

Psychology Major and Graduation Requirements Rice University, 2015-16

This document summarizes the current requirements for undergraduate students who joined Rice in Fall 2013 or later and is adopted from Rice's *General Announcements* (ga.rice.edu). For those who joined Rice before Fall 2013, consult the *General Announcements* of the year in which you matriculated at Rice.

University-wide Graduation Requirements

- Be registered at Rice full time for at least four full fall and/or spring semesters
- Complete the requirements of at least one major degree program (Psychology in this case)
- Complete at least 120 semester hours
- Complete at least 60 of those 120 semester hours here at Rice University
- Complete at least 48 hours of all *degree* work in upper-level courses (at the 300 level or higher)
- Complete more than half of the upper-level courses in *degree* work at Rice
- Complete more than half of the upper-level courses in their *major* work at Rice
- Complete at least 60 hours outside of their major for Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees (exceptions: requirement does not apply to Bachelor of Science degrees with an engineering major; Architecture majors are required to complete only 36 hours outside the major)
- Complete all Rice courses satisfying *degree* requirements with a cumulative grade point average of at least 1.67 or higher
- Complete all Rice courses that satisfy *major and/or minor* requirements with a cumulative grade point average of 2.00 or higher
- Satisfy the Writing and Communication requirement
- Complete one Lifetime Physical Activity Program (LPAP) course for one credit. Students with disabilities may make special arrangements to satisfy this requirement
- Complete courses to satisfy the distribution requirements (see below)
- Otherwise be a student in good academic and disciplinary standing and not under investigation

The University Committee on Examinations and Standing has the authority to waive rules and grant exceptions to university rules. If you need to ask for an exception, ask your college master, and inquire in the Office of Academic Advising (oaa.rice.edu) with further questions.

Distribution Requirements

To fulfill the university's distribution requirements, you need to complete at least 12 semester hours of designated distribution courses in each of Groups I, II, and III specified in the *General Announcements*. The 12 hours in each Group must include courses from at least 2 departments.

Psychology BA Major Requirements

- a) **Complete 47 semester hours in Psychology**
- b) **Complete the core courses (17 hours)**
 - PSYC 101 – Introduction to Psychology (3 hours)
 - PSYC 202 – Introduction to Social Psychology (3 hours)
 - PSYC 203 – Introduction to Cognitive Psychology (3 hours)
 - PSYC 339 – Statistical Methods (4 hours) – no substitutions or transfer credits allowed
 - PSYC 340 – Research Methods (4 hours) – no substitutions or transfer credits allowed
- c) **Complete 30 hours of selected substance courses**

Students are strongly encouraged to take all of the above core courses before taking the upper-level courses that will comprise their 30 hours of substance courses. Students should take PSYC 339 and PSYC 340 by the end of their sophomore year if possible. A full listing of advanced (300-level and higher) courses from which you may select these 30 hours is on the Registrar's site.

Additional Rules

- 1) Once you are enrolled at Rice, prior approval is required for you to transfer credits from another institution. As a rule, only psychology classes taken at four-year colleges or universities will be allowed to transfer in. Approval for transfer of courses previously taken at a junior college or community college will depend upon an evaluation of the syllabus and material covered.
- 2) You may not transfer psychology courses taken pass/fail or in which you received a grade below C-.
- 3) Grades earned for transfer credit are not entered on the Rice transcript. Transferred courses have no effect on a student's Rice GPA.
- 4) As noted above, you must take PSYC 339 and 340 at Rice.
- 5) Students may take up to 12 credit hours of PSYC 485/488 (Supervised Research/Reading) toward the major, but only 3 of the 12 hours may be from PSYC 488. Note: These courses require permission of a faculty member willing to sponsor you. Email or ask them; they are more approachable than many students think.
- 6) Students may receive Department of Psychology credit only for courses designated as PSYC or for a course specifically cross-listed in the course catalog for that purpose. You may petition the Psychology Undergraduate Committee for an exception.
- 7) You may petition the Department of Psychology Undergraduate Committee for a waiver of any of the above rules over which the department has control. The Committee on Examinations and Standing (and not the department) is the body that acts on exceptions to the university rules.

Word to the Wise

If any advisor or committee grants you special permission to substitute a course, transfer a course to Rice University, or waive a written requirement, be sure to get it in writing, even if it's only an email.