

FAQ's: Psychology Undergraduate (BA) Program

THE PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT'S ADVISING PROGRAM

Q: What advising services are available in the Psychology Department?

A: The Psychology Department has a Deputy Chair for Advising who oversees the Department's advising program. The current Deputy Chair for Advising is Professor Angela Crossman. The Deputy Chair is assisted by a MA-level College Assistant who helps to coordinate appointments and who can answer many of your advising questions. In addition, all full-time members of the Psychology Department faculty have office hours that are posted on their doors or are available in the main Psychology Department office (Room 2100N). You are welcome to visit with any faculty member during their regular office hours.

As a Psychology major, you might meet with an advisor in the Psychology Department to discuss many topics including: the Psychology Major and degree requirements, current course work, time management, careers, graduate study in Psychology or other disciplines, and academic planning.

Q: Who can I speak to about a question, concern, advise, or counseling for my forensic psychology major?

A: First, read the FAQ's to make sure the answer to your question is not already available there. Next, you may visit the Psychology Department Main Office in Room 2100N and speak with the college assistant. They may be able to guide you with your questions and concerns. Finally, if you still would like more in-depth advising you can fill-out an advising request form outside Room 2100N to meet with the Deputy Chair, Dr. Angela Crossman. You can meet with Dr. Crossman by filling out an advising request form.

Advising Request Form:

1. Complete an advising request form outside of Room 2100N (**PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY**).
2. Leave completed form in Completed Forms File located on wall outside Room 2100N.
3. All requests will be processed immediately, but given the amount of students and requests, this may take a few days. Please remain patient. We will contact you via email or phone as soon as possible with available appointment times.

Q: My class is full or closed, what can I do?

A: **First**, make sure the course is not cross-listed with another department. (Psy-110, 129, 180, 202, 210, 213, 224, 240, 271, 310, 331, 342, 350, 370, 450, 477 are all cross-listed with another department.) If it is, you can register for that course under that course name. It is the same course. **Second**, please be advised, certain courses like Sta-250 and Psy-311 are rarely overenrolled. Very few exceptions will be made for these two courses. **Third**, if there are many course sections available, you will probably not be given an overenrollment. We do not like to overcrowd one class when there are many other sections to choose from. **Finally**, if you determine that you still need an overenrollment, fill out an overenrollment request form and follow the steps below.

Overtally Request:

1. Complete overtally request form outside of Room 2100N (**PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY**). You must provide the course number, section, and code of the course you are trying to take.
2. Leave the completed form in the Completed Forms File located on the wall outside Room 2100N.
3. All requests will be processed immediately, but given the amount of students and requests, this may take a few days. Please remain patient. We will contact you via email or phone as soon as possible with a response.
4. In the meantime, register for the courses you can get into and select an alternative course to register for in place of the one you are waiting on for a response. If you are granted the overtally, you can drop the additional course later.

Q: How do I waive a course requirement?

A: Fill out a pre-requisite waiver form.

Pre-requisite Waiver Request:

1. Complete a pre-requisite waiver form outside of Room 2100N (**PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY**). The course you wish to waive should be written on the line, and in the description box, please provide the course you wish to take (**course number, section, and code must be included**) and your reason for being granted this request. You must also attach a *copy of your transcript*.
2. Leave completed form in Completed Forms File located on wall outside Room 2100N.
3. All requests will be processed immediately, but given the amount of students and requests, this may take a few days. Please remain patient. We will contact you via email or phone as soon as possible with a response.
4. In the meantime, register for the courses you can get into and select an alternative course to register for in place of the one you are waiting on for a response. If you are granted the waiver, you can later drop the additional course.

****PLEASE BE ADVISED!!! WE DO NOT GIVE PRE-REQUISITE WAIVERS FOR STA-250 AND PSY-311. YOU CAN NOT TAKE THESE TWO COURSES AT THE SAME TIME!! THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS!!**

Q: How do I replace a required course with a course that I have either already taken or would like to take?

A: Fill out a course substitution request form.

Course Substitution Request:

1. Complete a course substitution form outside of Room 2100N (**PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY**). You must also attach a *copy of your transcript* and a *course substitution form* from the Registrar. Provide an explanation in the box provided on the request form.
2. Leave completed form in Completed Forms File located on wall outside Room 2100N.

