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# WWU PSYCH & HD

*SPRING 2024 MAJOR APPLICATION INFO SESSION*





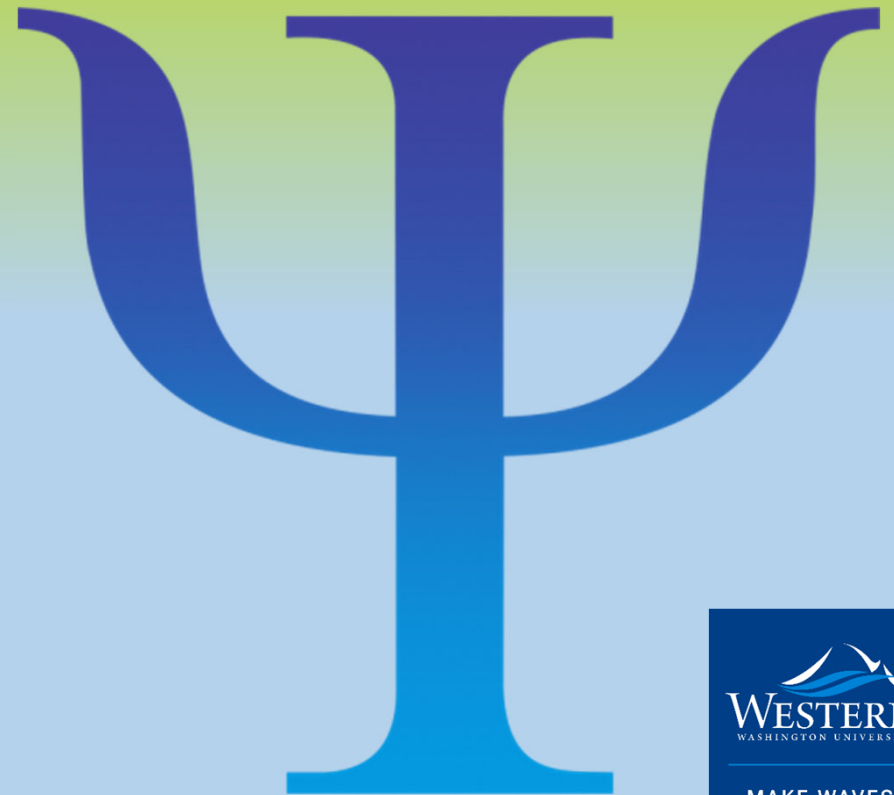
**SO, YOU'RE  
INTERESTED IN  
PSYCH...**



# WWU PSYCHOLOGY 2023-24

## 75 CREDIT MAJOR

- ✓ 5 @ 100-level
  - Intro Psych equivalent
  - AP = 3+
- ✓ 30 @ 200-level



# CONTENT AREAS

- Cognitive
- Behavioral Neuroscience
- Lifespan Developmental
- Social
- Behavioral and Mental Health
- Research Methods



# MAJOR PREREQUISITES

## 2023-24 Major Prerequisites

1. Completion (including current class enrollment) of at least 90 credits;
2. Completion of at least 20 PSY credits (with a C- or better) by the end of the current quarter, including completion of PSY 101 and PSY 203\*, and completion/current enrollment in two courses from PSY 210, 220, 230, 240, and 250, or transfer credit for those courses as indicated on the Transfer Equivalency Report. At least 5 200-level PSY credits taken at Western;
3. Achieved a Western GPA (based on at least 12 credits) of 2.70 or higher. In the absence of a Western GPA, a GPA of 2.70 or higher from an equivalent four-year institution (based on at least 12 credits) or a cumulative GPA from a completed Associates degree may substitute for the Western GPA. A psych GPA (based on an average of two or more 200-level major-required psych courses\*) may substitute for a cumulative GPA.

\* Exception for current enrollment in PSY 203 sections available to most transfer students. See Major Application Exception Form.



# MAJOR APPLICATION

## Spring '24 Major Application

Available Friday 4/5 @ 8:30AM through Friday 4/19 @ 11:59PM

### Apply in **THREE** easy steps:

1. Submit a [Major Application Webform](#)
2. Complete the [Major + Graduation Requirement Review](#) that matches your intended major
3. Submit responses to the [Major Application Essay Questions](#)

*Need access to the review and essay questions? [Self-Enroll Here](#)*

*Currently enrolled in PSY 203 as a transfer student?*

Optional Step #4: Submit a [Major Application Exception](#)



MAKE WAVES.

