepted by Augustana Faculty only and will not transfer to other faculties at the UofA.

## HOW TO FIND MORE INFORMATION

### [Science Department](#)

Warren Elgersma, Chairperson  
Office: 1607-E Phone: 403-343-4052  
[warren.elgersma@rdc.ab.ca](mailto:warren.elgersma@rdc.ab.ca)  
[http://www.rdc.ab.ca/about\\_rdc/academic\\_departments/sciences](http://www.rdc.ab.ca/about_rdc/academic_departments/sciences)

### [Academic Advising](#)

Academic Advising Centre: Room 1102  
[advisors@rdc.ab.ca](mailto:advisors@rdc.ab.ca) 403-342-3400  
[http://www.rdc.ab.ca/academic\\_advising](http://www.rdc.ab.ca/academic_advising)

### [RDC Website](#)

<http://www.rdc.ab.ca>

### [RDC Timetable](#)

<http://www.rdc.ab.ca/timetable>

### [Alberta Transfer Guide](#)

<http://www.acat.gov.ab.ca>

### [Faculty of Science](#)

<http://www.science.ualberta.ca> 1-800-358-8314

### [Department of Psychology](#)

<http://www.psych.ualberta.ca/>

### [Office of the Registrar](#)

<http://www.registrar.ualberta.ca>

### **PLEASE NOTE:**

Be aware that you are responsible for ensuring that your registration is complete and appropriate and that your course choices comply with the program to which you have been admitted at Red Deer College and/or to the university to which you wish to transfer.

You are cautioned that any changes to your courses, your major or your transfer destination may adversely affect your transferable credit or admission requirements for future programs. Consult with an academic advisor if you have any questions.

The function of academic advisors is to provide students with information and resources that enable them to make informed decisions relevant to their education. These resources include the Red Deer College Calendar, the Academic Planning Guide for your chosen program and destination university, the Alberta Transfer Guide and the calendar and contact information for your destination university. Academic advisors will assist you in interpreting information from these resources or refer you to your destination university if appropriate. Students in university transfer programs are strongly advised to refer to the calendar of the university to which they wish to transfer and should contact appropriate university departments as required.