3. All requests will be processed immediately, but given the amount of students and requests, this may take a few days. Please remain patient. We will contact you via email or phone as soon as possible with a response.

Focus Points for Major Advisors

In Psychology:

Chairperson: Professor Maureen O'Connor (212) 237-8771

Deputy Chair of Advising in Psychology: Professor Angela Crossman (212) 237-8653

Addiction Studies & CASAC: Professor William Gottdiener (212) 237-8789

BA/MA Program: Professor Chitra Raghavan (212) 237-8417

MA Program in Forensic Psychology: Professor James Wulach (212) 237-8782

Doctoral Program – Clinical: Professor Michelle Galietta (212) 237-8882

Doctoral Program – Experimental: Professor Jennifer Groskopf (212) 237-8774

In the College:

Counseling: Professor Bob DeLucia (212) 237-8142

Office of Undergraduate Studies: Jose Luis Morin jmorin@jjay.cuny.edu

SEEK Counseling: Professor Carl Williams (212) 237-8181

Junior Advising: Paul Wyatt (212) 237-8871

Peer Mentoring: Lorraine Phillips-Valcarcel (212) 237-8000 ext. 2163

Freshman Services: Jessica Waterhouse (212) 237-8120

Undergraduate Degree Programs in Psychology

MAJORS AND MINORS

Q: What are the requirements for a major in psychology?

A: Please refer to the John Jay College Bulletin, page 19 (2007-2008). There is also a direct link to the undergraduate bulletin on the Psychology Department homepage, or you can pick up a copy of the Major Audit Form detailing the course requirements in the Psychology Department main office (Room 2100N).

Q: What courses should I take first if I am majoring in or thinking about majoring in Psychology?

A: 1) Become familiar with the requirements for the Majors set out in the Undergraduate Bulletin. Seek advising if you have questions about or are unsure about these requirements.

2) Review carefully the prerequisites for all of the courses in the Major which are listed in the Bulletin. You must take those courses prior to taking some of your major course requirements. So, get those prerequisites out of the way.

3) TAKE YOUR MATH CLASSES EARLY. Math 108 or Math 141 are prerequisites for Statistics 250, one of the required courses in the Major. Statistics 250 is a prerequisite for Psy 311, Experimental Psychology. You WILL NOT be permitted to take STA 250 and Psy 311 together! These should both be taken as early as possible in your Major.

Q: How do I minor in psychology?

A: You must complete any six of the following three credit courses and pass them with a grade of C or better. **Once all classes are completed**, fill out the form at the

Registrar's Office to declare a minor. Fill out the Declaration of Minor form from the registrar and drop it off at the psychology department in room 2100N along with a copy of your unofficial transcript. The courses for the minor are as follows:

*Psychology 101	General Psychology I
*Psychology 200	General Psychology II
*Psychology 231	Child Psychology
*Psychology 236	Group Dynamics
*Psychology 242	Abnormal Psychology
*Psychology 266	Psychology of Alcoholism & Substance Abuse
*Psychology 275	Family Conflict and the Family Court
*Psychology 370	Psychology and the Law
*Psychology 372	Psychology of Criminal Behavior
*Statistics 250	Principles & Methods of Statistics

Q: What minors go well with Psychology?

A: Generally a minor serves to give you a concentration of courses in an area that differs from your major. One strategy involves choosing a minor that differs substantially from your major, for example, an Honors Minor in English. Another strategy is to take additional related courses but in another specialty area, such as Women's Studies or Deviant Behavior. However, you should pick a minor that interests you and may relate to the kind of work you want to do. These two strategies balance one another.

Q: Can I major and minor in psychology?

A: No, one or the other.

Q: Can I count the same course to my major and my minor?

A: Yes.

Q: What is the addictions study program at John Jay and who is it intended for?

