

Psychology Pathway

This pathway in Psychology is aligned with the [VCCS Psychology Common Curriculum](#). It provides a recommended semester-by-semester sequence for completing this curriculum in preparation for transferring to a four-year institution to major in Psychology. Psychology falls under the Associate of Science in Social Science, and students completing this curriculum will be awarded a Social Science A.S.

Before you begin...

You'll see in the sequencing below that there are spots where you'll need to make choices. These choices should be based on the recommendations that your intended transfer institution has published. You can search the [Transfer VA Resource Center](#) for your school's guide. If they have not posted one there, look on both the BRCC transfer advising pages and your school's website to see if additional information is posted there. Make sure you know the answers to the following:

- What **math** do you need? MTH 155 and MTH 245 are both Statistics courses, but MTH 245 is more intense and has a prerequisite of either MTH 154 or MTH 161. If your transfer school wants MTH 245, you need to make sure you are ready for it, either by taking the prerequisite course, or working with an advisor to see if you qualify to place directly into MTH 245. Here are [instructions for making an advising appointment](#). You can also reach out by emailing advising@brcc.edu.
- Does your transfer school have a **language** requirement? Some colleges want you to complete through the second year of a world language, some want one year, some don't require it at all. Sometimes it's better to hold off on your language until after you transfer. What does your guide say?
- Which specific **psychology major elective** courses do they want you to choose? There are at least two, maybe more. BRCC currently offers PSY 210, PSY 211, PSY 215, and PSY 230. If your school requires a PSY course we don't offer, you can work with Advising to arrange it as a distance learning course.
- Does your school want **additional math or science** beyond the first course in each?
- Finally, look closely at your school's transfer information for **additional requirements or recommendations**. If everything is accounted for, you can start choosing free electives to fill up the rest of the degree.

In the table on the next page, "UCGS" stands for Uniform Certificate of General Studies. The UCGS forms the General Education core of all the transfer degrees. Here is the [list of UCGS courses in the current catalog](#).

If you would like some help figuring it all out, make an appointment with an Academic Advisor!

What do our local partners want?

We're checking in with our local partners and making notes. This section will be updated as more information becomes available!

James Madison University (JMU)

- JMU has posted a Transfer VA guide for [JMU Psychology](#).
- You need to complete MTH 245 (Statistics), which has a prerequisite of MTH 154 or MTH 161 (or placement).
- Complete PSY 210, PSY 211, and PSY 230 at BRCC.
- You'll see a list of PSY courses with instructions to "complete 2 courses." From that list, we currently offer PSY 215. Talk to an advisor about the other PSY options; we don't currently offer them at BRCC but can bring them in through shared distance learning (SSDL – see below).
- JMU offers both Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) and Bachelor of Science (B.S.) programs in Psychology. If you are planning on completing a B.S. at JMU, there is no world language requirement. If you are planning on completing a B.A., there is, and you should work with Advising to decide if it makes sense to complete your language here or wait until after you transfer.
- There are no additional science or math requirements beyond what is already accounted for – you'll have room for some free electives.

Bridgewater College (BC)

- BC has posted a Transfer VA guide for [BC Psychology](#).
- Their guide is similar to JMU – you'll need MTH 245, PSY 210, and PSY 211 as described above. PSY 230 is part of their "select two" however, so you can complete that requirement with PSY 215 and PSY 230 at BRCC.
- They leave room for 15-18 credits of electives. 3 credits of that is your prerequisite MTH 154 or MTH 161 if needed. For the rest, they recommend BIO 141/BIO 142 and SOC 200. You'll have some free choices.

SSDL (Shared Services Distance Learning) and course offering information

BRCC supports most general education and introductory major classes year-round - if you need a History course or PSY 200, you'll find sections running in the fall, spring, and summer. But as you get into courses that are more specialized for your major, you might see them scheduled only in the fall, or only in the spring. We may also use Shared Services Distance Learning (SSDL) to bring in online courses from other colleges. If you need a course that is tagged with "SSDL" you'll need to work with Academic Advising during registration to request that course.

- All the courses written into the sequences below are available at BRCC. However, PSY 210 is taught only in the fall, and PSY 211 is taught only in the spring.
- PSY 216, 219, and 225 are all new courses and are not yet offered at BRCC for Fall 2024. We are working on developing at least one of these courses. If your four-year is wanting one of these courses, let an advisor know and we can try to find it via SSDL, or consider it for offer in the spring.

Sequenced curriculum

First semester

Course number	Course title	Credits	If there is a choice, what does your school require?
ENG 111	College Composition I	3	
SDV	(any Student Development)	1	
MTH 245* (or MTH 155)	Statistics I (or Statistical Reasoning)	3	
PSY 200	Principles of Psychology	3	
UCGS History		3	
Additional requirements or free A.S. Social Science electives		3	
Total credits		16	

*So far, we're mostly seeing MTH 245 and not MTH 155 as the requirement. If you need MTH 245 and don't place directly into it, take MTH 154 or MTH 161 as the prerequisite in the first semester, and complete MTH 245 in the second semester.

Second semester

Course number	Course title	Credits	If there is a choice, what does your school require?
ENG 112	College Composition II	3	
CST 100 or CST 110	Principles of Public Speaking or Introduction to Human Communication	3	
UCGS Humanities/Arts		3	
(MTH 245)	(If needed and not taken in first semester because of prerequisite)	(3)	
PSY 230 (or other PSY 2XX as recommended)	Developmental Psychology	3	
Additional requirements or free A.S. Social Science electives		0-3	
Total credits		15	

Third semester

Course number	Course title	Credits	If there is a choice, what does your school require?
PSY 210 (or MTH 261*)	Statistics for Behavioral Sciences (or Applied Calculus)	4 (or 3)	
BIO 101	General Biology I	4	
PSY 215 (or other PSY 2XX as recommended)	Psychopathology	3	
UCGS Lit/Humanities/Arts		3	
Additional requirements or free A.S. Social Science electives		3	
Total credits		17 (or 16)	

* Most plans are showing PSY 210, but MTH 261 is a possibility. If your intended four-year plan requires MTH 261, make sure to complete MTH 161 (and not MTH 154) as your prerequisite math; MTH 161 works for both MTH 261 and MTH 245.

Fourth semester

Course number	Course title	Credits	If there is a choice, what does your school require?
PSY 211 or other A.S. Social Science elective	Research Methodology for Behavioral Sciences	4 (or 3)	
Additional requirements or free A.S. Social Science electives		10 (or 11)	
Total credits		14	

A minimum of 61 credits is needed to complete the A.S. Social Science program. You'll need to make sure you have enough total credits in electives to reach 61 – that's why there's some credit ranges in there. You can lighten those heavy credit semesters by taking a class or two over the Summer.