

BACHELOR OF ARTS - PSYCHOLOGY
CREDENTIAL GRANTED: UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE
RED DEER POLYTECHNIC

UPDATED: JUNE 2022

You are responsible for ensuring that your registration is complete and appropriate and that your course choices comply with the program to which you have been admitted at Red Deer Polytechnic and/or to the university to which you wish to transfer (if applicable). You are cautioned that any changes to your courses, your major or your transfer destination may adversely affect your transferable credit (if applicable), admission requirements for future programs, or eligibility to graduate from Red Deer Polytechnic. Please consult with an Advisor if you have any questions.

Students in university transfer programs are strongly advised to refer to the calendar of the university to which they wish to transfer and should contact appropriate university departments as required.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS AND PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

- See the [Academic Calendar](#)
- Psychology is the scientific study of thought, emotion, and behaviour with a focus on the dynamic interplay of biology and environment. Psychology is unique in that it can be studied as an arts discipline (covering such topics as social psychology and personality) or a science discipline (covering such topics as visual perception and the neurological processes involved in memory formation).
- You will learn about the various topics within Psychology (e.g., social, cognitive, developmental, clinical, neuro/biological, health) as well as take elective courses that interest you and add breadth to your education.
- Throughout your degree you will have the opportunity to participate in experiential learning, such as community service and applied research, providing you valuable hands-on exposure to the application of psychology to solve problems and create positive social impact. Research in, and application of, psychology are valued within a wide variety of contexts such as universities, schools, hospitals, clinics, legal professions, corporations, and non-profit organizations.
- The skills you will develop as a psychology student include critical thinking, academic writing, research and analysis, the scientific method, interpersonal communication, and emotional intelligence. These will prepare you for future employment, as well as for graduate level education in psychology or a related field, or for entry into professional programs (e.g., law and medicine).

WHAT IS THIS GUIDE?

- This is an Academic Planning Guide, prepared by the Student Connect Centre to help you register for courses towards your desired program.

- If you are transferring to another institution to complete your degree, we strongly advise that you read the Academic Calendar of your destination institution for full information.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS:

General Degree Requirements

- Minimum 102 (34 courses) from Arts & Sciences.
- Maximum of 48 Junior Credits (16 courses) allowed in degree (200 level).
- Maximum of 18 credits (6 courses) outside of the School of Arts & Science.
- Minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0 with a passing grade of at least “D” in each course.
- Students must meet RDP Residency Requirement.

Psychology Major

- Minimum 45 credits (15 courses) in Major.
- Maximum 72 credits (24 courses) of PSYC are allowed in the degree.
 - Courses in addition to the required 45 credits can count towards Arts & Sciences electives.

WHAT IS A TERM? TERMS ARE THE PERIOD IN WHICH YOUR STUDIES TAKE PLACE. AT RDP, WE OFFER FOUR TERMS.

- Fall term (September through December)
- Winter Term (January through April)
- Spring term (May through June): Spring term is an optional, condensed term. Course offerings are limited.
- Summer Term (July through August): Summer term is an optional, condensed term. Course offerings are limited.

HOW MANY COURSES SHOULD I TAKE A TERM?

- The maximum number of courses you can take in the Fall or Winter terms is 5 courses and 2 courses in the Spring or Summer terms (optional).
- To complete your program in four years, you would need to take the maximum number of courses per term (5 courses in the Fall and 5 courses in the Winter), or 10 course per year. Some students will complete 10 courses in a year by taking 4 courses in the Fall, 4 courses in the Winter, and 2 courses in the Spring (or a combination thereof).
- We encourage you to find the best course load for you to be successful in your courses and your program!
- When determining your course load keep in mind your funding, if applicable. For course load requirements for funding purposes, please visit www.rdpolytech.ca/psfunding.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I TAKE LESS THAN 10 COURSES A YEAR?

- This is a personal decision. In taking less than 10 courses per year, you may need an extra term or year to complete your program. For example, some students will take 3-4 courses per term (6-8 per year) and take 5-6 years to complete their degree, which is completely acceptable for this program.

WHAT IF I COMPLETED COURSES AT ANOTHER POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTION?

Once you are admitted to RDP, you can then apply to have your post-secondary courses assessed for transfer credit through our [Recognition of Prior Learning Office](#). Once admitted to RDP you can complete an [RPL application form](#) and provide the Polytechnic Assessors with any and all transcripts, course outlines/descriptions, or other documentation necessary to support your PLAR application.

NOTE: To qualify for a Red Deer Polytechnic program credential, students must complete at least 50% of the credit requirements for the credential through enrolment in RDP courses.

REGISTRATION AND PROGRAM AUDIT

- Refer to the **Registration** tab on your Loop account to view **Registration Tips and Tricks** for information on:
 - Registering in classes
 - Waitlisting
 - Checking Prerequisites and Corequisites
 - Courses listed as **prerequisites** must be completed before you start the course in question.
 - Courses listed as **co-requisites** must be taken at the same time as the course in question.
 - Viewing Your Schedule
 - And much more!
- You can also see for yourself exactly which criteria each course will meet, by using Grad Tracker. To access this, log in to the Loop and select Online Services→Student Services→Grad Tracker.
- After you have completed your registration, if you would like an advisor to review your registration please submit a [Registration Review Form](#).