# 2023-24 APPLICATION

## STEP #1: WEBFORM

### 2023-24 MAJOR APPLICATION WEBFORM

Required fields are marked with an asterisk (\*).



#### Psych/HD Major Application

This application is open to:

- students who meet all prerequisites (including earning a successful grade of C- or better in PSY 203 or equivalent) AND
- transfer students who meet all prerequisites with the utilization of a [Major Application Exception](#) form for current PSY 203 enrollment.



# 2023-24 APPLICATION

## STEP #2: REQ REVIEW

The [Major + Graduation Requirement Review](#)\* (formerly Application Quiz) offers students applying to WWU's psychology or human development major an opportunity to review their Department and University knowledge.

The review is comprised of 10 questions pertaining to general information that can be gained by reviewing the current [University Catalog](#) and major checklists. Though there is only **ONE** correct answer to each question, the intention of this review is to eliminate surprises as students pursue their major. It is not scary, you cannot fail it; however, not paying close enough attention to the info provided **WILL** increase confusion later on. Therefore, answer to the best of your ability and then *pay close attention to the correct answers*.

Can't access the review? [Self-enroll in our Psychology Interest Canvas course](#)

\*Remember: This review must be completed before your new major application can be evaluated. The application portal will open at the beginning of fall, winter, and spring quarter. *If you already completed the review this 2023-24 academic year you do not need to retake it.*





# 2023-24 APPLICATION

## STEP #3: ESSAY QUESTIONS

The [Major Application Short Answer Essay Questions](#)\* provide students interested in applying to WWU's psychology or human development majors an opportunity to convey who they are and how their individual lived experiences, values, and goals align with their intended major.

Please respond to both prompts with no more than 250 words **each** (overall word limit of 500 words; exceeding 250 words per prompt will result in application points lost):

- 1. In the Department of Psychology, we encourage and educate majors to apply psychological science to address societal needs and problems. What societal issues motivate you to pursue a degree in psychology? How and why? Please provide at least one specific example.**
- 2. Review the [Psychology Department Values Statement](#) and reflect on your own goals and values. In your own words, describe specific ways your participation in the major would contribute to creating this learning community for all members of the psychology program. These specific examples should derive from your upbringing, lived experiences, goals, personal values, and/or interests.**

\*These prompts must be submitted before your new major application can be evaluated. The application portal will open at the beginning of fall, winter, and spring quarter.



# 2023-24

## SHORT ANSWER TIPS

### Tips to consider when writing:

-Before crafting your response, reflect on your individual lived experience, strengths, academic history, etc.

-Address the prompts directly

-Think and write deeply, with full transparency

-Provide specific examples when possible

-Make sure who you are and how your goals/values align are crystal clear in your responses; consider what makes you a good fit in the Psychology Department

Remember: Quality of writing is not being evaluated; however, please use spell check and write in complete sentences to make sure your ideas come across as clearly as possible. Plagiarism of any kind is not tolerated.



**2023-24**

# **SHORT ANSWER EXAMPLES**

Before crafting your responses, reflect on yourself  
(your individual lived experience, strengths, academic history, etc.)

*Example: Consider your upbringing, family, personal history, volunteer/internship/professional/extra curricular work, courses that engaged you, etc. and how your experiences have combined to make you who you are, specifically, and how your journey has brought you to psych. Think of this as a brainstorm; take notes or plot a web. This reflection will help full-circle writing.*

*We recommend going through this exercise even you are reapplying; answering the questions fresh will garner the best results.*



# 2023-24

# SHORT ANSWER EXAMPLES

Address the prompts directly

*Read the full prompt and make a list of each aspect we are asking you to address.*

*Example: In question one you are asked to #1. share the societal needs/problems you want to address and #2. what personal experiences motivate your interest/pursuit in psych. This will be a two-part answer and you will want to address each part with an example. To do so in 250 words, including both parts, you will need to be direct and concise.*

*To ensure your response is clear, we encourage a macro-to-micro writing approach. The two-part question lends itself to this well. Start global and finish personal.*

*FYI: If your response needs to include citations your essay response is not personal enough.*



**2023-24**

# **SHORT ANSWER EXAMPLES**

## **Specificity Example for Question #1**

“I am committed to helping others feel seen in counseling.” (vague)

vs.

