

University of Pretoria Yearbook 2025

BSocSciHons specialising in Psychology (01243019)

Department Psychology

Minimum duration of study 1 year

Total credits 120

NQF level 08

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Programme information

This is an academic programme only, and does not lead to registration with the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA).

Admission requirements

1. Relevant bachelor's degree with specialisation in Psychology
2. An average of at least 70% each for Psychology at second and final-year level
3. A research module (RES320 or an equivalent undergraduate research module) passed
4. In addition to the UP Admission Application, candidates are also required to submit a Departmental Application Form to the Department of Psychology. More information can be obtained at <https://www.up.ac.za/psychology/article/43589/honours-programme>

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Additional research modules may be required, if deemed necessary by the head of department.

Please note the following:

- Prospective students may be required to do additional work/modules to enable them to reach the desired level of study.
- The Department also considers equity, in terms of race, gender, and disability when selecting candidates.
- The number of students selected will be limited.
- The programme is structured for one-year full-time study.

Examinations and pass requirements

Assessments



- i. In order to pass a module, a final mark of at least 50% must be obtained.
- ii. