WWU PSYCHOLOGY

Fall 2026 Major Application Info Session

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So, you're interested in Psych...

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WWU PSYCHOLOGY 2026-27

75 Credit Major

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

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Content Areas

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

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MAJOR PREREQUISITES

2026-27 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 associate 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.

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MAJOR APPLICATION

Fall '26 Major Application

Available Friday 9/25 @ 8:30AM through **Thursday** 10/8 @ 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 Canvas Major Application Course?
Click here to self-enroll in this Canvas course

Currently enrolled in PSY 203 as a transfer student?

Optional Step #4: Submit a Major Application Exception

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2026-27 APPLICATION
STEP #1: WEBFORM

2026-27 Major Application Webform

Required fields are marked with an asterisk (*).

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Opening Honor Clause →	Student Information →	Academic History →	Transfer Students →	Content Interests, Advising, & Work →	Closing Honor Clause →	Complete

Psychology 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.

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STEP #2: REQ REVIEW

The Major + Graduation Requirement Review* offers students applying to WWU's psychology 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*.

Need access to the Canvas Major Application Course? Self-enroll HERE

*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.

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STEP #3: ESSAY QUESTIONS

The Major Application Short Answer Essay Questions* provide students interested in applying to WWU's psychology major an opportunity to convey who they are and how their individual lived experiences, values, and goals align with their intended major.

Your response to each prompt should be 250 words or less (i.e., up to 500 words total) and should reflect your experiences, values, and perspectives. We encourage you to answer honestly, in your own voice, and provide one specific example per prompt.

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ESSAY QUESTION #1

Prompt 1: Psychology & Social Issues

Psychology plays a crucial role in addressing real-world challenges. For this prompt, choose one societal issue that motivates you to pursue a psychology major, **please describe:**

- one specific societal issue that motivates you to pursue a psychology major;
- how your personal, academic, and/or professional experiences have shaped your understanding of it; and
- how becoming a psychology major will help you engage with this issue in meaningful ways.

Why I need psychology.

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ESSAY QUESTION #2

Prompt 2: Personal Background & Engagement with Department Values

The Psychology Department values **acknowledging systemic inequities, cultivating inclusivity, challenging marginalization, and disrupting injustice.** We also seek students who are committed to learning, growing, and contributing to a diverse and socially responsible academic community. For this prompt, **please describe:**

- how your experiences, values, and/or background shape your active engagement with one or more of these commitments;
- how you see yourself contributing to the Psychology Department's learning community; and
- how you hope to grow as a student of psychology.

Why psychology needs me.

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ESSAY EVALUATION

The Admissions Committee will evaluate responses based on:

1. **Connection Between Psychology & a Societal Issue** – How well you identify a societal issue and explain how psychology helps address it.
2. **Engagement with Psychology's Role in Social Issues** – How well you engage with the Psychology Department's values, such as acknowledging inequities, inclusivity, and social justice.
3. **Personal Background & Contribution to the Learning Community** – How well you reflect on your background, lived experiences, and identity in relation to psychology and the department's mission.
4. **Depth of Thought & Reflection** - How well you demonstrate critical thinking, originality, and self-awareness in connecting your experiences to psychology.

*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.

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SHORT ANSWER TIPS

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.

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SHORT ANSWER TIPS

Address the prompts directly

Read the full prompt and address all three aspects in each.

Example: In question one you are asked to
#1. share the societal needs/problems you want to address,
#2. how your personal/academic/professional experiences have shaped your understanding of the issue, and
#3. how becoming a major will help you engage with this issue in a meaningful way.

This will technically be a three-part answer. To ensure your response is clear, we encourage a macro-to-micro writing approach. The three-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.

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SHORT ANSWER TIPS

Intro Sentence Specificity Example

"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 *how*

[experiences that shape your interest/pursuit in psych + help you engage]

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SHORT ANSWER TIPS

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 of it is authentic. In fact, having a personal narrative may be even more powerful as it wholly and authentically specific to you. The same goes for academic and profession experiences.

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

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SHORT ANSWER TIPS

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 more 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 whether certain details fall under that warning, reach out to Rochelle.

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SHORT ANSWER TIPS

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.

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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.*

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SHORT ANSWER SUPPORT

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!

Remember: One specific personal example is enough.
Yes, you can use the same example for both prompts.

Finally:
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 over-describing the example (admiring the hammer).

