

PSYCHOLOGY

Essential Skills

The priority standards consist of the following skills:

- **Concept Understanding:** Demonstrate understanding of concepts and processes in psychology.
- **Applying Psychology:** Provide examples of psychology's integrative themes.*
- **Scientific Investigation:** Conduct, analyze, and evaluate scientific investigations in psychology.
- **Communication:** Demonstrate effective communication through speaking, writing, and listening.
- **Civic Engagement:** Engage in deliberative, collaborative, and civil dialogue regarding course-relevant and current issues.

*A) Psychological science relies on empirical evidence and adapts as new data develop; B) Psychology explains general principles that govern behavior while recognizing individual differences; C) Psychological, biological, social, and cultural factors influence behavior and mental processes; D) Psychologists strive to promote respect for human diversity in its many forms; E) Our perceptions and biases filter our experiences of the world through an imperfect personal lens; F) Applying psychological principles can change our lives, organizations, and communities in positive ways; G) Ethical principles guide psychology research and practice.

Course Content

The priority standards/skills are taught, practiced, developed, and assessed through the course content as outlined below.

Methods of psychological science

- History and approaches
- Research methods
- Statistics

Connections between the body, mental processes, and behavior

- Biological bases of behavior
- Stress, coping and health
- Motivation and emotion
- Sensation and perception

Developmental changes across the lifespan

- Lifespan development
- Personality and assessment

Human processing, organization, and interpretation of information

- Thinking and language
- Individual differences
- Memory
- Learning
- States of consciousness

Range of human characteristics as a result of internal and external factors

- Psychological disorders
- Treatment of psychological disorders