“I am committed to increasing POC representation in the mental health counseling field.” (specific)

*“[You statement] + [action] + [specific group of people, condition, social circumstances]”*

Next, share why [what personal experiences motivate your interest/pursuit in psych].



# 2023-24

## SHORT ANSWER EXAMPLES

Think and write deeply, with full transparency/  
Provide at least one specific example

*Example: Perhaps you know you are drawn to Alzheimer's but you do not have a personal connection. Instead, you may need to ask yourself some questions related to your interest. Are you afraid you or one of your family members will develop Alzheimer's? Perhaps the idea of someone losing their identity ignites your empathy? Dig deep within your thoughts and emotions as they relate to your primary draw to psychology/what you hope to study further/base your future career around. Being specific about your motivations, even without a direct "My mom has \_\_\_\_\_" link, can be just as powerful if it is authentic. In fact, having a personal narrative may be even more powerful as it wholly and authentically specific to you.*

*Other examples: Criminal justice/rehabilitation (counseling), homelessness (research), merging art/photography (industrial and organizational psych)*



# 2023-24

# SHORT ANSWER EXAMPLES

## Let's Talk Vulnerability

It's important to use the word count to share a bit of who you are individually; it's what the committee is looking for—to come away from reading your responses and know about you, your experiences, personal goals and values, and what makes psychology the major to build your future with.

As well, it's essential to only share what you are comfortable sharing and to be mindful that others will be reading your responses, specifically the members of the admissions committee and any Studio support peers and pros. For this reason, we ask that you do not include any content requiring a trigger warning. If you are uncertain if certain details fall under that warning, reach out to Rochelle.



# 2023-24

## SHORT ANSWER EXAMPLES

Make sure who you are and how your **goals/values** align with this major are crystal clear in your responses; consider what makes you a good fit in the Psychology Department

*Example: Read the departmental values statement. Consider what your goals/values are and specifically identify how they align with the Department. Do not quote the statement or lift phrases directly. Be sure to rework ideas into your own language.*

*Remember: Entering a major is a partnership between student and department. It is just as important that the goals/values of the Psychology Department resonate with you personally; it goes both ways.*





# 2023-24

## DEPARTMENT VALUES STATEMENT

*We present these values in the active voice, to give clarity and transparency to what we are working towards as a Department. In the Department of Psychology, we acknowledge the historical and systemic inequities that exist within our department, the field, academia, and society at large. We strive to collaboratively construct an inviting, respectful, safe, and inclusive learning community for students, faculty, and staff. We seek to develop skills to disrupt past and current injustices through our teaching, research, service, and interpersonal interactions. We encourage faculty, staff, and students to engage in innovative, ethical, anti-racist scholarship and education towards the mission of creating a more socially just world.*



# 2023-24

## SHORT ANSWER HELP

*The admissions committee has commented that though many past applicants have utilized strong personal examples, there has been a disconnect between utilizing the example and clearly answering the prompts. Be sure that each sentence brings us back to answering the prompt clearly and directly.*

The Hacherl Research & Writing Studio is ready to support your major application essay response writing process with a variety of connection options:

**Daily Studio Hours**  
**Request an Appointment**  
**Online Chat**  
**Submit a Draft**

*Remember: One specific personal example is enough.  
Yes, you can use the same example for both prompts.  
Think of the example as the hammer being used to build the house, it is not the house itself.  
Focus on answering the prompt (building the house),  
do not get too distracted by describing the example (admiring the hammer).*

# 2023-24

# REAPPLICATION

## 1. Attend an Info Session

## 2. Review Essay Response Tips

- Winter '24 tips available [here](#). Spring '24 tips will post after 4/16 info session.

## 3. Utilize the WWU Hacherl Research & Writing Studio

- To maintain equity, I am no longer advising applicants on essay responses. That said, the Studio is ready to support your major application essay response writing process with a variety of connection options, including [daily studio hours](#), [individual appointments](#), [online chat](#), and [draft submission](#).
- I have provided the Studio with psychology major application specific instructions, so the support they offer will be tailored to our process and requirements (vs. general writing tips). I highly recommend connecting with them (possibly multiple times) while you finalize your essay responses.
- When reapplying, I recommend taking your original essay responses to the studio and asking for help:
  - 1) increasing specificity and 2) answering the questions more directly.

## 4. Complete all application steps

- Major + Grad Review only needs to be completed once per academic year.



