

Peer Advising FAQs

Before you start to feel lost, make sure you've read through this page:

(<http://www.wesleyan.edu/psyc/about/index.html>).

It goes over the different requirements for both declaring Psychology as your major and completing it as your degree. It also touches on other aspects of the department like forming a concentration within the major or doing a thesis.

For a more in depth and detailed description of Psychology major requirements, check out the "MAJORS MANUAL" for your correct class year on this page:

(http://www.wesleyan.edu/psyc/about/major_guides.html).

The PDFs can seem dense at first glance, but it's easy to Control-F any specific term you are wondering about or is not fully described on the Major Requirements page.

- > I'm considering being a Psych major but haven't decided for sure yet. Is there anything I should do to be on the right track?
 - o Even if you're unsure, you should start preparing early. Look over the Major Requirements page (<http://www.wesleyan.edu/psyc/about/index.html>) to get a feel for what the major consists of, and make sure to read over the Admission Requirements section that corresponds with your class year. Luckily preparing for the major doesn't have to mean taking a million Psychology courses – one of the requirements for admission to the major is to have completed all of you Stage 1 Gen Eds, so a big part of preparation is to explore courses in a variety of departments and academic areas throughout Wesleyan.
- > The major requirements are hard to follow – why are they described as "Class of 2018 and earlier" and "Class of 2019 and later"?
 - o Starting in Fall 2015, the requirements to major in Psychology were updated for the incoming freshman class and all classes that will come to Wes in the future. So, if you are class of 2019 or younger, you should ignore all of the old requirements described for "Class of 2018 and earlier" and ONLY pay attention to the new descriptions labeled "For the Class of 2019 and later." Vice versa for students in the Class of 2018 or older, who should ignore the updated requirements for new classes and stick to their original plan.
- > If I took AP or IB Psychology in high school, do I still have to take PSYC105?
 - o If you got a 4 or 5 on the AP Exam, or a 6 or 7 on the IB Exam (Psychology *or* Experimental Psychology), then NO, you do not have to complete PSYC105. You do, however, have to complete another course within the Wesleyan Psychology Dept. and get a B or higher before your AP/IB credit can count towards your major requirements. Once you've completed a course in our Psych department, you can fill out this form:

(<http://frontpage.wesleyan.edu:7788/ved/APRequestForm.html>). Of course for this to work, your AP/IB credit has to be on file with the University – if you have questions about transferring it, you can contact Gladys Rodriguez at grodriguez@wesleyan.edu, or visit her office in North College.

- > The Breadth Requirement columns seem arbitrary, what is the point of taking one course from each?
 - You may not see a pattern at first glance, but the columns are designed so that you get comprehensive exposure to the different areas that Psychology has to offer. Having to take at least one from each column ensures that you haven't studied, for example, *only* the social or cognitive parts of the science. We recommend starting with courses in the area that most interests you. You'll then have those credits under your belt and be able to get into higher level courses in that area of the department, and perhaps even meet a professor early on in your time at Wes that you can do research with in future years.

If you can't seem to find the answer to your question on any of the links listed above, contact the departmental peer advisor! Email PsycDPA@wesleyan.edu with questions or to schedule a one-on-one meeting. The DPA is a senior who has been through the process and happy to help you navigate the major, so don't hesitate to reach out.

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