GRADUATION CHECKLIST (UNOFFICIAL)

REQUIREMENT	PREREQUISITE(S)	COMMENTS	COMPLETED
PSYCHOLOGY CORE – Must complete a minimum of 45 credits in Psychology including the following:			
PSYC 260 (3 Credits)	Principles of Psychology I	None	
PSYC 261 (3 Credits)	Principles of Psychology II	PSYC 260	
PSYC 313 (3 Credits)	Research Methods	PSYC 260 Prerequisite or Corequisite: PSYC 261	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This course is available in the Fall term only. • Credit will not be given for both PSYC 312 and PSYC 313 • PSYC 313 and PSYC 314 should be completed in second year as they are prerequisites to the 3000 level Advanced Topics Courses and for 4th year courses (4000).
PSYC 314 (3 Credits)	Data Analysis	Math 30-1 or 30-2 or equivalent and PSYC 260 Prerequisite or Corequisite: PSYC 261	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This course is available in the Winter term only. • Credit will not be given for both PSYC 312 and PSYC 314. • PSYC 313 and PSYC 314 should be completed in second year as they are prerequisites to the 3000 level Advanced Topics Courses and for 4th year courses (4000).
PSYC 341 (3 Credits)	Social Psychology	PSYC 260 & 261 or SOC 260 & SOC 261.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SOC 341- Social Psychology is an equivalent

		Note: PSYC majors must take both PSYC 260 and 261.	course and will also fulfil this requirement.	
PSYC 375 (3 Credits)	Brain and Behavior	PSYC 260		
PSYC 353- Child Development or PSYC 357- Adulthood and Aging (3 Credits)		PSYC 260 and PSYC 261		
PSYC 358- Cognitive Psychology or PSYC 369 - Sensation and Perception (3 Credits)		PSYC 260 & PSYC 261 Note: For U of A bound students only, the additional prerequisite or co-requisite of either STAT 251 or PSYC 314 is required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These courses are available in the Winter term only. 	
PSYC 383- Personality or PSYC 389- Abnormal Psychology (3 Credits)		PSYC 260 and PSYC 261	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PSYC 389 is not to be taken by students who have credit in PSYC 489. 	
3000 Level PSYC (3 Credits)	Advanced Topics Course	PSYC 313, PSYC 314, and PSYC 389 or PSYC 357 or PSYC 391 (This will depend on the specific sub-topic-please see RDP Timetable for clarification)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These courses shift in topic each year, but the course number remains the same. Students can take a special topic for credit more than once as long as it is a different sub-topic. 	
3000 Level PSYC (3 Credits)	Advanced Topics Course	PSYC 313, PSYC 314, and PSYC 389 or PSYC 357 or PSYC 391 (This will depend on the specific sub-topic-please see RDP Timetable for clarification)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These courses shift in topic each year, but the course number remains the same. Students can take a special topic for credit more than once as long as it is a different sub-topic. 	
3000 Level PSYC (3 Credits)	Advanced Topics Course	PSYC 313, PSYC 314, and PSYC 389 or PSYC 357 or PSYC 391 (This will depend on the specific sub-topic-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These courses shift in topic each year, but the course number remains the same. Students can take a special topic for credit more than once as long as it is a different sub-topic. 	

		please see RDP Timetable for clarification)		
PSYC 4705 (3 Credits)	Research in Psychology	PSYC 313 and PSYC 314	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This course is available in the Winter term only. 	
Senior Psychology (3 Credits)			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See note #2 below. 	
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BREADTH ELECTIVES				
ENGL 219 (3 Credits)	Essay Writing & Critical Read	ELA 30-1 or equivalent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Required 	
Indigenous Studies Elective (3 Credits)				
Wellness Elective (3 Credits)				
Social Science Elective (3 Credits)			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This cannot be a PSYC course 	
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Humanities Elective (3 Credits)				
Humanities Elective (3 Credits)				
Humanities Elective (3 Credits)				
Science Elective (3 Credits)			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be mindful of your Junior/Senior credit split when completing electives (especially your Science Electives). Remember, a maximum of 48 Junior Credits (16 courses) allowed in degree (200 level). 	
Science Elective (3 Credits)				
Science Elective (3 Credits)				

(3 Credits)				
Art & Science Elective (3 Credits)				
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Art & Science Elective (3 Credits)				
Open Elective (3 Credits)				
Open Elective (3 Credits)				
Open Elective (3 Credits)				
Open Elective (3 Credits)				
Open Elective (3 Credits)				

YEAR 1 RECOMMENDED SCHEDULE

FIRST TERM	SECOND TERM
PSYC 260 (3 credits)	PSYC 261 (3 Credits)
ENGL 219 (3 credits)	Breadth Elective (3 credits)
Breadth Elective (3 credits)	Breadth Elective (3 credits)
Breadth Elective (3 credits)	Breadth Elective (3 credits)
Breadth Elective (3 credits)	Breadth Elective (3 credits)

IMPORTANT NOTES

1. It is your responsibility to ensure that you check and meet any course pre-requisites.
2. All 200 level courses are classified as Junior level courses and all 300/3000, and 4000 level courses are classified as Senior level courses.