# 2023-24 APPLICATION

## OPTIONAL STEP #4: EXCEPTION FORM

### **Who can apply to the 2023-24 psych and HD majors?**

Students who meet all pre-reqs (including earning a successful grade of C- or better in PSY 203 or equivalent) AND transfer students who meet all pre-reqs with the utilization of a Major Application Exception Form for PSY 203 current enrollment.

Students with a DTA (90+ completed credits) will be prioritized for exception.

### **Do I need a Major Application Exception form?**

Are you currently enrolled in PSY 203 and a transfer student ( $\geq 45$  transfer credits)?

If yes, then **yes**, please complete and submit a Major Application Exception form below.



# PAST APPLICATION DATA

	FALL '22	WINTER '23	SPRING '23	FALL '23	WINTER '24
<b>GPA RANGE</b>	2.74 - 4.00	2.80 - 4.00	2.82 - 4.00	2.80 - 4.00	2.74 - 4.00
<b>GPA AVG</b>	3.63	3.53	3.61	3.56	3.57
<b>AVG COMPLETED CREDITS</b>	111	115	113	107	110
<b>TOTAL NEW MAJORS</b>	89	90	91	79	67
<b>ACCEPTANCE RATE</b>	69%	63%	65%	56%	58%
<b>TRANSFER* STUDENT %</b>	≈69%	≈57%	≈54%	≈30%	≈60%
<b>305 ACCESS**</b>	93+ completed credits	101+ completed credits	90+ completed credits	95+ completed credits	91+ completed credits

*NOTE: MAJOR ACCEPTANCE/DECLARATION AUTOMATICALLY REMOVES 105-CREDIT HOLD*



# 300 SEQUENCE

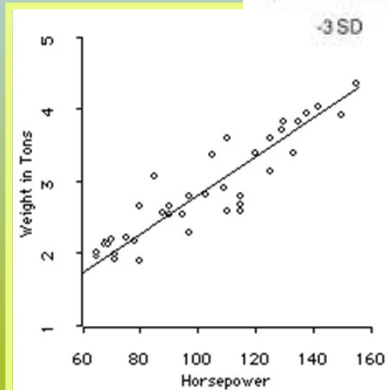
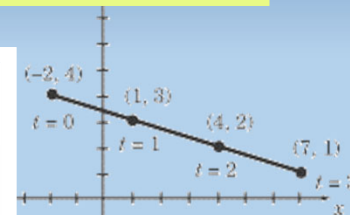
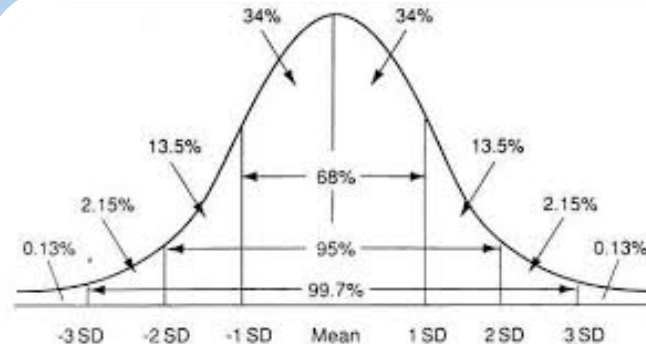
- ❖ 305 Scientific Thinking and Writing (WP3)
  - ❖ Critical evaluation
  - ❖ Peer reviewed journal articles
  - ❖ Academic writing

## Research + Statistics:

- ❖ 306 Correlational Approaches
  - ❖ Methods
  - ❖ Design
  - ❖ Instrument development
- ❖ 307 Experimental Approaches
  - ❖ General linear model tests
  - ❖ Follow-up tests
  - ❖ Computer data analysis
  - ❖ PsychFest

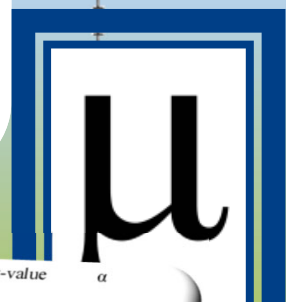
$\alpha$

$$SD = \sqrt{\frac{\sum |x - \bar{x}|^2}{n}}$$



MS scale	Women(N=1397)		Men(N=646)		t-value	$\alpha$
	M	SD	M	SD		
Vertical	5.09	1.11	4.90	1.18	-3.63***	.89
Horizontal	3.62	1.07	3.91	1.16	5.73***	.77
Total score	4.50	0.95	4.50	1.02	0.04	.87

