

Psychology (Positive Psychology), BA

ASPGSPPBA

Are you passionate about helping people identify their strengths so they can improve their lives? With positive psychology, you'll study the conditions and processes that contribute to the flourishing or optimal functioning of people, groups and institutions.


Program description

Positive psychology is the scientific study of strengths and behaviors that enable individuals and communities to thrive. There is a rapidly growing body of research in the field of positive psychology with many applications to individual well-being, relationships, the workplace and every other life domain. Students in the BA program in psychology with a concentration in positive psychology gain the foundational knowledge and skills of a traditional psychology program while focusing their studies on topics central to the field of positive psychology, such as optimism, gratitude, coping mechanisms, resilience and mindfulness. Graduates of this program are prepared to apply evidence-based approaches to transform their own lives and the lives of others.

All New College psychology programs, including the positive psychology program, have a quantitative research focus, equipping students with skills in critical thinking, statistical analysis and academic writing. The BS degree differs from the Bachelor of Arts degree in that it requires additional lab science coursework and advanced statistical training, both of which are increasingly important for destinations in research or clinical practice. The Bachelor of Arts degree allows for exposure to a wider breadth of psychological and related topics through additional elective coursework. Both pathways provide a strong foundation for future graduate studies.

This major is eligible for the Western Undergraduate Exchange program at the following location: West Valley 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 Valley](#) **WVE** or [Online](#), [ASU Local](#)
- **Second language requirement:** No
- **First required math course:** MAT 119 - Finite Mathematics
or MAT 170 Precalculus
- **Math intensity:** Moderate 

Required courses (Major Map)

[2024 - 2025 Major Map \(on-campus\)](#)

[2024 - 2025 Major Map \(online\)](#)

[Major Map \(Archives\)](#)

Concurrent program options

Students pursuing concurrent degrees (also known as a "double major") earn two distinct degrees and receive two diplomas. Working with their academic advisors, students can create their own concurrent degree combination. Some combinations are not possible due to high levels of overlap in curriculum.

Admission requirements

General university admission requirements:

All students are required to meet general university admission requirements.

[First-year](#) | [Transfer](#) | [International](#) | [Readmission](#)

Tuition information

When it comes to paying for higher education, everyone's situation is different. Students can learn about [ASU tuition and financial aid](#) options to find out which will work best for them.

Change of Major Requirements

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

Students should visit the [Change of Major form](#) for information about how to change a major to this program.

Attend online

ASU Online

ASU offers this program in an online format with multiple enrollment sessions throughout the year. Applicants may [view the program's ASU Online page](#) for program descriptions and to request more information.

ASU Local

It is now possible to earn an ASU degree with [ASU Local](#), an integrated college experience in which students take advantage of in-person success coaching and programming experiences on site while completing one of 130+ undergraduate online degree programs, all of which come with online faculty interaction and tutoring support.

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 they help students save time and money in their college journey.

Global opportunities

Global experience

Study abroad allows students in the psychology program to 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 worldwide, are able to improve language and cross-cultural skills for effective communication, and are challenged to adapt under new social and cultural circumstances.

With more than 300 options available, whether in a foreign country, in the U.S. or online, [Global Education programs](#) give students a global perspective and knowledge in preparation for their career. Students in the New College of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences can explore how their varied fields and interests interact in different settings around the world.

Career opportunities

Individuals with psychology degrees can go on to secure jobs across a wide range of fields, including human resources, research, business and economics, law, health and mental health, and education.

Graduates are prepared for careers in:

- consumer relations and research
- employee training
- family support
- individual life coaching
- occupational analysis
- positive coaching in sports or organizations
- prevention education
- public or mental health program coordination
- youth development

The degree also provides an excellent foundation for graduate study in fields such as public administration, law, family studies, communication, social work and the various graduate program fields in psychology:

- clinical and counseling
- cognitive neuroscience
- developmental
- environmental
- experimental
- physiological
- social

Example job titles and salaries listed below are not necessarily entry level, and students should take into consideration how years of experience and geographical location may affect pay scales. Some jobs also may require advanced degrees, certifications or state-specific licensure.

Career	*Growth	*Median salary
<u>Addictions Counselor</u> ☀	18.4%	\$49,710
<u>Behavioral Health Specialist</u> ☀	6.6%	\$61,420
<u>Counselor (General)</u> ☀	17.2%	\$43,390
<u>Licensed Clinical Psychologist</u> ☀	11.4%	\$90,130
<u>Marriage and Family Therapist (MFT)</u> ☀	14.9%	\$56,570
<u>Mental Health Counselor</u> ☀	18.4%	\$49,710
<u>School Psychologist</u>	1.3%	\$81,500
<u>Social Services Director</u> ☀	9.1%	\$74,240
<u>Social Worker</u> ☀	5.3%	\$50,820
<u>Substance Abuse Social Worker</u> ☀	10.6%	\$51,240

* 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

Contact information

School of Social and Behavioral Sciences | FAB N101
sbsadvising@asu.edu | 602-543-3000