2026-27 APPLICATION

REAPPLICATION

1. **Attend an Info Session**
2. **Review Essay Response Tips**
    - Current Info Session slides will post on Friday, Week 2
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.
    - 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: a) increasing specificity and b) answering the questions more directly
4. **Complete all application steps**
    - Major + Grad Review only needs to be completed once per academic year.

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OPTIONAL STEP #4: EXCEPTION FORM

Who can apply to the 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 (≥44 transfer credits)?

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

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FALL 2026 APPLICATION SCHEDULE

Major Application Opens:	Friday, September 25 @ 8:30AM
In-Person Info Session:	Friday, September 25, 4-5PM CF 115
Zoom Info Session:	Thursday, October 1, 4-5PM
105-Credit Holds Hit:	*Sometime in here*
Major Application Closes:	Thursday, October 8 @ 11:59PM
Major Status Notification:	Friday, October 23 by end-of-day
New Major Meeting w/ Faculty:	Tuesday, Oct 27 – Nov 3*
Winter '27 Phase I Registration:	Nov 3 – 16**

**Must complete major declaration prior to PSY 305 registration*
***Most new majors will not register until Nov 5 -7*

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PAST APPLICATION DATA

	FALL 2023	WINTER 2024	SPRING 2024	FALL 2024	WINTER 2025	SPRING 2025	FALL 2025	WINTER 2026	SPRING 2026
GPA RANGE	2.80-4.00	2.74-4.00	2.74-4.00	2.76-4.00	2.72-4.00	2.71-4.00	**2.73-4.00**	**2.71-4.00**	**2.76-4.00**
AVG GPA	3.56	3.57	3.50	3.52	3.55	3.49	3.56	3.50	3.52
AVG COMPLETED CREDITS (CC)	107	110	109	102	104	111	101	104	103
TOTAL NEW MAJORS	79	67	112	67	75	116	90	95	75
ACCEPTANCE RATE	56%	58%	92%	61%	56%	96%	**96%**	**91%**	**100%**
TRANSFER* STUDENT %	30%	60%	54%	46%	43%	46%	50%	47%	44%

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

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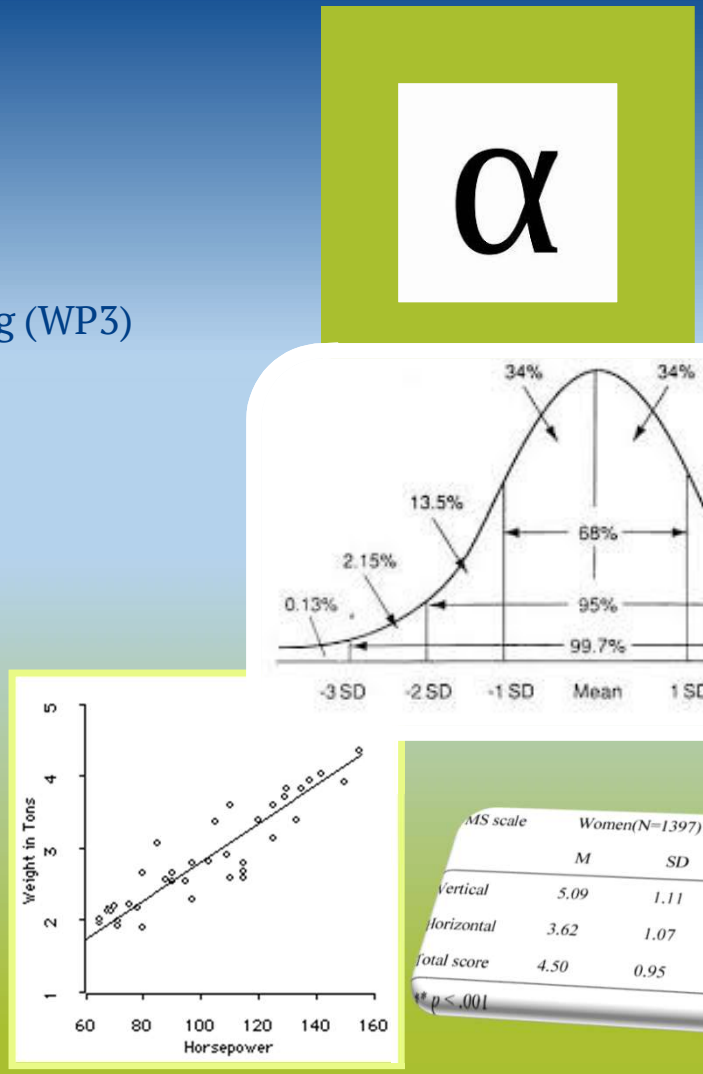
300 SEQUENCE