A: There are three components to the program. There is an **Addiction Studies Minor**. This is like any other academic minor at the college. Students select six courses from the list of addiction studies courses. This will then be on the student's transcript and demonstrate a concentration in addiction studies. It should be useful for students who intend to do graduate work in any area of human services including the criminal justice field. The second component is **CASAC education**. The completion of these 8 courses fulfills the 350 hour education requirement for the Credential in Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Counseling of New York State. Upon completion, the student will be issued a certificate, which can be mailed to the Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS). OASAS will then issue the student a Trainee Certificate. Treatment programs have an incentive to hire those with this certificate and thus it is helpful in getting employment in the addictions field. But please note the actual CASAC requires a training requirement, a work requirement, and the passing of an oral and written exam. The third component is the **Training requirement for the CASAC**. The student takes psy378-9. He must do his internship at an OASAS-approved facility under proper supervision. He also must add internship hours to total 300.

Full time students, undergraduate students, graduate students, part-time students, and non-degree students are all eligible for the CASAC education and training program.

Q: How will it prepare the student for jobs, research, etc.?

A: The CASAC component prepares students for entry level substance abuse counseling positions. The CASAC and Addiction Studies Minor will provide good preparation for graduate study in human services.

COURSE QUESTIONS

Q: How do I register for a Psychology course that is full?

A: The Psychology Department does not generally provide overenrollments for courses that are at their maximum enrollment. In certain circumstances, however, an overenrollment might be provided. First, check to see if the course is cross listed with other courses in another department (i.e., Psy 110 is the same as Ant 110 and Soc 110) and try to register under one of these disciplines, or try to get into another section of the same course that is not yet full. The Department is even less likely to grant an overenrollment if the course has other open sections. Second, ask yourself if you can take a different course this semester and the full course another semester. Typically, Stats 250, Psy 311, and our 400-level seminars *will not* be overenrolled because these courses are restricted to a limited number of students.

If you do seek permission to overenroll a particular course, then you need to fill out an Overenrollment Request Form outside room 2100N, the Psychology Department. Leave this completed form in the folder marked Completed Forms and be patient. Your request will be considered and evaluated by the Deputy Chair of Advising and you will be contacted via email or phone. Note that during Registration, we do our best to get back to you as soon as possible, but it is an exceptionally busy time for the Department.

Q: Can I be given permission to take Stats 250 and Psy 311 at the same time?

A: No. STA 250 is a prerequisite for PSY 311 and you will not be allowed to take these courses during the same semester.

Q: What can I do if I am having trouble in a Psychology course?

A: First, talk to the professor during office hours or after class. He or she can help you evaluate your options. For some courses, the college offers tutoring. In some cases, however, the professor can help you get back on track.

Q: How do I withdraw from a course?

A: Get a course withdrawal form from the Registrar's Office. If possible, bring it to class and ask your professor to sign it. If you cannot contact your professor before the deadline, ask another member of the Psychology Department Faculty – preferably the Deputy Chair or Department Chair – to sign.

Q: How can I go about transferring courses I have taken in another department or at another school for one of the required courses for Psychology?

A: First, you should contact the Registrar's Office. That office makes the decisions regarding transfer credits. If for some reason the Registrar's Office advises you to seek permission from the Psychology Department to determine whether one of the courses you took elsewhere could count for the Major or the Minor, then follow the guidance above and set up an advising appointment. Be prepared to have a copy of your transcript(s) and course syllabi.

Q: How can I take courses in areas not offered by John Jay?

A: You can obtain permission to take courses in other CUNY colleges. You need permission from that college to register in their course; however the credits will transfer to John Jay. You should check with the department chair or deputy chair to confirm the appropriateness of specific courses to the major.

Q: The Undergraduate Bulletin with course listings has changed since I arrived at John Jay. How do I know what is required of me?

A: You should always keep the Bulletin that you received in your first semester. You can graduate under the requirements published when you first entered the college.

Q: Can I obtain a degree through the on-line courses that are offered through John Jay?

A: Although some courses are offered on-line, we do not yet offer a sufficient number of courses to permit someone to obtain an on-line degree. We offer evening and weekend courses if your weekdays are unavailable for study.

Q: How can I do an Independent Study in Psychology?

A: An Independent Study (course Psy 410) is an option for students who want to explore a topic that is not offered through our regular course offerings, or who wants to go into more depth on a topic covered in a previous class. You must have **completed at least 12 credits in psychology** and you need both the psychology chairperson's signature and an instructor willing to work with you. The key to it is finding a faculty member who would be willing to work with you on the topic. You need to have a topic in mind, and then try to find a faculty member with a matching interest who is able to take on an independent study at this time. The Psychology Department web page lists faculty interests. You can get to the Psychology Department Web Page by scrolling under John Jay Students, then clicking Dept. Homepages, then Psychology, then Faculty. Be aware – an Independent Study does NOT fulfill the requirement for a 400-level course in psychology.

