

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

CREDIT UNIT STATEMENT

Bachelor of Social Sciences – Psychology (major / minor)

Most of the courses in the program are worth 6 credits. Each 6-credit course requires about 120-180 student workload hours and each 12-credit course requires about 240-360 student workload hours. Unless otherwise stated, contact hours for each 6-credit course are generally two hours of lectures and one hour of tutorials each week for 12-13 weeks (36-39 contact hours); lecture class sizes vary widely but tutorials are normally capped at 20 students per class. Our courses can be classified as:

1. Introductory course (6 credits)

This course is compulsory for all students majoring in Psychology, and generally has a large enrollment (250-350 students). Students receive a survey of all major areas of psychological research, to gain an orientation to the field. Assessment may include essays (1,250-2,500 words), tutorial performance, assignments, projects, presentations, research participation and tests (100% coursework).

2. Research methods/statistics courses (6 credits)

Students are required to complete two research methods/statistics courses, to gain mastery of the quantitative skills necessary for conducting and understanding research in the field of Psychology. Class sizes are generally in the range of 70-120 students. Assessment stresses on regular assignments to ensure that statistical procedures have been well-learned and assessment may include a research project (up to 3,000 words), tutorial performance, laboratory reports, presentation and tests (100% coursework).

3. Core disciplinary courses (6 credits)

Students are required to complete five courses that each cover a core area of Psychology (e.g., Social, Developmental, Personality, Psychopathology, Biological, Cognitive or Perception), from seven that are offered. Classes have 50-180 students. Students in each course cover a mixture of historically significant findings along with cutting-edge reports. Assessment may include essays (1,500-2,500 words), tutorial performance, assignments, projects, laboratory reports, presentations, tests and final examination (50-100% coursework, 0-50% exam).

4. Elective disciplinary courses (6 credits)

These courses are similar in form to the core disciplinary courses, but generally cover more specialized areas (e.g. Introduction to Educational Psychology, Industrial/ Organizational Psychology). Class sizes are generally 40-100. Assessment methods are as for the core disciplinary courses (40-100% coursework, 0-60% exam).

5. Advanced lab courses (6 credits)

Every student must complete one advanced lab course, in which instructors apply the students' research methods training to a substantive area of Psychological research. Students read primary source research articles, present seminars to the class, and conduct research projects or write research proposals. In addition, students are expected to actively participate in class discussions. Enrollment is capped at 25-30 students. Assessment is achieved through performance in class discussions, laboratory reports, essays (1,500-2,500 words), seminar performance, quizzes and tests (100% coursework).

6. Research internship (6 credits)

Students may enroll in an internship course to gain experience in a psychological research laboratory. Students spend 10-12 hours per week assisting various research activities, and meet regularly with the instructor to discuss different aspects of the research that they are engaged in. Assessment takes the form of one to two written reports (1,500-2,500 words) and supervisor's assessment of the quality of research assistance (100% coursework).

7. Thesis (12 credits)

This course may be taken by students who have demonstrated strong academic performance in the programme. Students take the thesis over two semesters, for a total of 12 credits. Students must formulate a research question and hypotheses for an original research project based on a critical analysis of the current psychological literature, design an empirical research study, collect and analyse data, and write a formal thesis (8000-10,000 words). Students receive individual supervision and should meet their supervisors on a regular basis (about 24 supervision hours). Students are expected to spend much of their time on individual research and writing. This course requires about 240-360 hours of learning. (100% coursework).

8. Independent study (12 credits)

The independent study may be taken by students who are not writing a thesis. Students need the permission of the Head of Department to take the course. It is restricted to students who have a clear plan for a research study. Students take this course over two semesters, for a total of 12 credits. Students must formulate a research question and hypotheses for an original research project based on a critical analysis of the current psychological literature, design an empirical research study, collect and analyse data, and write a research report (8,000-10,000 words). Students receive individual supervision and should meet their supervisors on a regular basis (about 24 supervision hours). Students are expected to spend much of their time on individual research and writing. This course requires about 240-360 hours of learning. (100% coursework).