\*\* p < .001



# WWU PSYCHOLOGY 2023-24

## 75 CREDIT MAJOR

- ✓ 5 @ 100-level
  - Intro Psych equivalent
  - AP = 3+
- ✓ 30 @ 200-level
  - Cognition
  - Behavioral Neuroscience (Psychopharmacology)
  - Lifespan Developmental (not Child Development)
  - Social
  - Behavioral and Mental Health
  - Research Methods
- ✓ 15 @ 300-level Sequence
  - **305** Scientific Thinking & Writing
  - **306** Correlational Approaches
  - **307** Experimental Approaches
- ✓ 25 @ 300- and 400-level



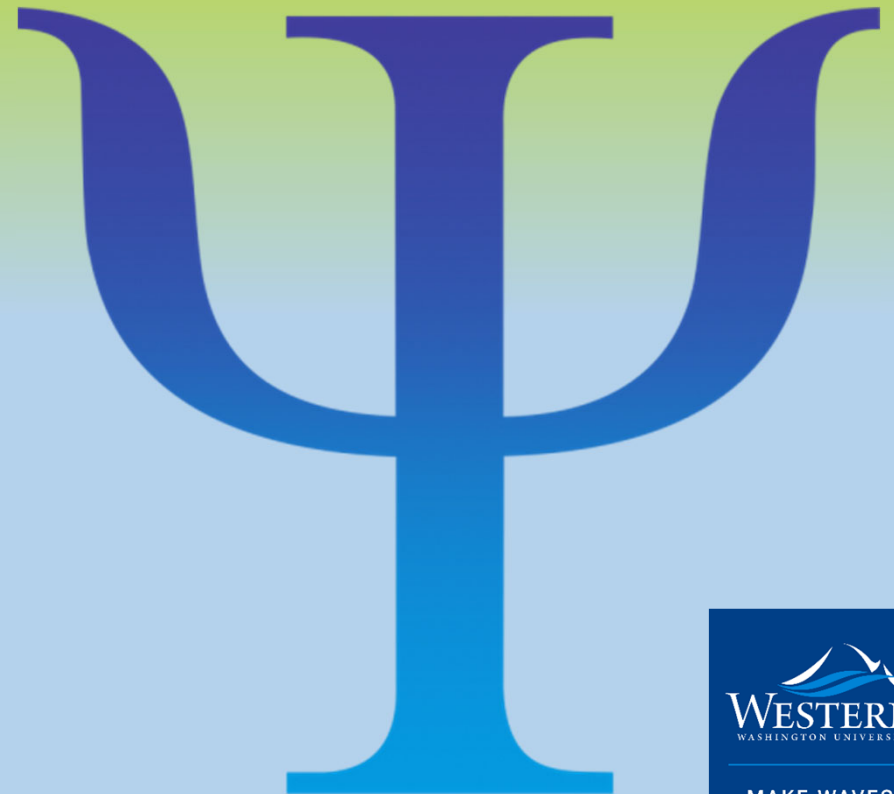
# WWU PSYCHOLOGY 2023-24

## 75 CREDIT MAJOR

- ✓ 5 @ 100-level
- ✓ 30 @ 200-level
- ✓ 15 @ 300-level Sequence
- ✓ 25 @ 300- and 400-level  
Upper-Division