INTERNSHIPS & RESEARCH

Q: How do I go about getting an internship in Psychology?

A: First, you must decide what area interests you the most and in what types of settings you'd like to gain more experience. The Internship Office is part of Career Development Services at John Jay and is located in Room 3235N and can be reached at 237-8438. You can access information about requirements (e.g., 2.5 GPA), the application process, and much more on the John Jay Website under John Jay Students, click on Career Development and then the Office of Internships.

Q: How can I get involved with research in Psychology?

A: The Psychology Department is working to increase opportunities for undergraduate Psychology majors to obtain research experience. In Psychology 101, you should have the opportunity to participate in a number of research studies as a participant. In PSY 311, you will have the opportunity to design (and hopefully) carry out a small research project.

If you would like to participate in research outside of the classroom, you can go to the Psychology Department Web Page, and scroll under John Jay Students, then click on Dept. Homepages, then Psychology, then Faculty. You should find faculty interests

listed here. Set up appointments to meet with the professors who share your similar interests during their office hours, and ask them if they are currently working on research, if you could join their research lab, and if you could assist them with any projects they have going on. It would also be useful for you to subscribe to the Psychology Department Student List serve to get updates on ongoing research.

GRADUATE SCHOOL

Q: What kind of program should I apply to?

A: What kind of work do you want to do? Why are you going to graduate school? Do you want to be a professor? Do you want to do substance abuse counseling? Do you want to work with juveniles in a detention setting? Do you want to do therapy? ETC... You need to figure out your ultimate career objectives and determine how much time, money, and schooling you are willing to invest in achieving this goal. Another important thing to consider is whether you are interested in a clinical or experimental track. If you are unsure, you may want to consider applying to a Masters program to get a firm understanding of the field and what interests you the most. Some books that can be of interest are: Career Paths in Psychology: Where your degree can take you by APA and Getting In: A step-by-step plan for gaining admission to graduate school in psychology by APA. If you need some general career advice, you may want to pick up a book like Targeting the Job You Want by Kate Wendleton which can help you explore your special interests and expectations for future careers. Finally, talk to professors and career counselors at John Jay!

Q: What programs should I apply to?

A: Ph.D. programs are highly competitive and often require a strong G.P.A. and GRE scores, along with extensive research experience. If you do not have these things you may want to apply to a master's program to improve your academic scores and experiences.

Q: Whom do I contact regarding John Jay Graduate Psychology Programs?

A: First, visit the John Jay Webpage at www.jjay.cuny.edu
Director of Graduate Studies: Professor Janette Domingo (jdomingo@jjay.cuny.edu)
BA/MA Program: Professor Chitra Raghavan (craghavan@jjay.cuny.edu)
MA Program: Professor James Wulach (jwulach@jjay.cuny.edu)
Doctoral Program – Clinical: Professor Michelle Galietta (mgalietta@jjay.cuny.edu)
Doctoral Program – Experimental: Prof. Jennifer Groskopf (jgroskopf@jjay.cuny.edu)

Q: How can I learn more about the BA/MA program?

A: Individuals apply when they have between 45 and 60 undergraduate credits, and they must have at least a 3.5 GPA. Professor Chitra Raghavan is the Director of that program and you may reach her at craghavan@jjay.cuny.edu.

Q: How can I learn more about the Forensic Psychology Masters Program?

A: There is information about the Masters Program on the Psychology Department Homepage. In addition, questions regarding the Masters Program in Forensic Psychology may be directed to its Director, Dr. James Wulach at jwulach@jjay.cuny.edu.

Q: How can I learn more about the Doctoral Program in Forensic Psychology?

A: There are links to information about the Doctoral Program under John Jay Students and Doctoral Program and Doctoral Program in Forensic Psychology. You will find a Frequently Asked Questions list at this site that is very informative, but if this does not answer all of your questions, you can contact:
Doctoral – Clinical: Professor Michelle Galietta (mgalietta@jjay.cuny.edu)
Doctoral – Experimental: Professor Jennifer Groskopf (jgroskopf@jjay.cuny.edu)

Q: How can I learn about other graduate programs in psychology?