COURSE CATEGORIZATION/ELECTIVE LIST

The information below outlines which course fall under each course category. In order to qualify, the course you take must be three credits and university transferable. If you are not sure if a course qualifies, please email studentconnect@rdpolytech.ca.

Humanities Elective	Social Science Electives	Science Electives	Open Electives	Arts and Science Electives
Art (ART) Creation (CREA) Drama (DRAM) Music (MUSI) Film (FILM) Classics (CLAS) English (ENGL) History (HIST) Philosophy (PHIL)	Anthropology (ANTH) Communications (COMM) Economics (ECON) Indigenous Studies (INDS) Political Science (POLI) Psychology (PSYC) Sociology (SOCI)	Astronomy (ASTR) Biology (BIOL) Biochemistry (BIOC) Chemistry (CHEM) Computer Sciences (CMPT) Mathematics (MATH) Physics (PHYS) Statistics (STAT) General Science (SCIE)	Any courses from the other categories, or any three-credit university level course.	Click here to view 2022-2023 Arts and Science courses offerings in more detail.

Indigenous Studies Elective: Choose at least 1 course from the following list.

ANTH 321	Survey Latin America	HIST 379	Indigenous Peoples and Canada
ANTH 327	Cultures in a Global Context	INDS 205	Indigenous Peoples in Canada
ANTH 356	Survey: Indigenous Canada	POLI 223	Canadian Political Issues
ENGL 385	Indigenous Literature	POLI 321	Canadian Governance
HIST 372	The Prairie West in Canada	SOCI 307	Indigenous Peoples in Canada
HIST 373	Canada to 1867	SOCI 368	Race and Ethnicity in Canada
HIST 374	Canada Since 1867		

Wellness Elective: Choose at least 1 course from the following list (Psychology majors cannot use PSYC courses to meet the Wellness Elective, courses must be from a different subject).

ANTH 204	Global Citizenship	PHIL 300	Professional Ethics
ANTH 331	Anthropology of Gender	PHIL 348	Gender & Sexuality
ANTH 363	Anthropology of Religion	PHIL 355	Philosophy of the Environment
ENGL 387	Topics: Ecocentrism	PHIL 357	Philosophy of Religion
FINS 150	Personal Finance	PHIL 386	Bioethics
HIST 325	Science & Religion	POLI 283	Global Issues
HIST 330	Health & Healing	POLI 324	Politics of Healthcare
HIST 357	Gender & Sexuality	PSYC 341	Social Psychology
INTD 325	Mindfulness, Meditation & the Body	PSYC 357	Adult Development & Aging
INTD 370	Intersections of Global Health	PSYC 367	Human Sexuality
INTD 375	Social Gerontology	PSYC 380	Positive Psychology
KNSS 210	Personal Fitness & Wellness	PSYC 389	Abnormal Psychology
KNSS 214	Introduction to Personal Physical Fitness	PSYC 391	Health Psychology
KNSS 244	Introduction to Nutrition	SOCI 301	Sociology of Gender
KPAC 255	Yoga For Beginners	SOCI 371	Sociology of Families
KPAC 296	Flexibility & Relaxation	SOCI 373	Sociology of Aging
PHIL 201	Values & Society	SOCI 374	Sociology of Health
PHIL 202	Knowledge & Reality	SOCI 376	Sociology of Religion

WORK INTEGRATED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Experiential learning opportunities are woven throughout the program in the form of community service-learning, applied study opportunities, and independent research studies.

- **Community service-learning:** These opportunities can be found in a variety of senior level psychology courses (e.g. PSYC 341, PSYC 353, PSYC 357, PSYC 380 and PSYC 355) and you are encouraged to connect with your instructor to learn more. You will complete a minimum of 18 hours in community partner agencies (typically non-profit and human service-oriented) volunteering on a project that benefits the organization and student learning.
- **Applied Study:** Social Sciences (SOSC 4901) is an elective course that will provide you further experience in making connections between academic learning and employment or volunteer work (which may be completed during the spring/summer prior to the course credit). With substantial involvement (120 hours minimum), students will work with a faculty member to engage in critical reflection and connection to academic learning in relation to work or volunteer responsibilities in a setting related to their study. In addition to SOSC 4901, you also have the option to take an Applied Studies course in Science (SCIE 4901) or in Humanities (HUMN 4901) for additional work-integrated learning experiences across different disciplines.

For more info about Work Integrated Learning Opportunities Contact:

- Dr. Daniel Haas (Chair of Humanities and Social Sciences) Daniel.Haas@rdpolytech.ca
- Dr. Anomi Bearden (Head of Psychology) Anomi.Bearden@rdpolytech.ca

CONTACT INFORMATION AND HELPFUL RESOURCES

Red Deer Polytechnic Student Connect Centre	studentconnect@rdpolytech.ca www.rdpolytech.ca/SCC 403.342.3254
Red Deer Polytechnic website	rdpolytech.ca
Transfer Alberta Guide	transferalberta.alberta.ca