- 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



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WWU PSYCHOLOGY 2026-27

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

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WWU PSYCHOLOGY 2026-27

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*

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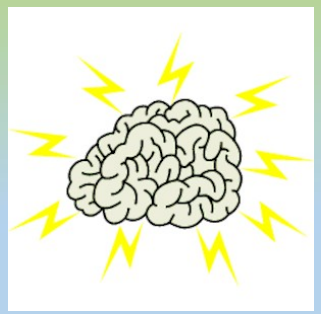
WWU PSYCHOLOGY 2026-27

DEPARTMENT MINORS



Behavioral Neuroscience

25 Credits

majors only

Culture, Race, Justice

30 Credits

majors only

Psychology

24 Credits

non-majors

Sport Psych

30 Credits

majors and non-majors

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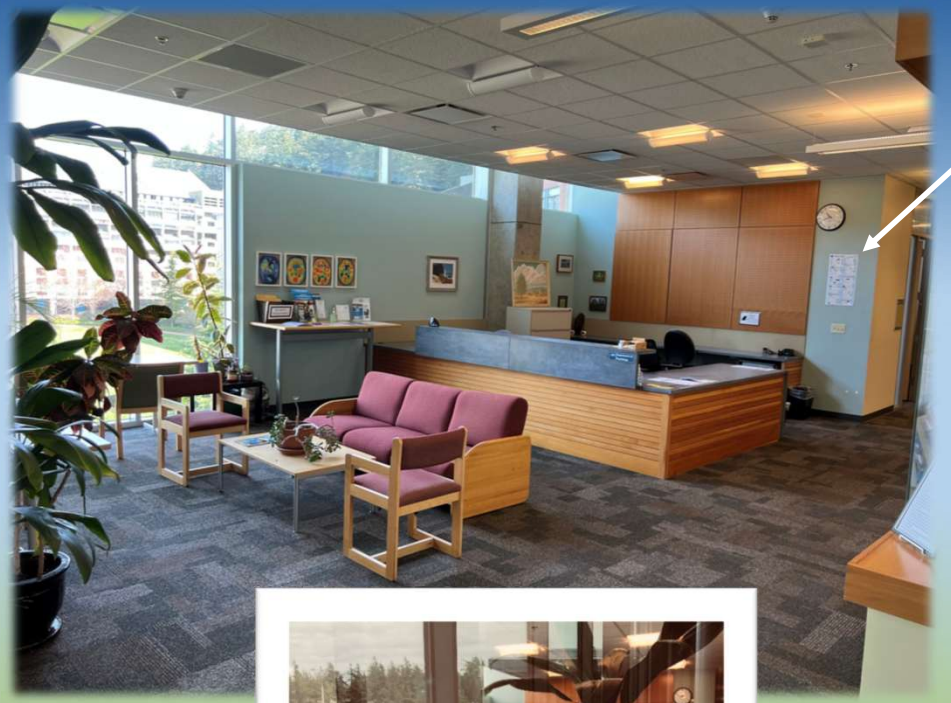
Welcome

- AIC 434 **front desk** is **closed**
- Human Development, in moratorium
- Rochelle is in AIC 497, TR



Questions?

- Psychology: psychology@wwu.edu
- Behavioral Neuroscience: bns@wwu.edu

Next Info Sessions?

- Friday, January 8 @ 4PM RSVP *Coming Soon*

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WWU PSYCHOLOGY

Rochelle Robinson (she/they)

WWU Psych Advising

20 min

Fall 2026 Advising
MTW Variable Hours 9.28-12.9.26 (remote)

Drop-In R12-1P (ZOOM/AI497) 10.1-12.3
(n/a 10.15, 11.26)

Select a Date & Time

POWERED BY Calendly

026

	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3
	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17

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APPLICATION QUESTIONS?

Stop by Weekly Drop-In Advising:

R 12-1PM AI 497 or Zoom

w/ Rochelle

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QUESTIONS ABOUT GRAD SCHOOL?

Drop-In Advising

w/ Graduate School Support TA

AIC 491

TR 11A-12P

(*through 12/10*)

School Counseling 2nd Year

Hanah

she/her

RESOURCE LINKS

- Psych Interest Canvas Course
- Degree Works
- Department of Psychology Website
- Psychology Major Checklist
- Psychology Minors Checklists
- Declare a Major
- Explore Possible Minors
- WWU Writing Center

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