A: APA and its divisions publish directories of graduate programs in various areas of psychology. The APA website is www.apa.org and will provide you with useful information. The library also has useful reference information (including the APA graduate school directories) available for your use. Also, the psychology main office in 2100N also has several books and binders with useful information.

Q: If I am specifically interested in Forensic Psychology, what graduate programs are tailored to that specialization?

A: The American Psychology-Law Society (Division 41 of APA) has a great website with this type of information, go to www.ap-ls.org The American Board of Forensic Psychology may also be helpful, go to www.abfp.com

Graduate Programs: Clinical PhD/PsyD Programs with a Forensic focus.

[University of Alabama](#) (clinical Ph.D. with a psychology-law concentration).

[University of Arizona](#) (Ph.D. and/or J.D.).

[Alliant International University](#) (Ph.D. in Forensic Psychology or Psy.D. in Forensic Psychology).

[Carlos Albizu University in Miami](#) (Psy.D in Clinical Psychology with a concentration in Forensic Psychology)

[Drexel University/Villanova University](#) (J.D./Ph.D.)

[Drexel University](#) (Ph.D. with a concentration in Forensic Psychology)

[University of Florida](#) (Counseling Ph.D. with psychology-law concentration or J.D.)

[Fordham University](#) (Clinical PhD with concentration in Forensic Psychology)

[John Jay College of Criminal Justice-CUNY](#) (M.A. or Ph.D.).

[University of Nebraska](#) (joint J.D. and Ph.D. joint J.D. and M.A. in Psychology, or joint Ph.D. in Clinical and MLS in Law).

[Nova Southeastern University](#) (Psy.D. with a concentration in Clinical Forensic Psychology).

[Sam Houston State University](#) (Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology with an emphasis in forensics).

[Simon Fraser University](#) (Ph.D. in Clinical-Forensic Psychology).

[West Virginia University](#) (Ph.D. in Clinical with emphasis in forensics)

[Widener University](#) (J.D./Psy.D. joint degree)

Graduate Programs: Non-Clinical PhD /PsyD Programs

[University of Arizona](#) (Ph.D. and/or J.D.).

[Alliant International University](#) (Ph.D. in Forensic Psychology or Psy.D. in Forensic Psychology).

[Florida International University](#) (Ph.D. in Psychology with an emphasis in Legal Psychology).

[Georgetown University](#) (Ph.D. in Psychology with concentration in Human Development and Public Policy and a Ph.D. in a joint program with a Masters in Public Policy)

[John Jay College of Criminal Justice-CUNY](#) (M.A. or Ph.D.).

[University of Nevada- Reno](#) (Ph.D. in social psychology with a concentration in psychology and law)

[Pacific Graduate School of Psychology](#) (joint Ph.D./J.D.).

[Simon Fraser University](#) (Ph.D. in psychology in the psychology and law program).

[University of Florida](#) (Developmental Ph.D. with psychology-law concentration or J.D.)

[University of Illinois at Chicago](#) (Ph.D. with concentration in Psychology and Law).

[University of Minnesota](#) (Ph.D. in social psychology with a research concentration in social psychology and law).

[University of Nebraska](#)(joint J.D. and Ph.D. or joint J.D. and M.A. in Psychology).

[University of Texas at El Paso](#) (Ph.D. in Applied Psychology with the Legal Psychology Group)

[University of Wyoming](#) (Ph.D. with concentration in Psychology and Law)

Graduate Programs: Masters Programs

Castleton College (Masters in Forensic Psychology).

The Chicago School of Professional Psychology (M.A. in Forensic Psychology).

University of Denver (M.A. in Forensic Psychology).

John Jay College of Criminal Justice-CUNY (M.A. or Ph.D.).

Marymount University (M.A. in Forensic Psychology).

University of Nebraska (joint J.D. and Ph.D. or joint J.D. and M.A. in Psychology).

The Sage Colleges (M.A. in Forensic Psychology).

Tiffin University, (M.A. in Criminal Justice in Forensic Psychology). For further information contact Dr. Elizabeth Athaide-Victor or Dr. Steven Hurwitz.