Psychology (Forensic Psychology), BA

In this psychology program at ASU's West campus you will learn how psychology is applied to the law. This training in criminal law, criminal behavior, mental disorders and legal decision-making prepares you to be an expert witness in a court of law.

Program Description

Forensic psychology is the application of psychology to the law. The concentration in forensic psychology within the BA program in psychology combines general training in psychology with specialized coursework in criminal law, criminal behavior, the diagnosis and treatment of mental disorders and legal decision-making.

When courts are faced with cases in which a psychology-related question arises, they may turn to psychologists for help with the case. For example, psychologists might assist the court in understanding a criminal's mental state at the time of a crime or in determining whether a particular jury might have been biased against a defendant based on his or her race. This is the realm of forensic psychology.

This program teaches students about the various roles for psychologists in the legal system and helps them discover which roles they might like to pursue through careers in mental health, criminal justice or through graduate training.

The Bachelor of Arts degree differs from the BS degree in that it does not require two additional lab science courses.

This major is eligible for the Western Undergraduate Exchange program at the following location: West campus. Students from Western states who select this major and campus may be eligible for reduced nonresident tuition at a rate of 150% of Arizona resident tuition plus all applicable fees. Students should click the link for more information and eligibility requirements of the WUE program.

At a Glance
• **College/School:** New College of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences  
• **Location:** West campus or online, ASU Local@Los Angeles

• **Additional Program Fee:** No  
• **Second Language Requirement:** No  
• **First Required Math Course:** MAT 119 - Finite Mathematics  
  OR MAT 170 Precalculus  
• **Math Intensity:** Moderate

**Required Courses (Major Map)**

2021 - 2022 Major Map (On-campus)  
2021 - 2022 Major Map (Online)  
Major Map (Archives)

**Accelerated Program Options**

This program allows students to obtain both a bachelor's and master's degree in as little as five years. It is offered as an accelerated bachelor's and master's degree with:

- Global Management, MGM

Acceptance to the graduate program requires a separate application. During their junior year, eligible students are advised by their academic departments to apply.

**Admission Requirements**

**General University Admission Requirements:**  
All students are required to meet general university admission requirements.  
[Freshman](https://admission.asu.edu/freshman) | [Transfer](https://admission.asu.edu/transfer) | [International](https://admission.asu.edu/international) | [Readmission](https://admission.asu.edu/readmission)

**Change of Major Requirements**

A current ASU student has no additional requirements for changing majors.  

Students should refer to [https://changemajor.apps.asu.edu](https://changemajor.apps.asu.edu) for information about how to change a major to this program.

**Attend Online**

ASU offers this program in an online format with multiple enrollment sessions throughout the year. Applicants may view the program description and request more information [here](https://admission.asu.edu/online).
Transfer Options

ASU is committed to helping students thrive by offering tools that allow personalization of the transfer path to ASU. Students may use MyPath2ASU™ to outline a list of recommended courses to take prior to transfer.

ASU has transfer partnerships in Arizona and across the country to create a simplified transfer experience for students. These pathway programs include exclusive benefits, tools and resources, and help students save time and money in their college journey. Students may learn more about these programs by visiting the admission site: https://admission.asu.edu/transfer/pathway-programs.

Global Opportunities

Global Experience
Through study abroad, students in the psychology program will acquire enhanced knowledge and experience that will enable them to stand out in many career fields. Students are exposed to unique differences in the human condition, are able to improve language and cross-cultural skills for effective communication, and are challenged to adapt under new social and cultural circumstances. Opportunities exist worldwide, including in Singapore, Australia and Ireland. https://goglobal.asu.edu/

Career Opportunities

The Bachelor of Arts program in psychology with a concentration in forensic psychology prepares students for careers in the criminal justice and mental health fields. Many careers in psychology require graduate training, and this program is also designed to prepare students for master's degree and doctoral programs in legal, clinical and forensic psychology.

Career examples include but are not limited to those shown in the following list. Advanced degrees or certifications may be required for academic or clinical positions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Career</th>
<th>*Growth</th>
<th>*Median Salary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Behavioral Health Specialist 🌟</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
<td>$64,210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detective Sergeant</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
<td>$86,940</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lawyer</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
<td>$126,930</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Licensed Clinical Psychologist</td>
<td></td>
<td>not available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental Health Counselor 🌟</td>
<td></td>
<td>not available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Probation Officer</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
<td>$55,690</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychiatrist 🌟</td>
<td>11.9%</td>
<td>#</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Worker 🌟</td>
<td>11.7%</td>
<td>$48,430</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Substance Abuse Social Worker</td>
<td>16.8%</td>
<td>$48,720</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Data obtained from the Occupational Information Network (O*NET) under sponsorship of the U.S. Department of Labor/Employment and Training Administration (USDOL/ETA).

☀ Bright Outlook  🌿 Green Occupation

**Contact Information**

School of Social and Behavioral Sciences | FAB N100  
sbsadvising@asu.edu | 602-543-3000