### WWU REQUIRES:

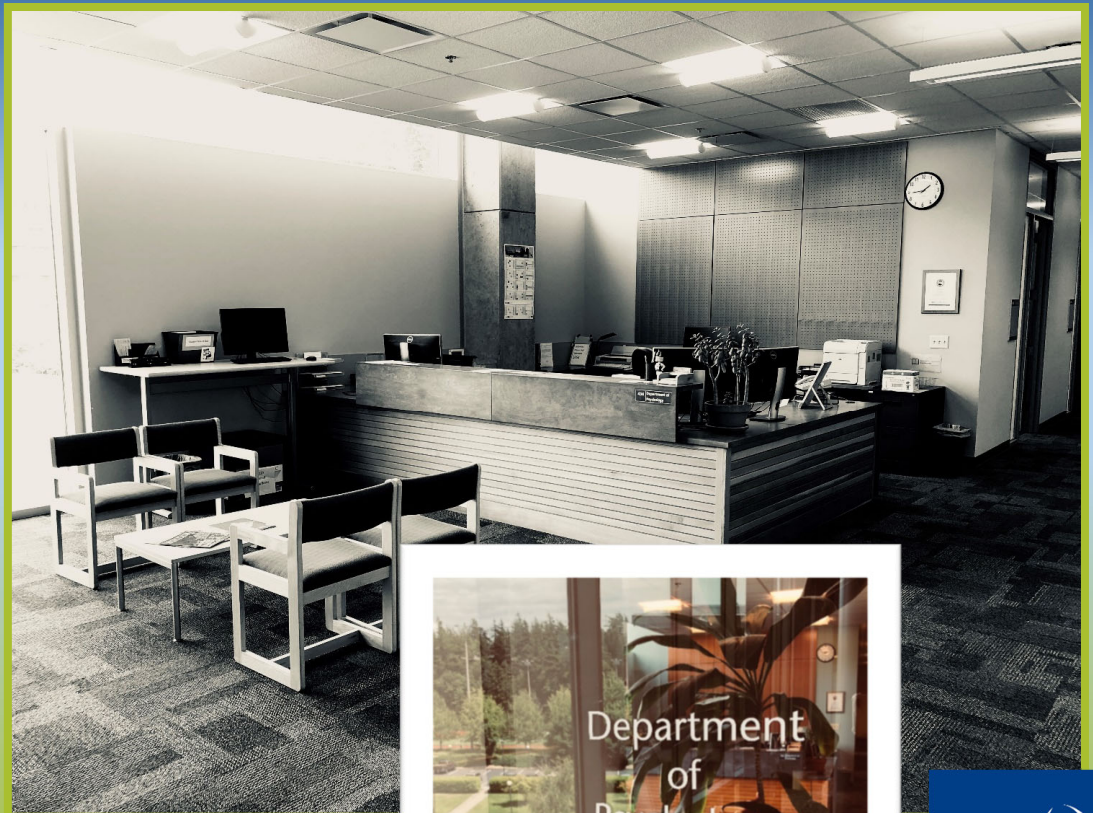
- ✓ 180 total credits
  - ✓ *Psych satisfies 75 credits*
- ✓ 60 Upper-Division (300/400)
  - ✓ *Psych satisfies 40 UD credits*
- ✓ 3 Writing Proficiency Points
  - ✓ *Psych satisfies ALL 3 WPP*





# WELCOME

- Main Office AIC 434→
  - [psychology@wwu.edu](mailto:psychology@wwu.edu)
- Interested in Psych + Education?
  - [PsychAdvising@wwu.edu](mailto:PsychAdvising@wwu.edu)
- Interested in Behavioral Neuro?
  - [BNS@wwu.edu](mailto:BNS@wwu.edu)



# QUESTIONS?

[PsychAdvising@wwu.edu](mailto:PsychAdvising@wwu.edu)  
Next Info Session: Fall 2024

# WWU PSYCH & HD

## ADVISING



Rochelle Robinson (she/her)

### WWU Psych Advising

🕒 20 min

Spring '24 Advising 4/11 - 6/7 (Zoom/Phone)

Drop-In W 12-1PM 4/10 - 6/5 (Zoom)

[https://wwu-edu.zoom.us/j/96688905903?](https://wwu-edu.zoom.us/j/96688905903?pwd=TDhMODVhREFoU1FhNkFNbkVjQ0hiZz09)

[pwd=TDhMODVhREFoU1FhNkFNbkVjQ0hiZz09](https://wwu-edu.zoom.us/j/96688905903?pwd=TDhMODVhREFoU1FhNkFNbkVjQ0hiZz09)

### Select a Date & Time

POWERED BY  
Calendly

< April 2024 >

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20

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# QUESTIONS?

STOP BY REMOTE DROP-IN ADVISING: W 12-1PM VIA ZOOM



# RESOURCE LINKS

- [Psych Interest Canvas Course](#)
- [Degree Works](#)
- [Department of Psychology Website](#)
- [Psychology Major Checklist](#)
- [Human Development Major Checklist](#)
- [Psychology Minor Checklist](#)
- [Declare a Major](#)
- [Explore Possible Minors](#)
- [WWU Writing Center](#)
- [Psychology Clubs](#)
- [Psychology Research](#)
- [Volunteer Opportunities](#)

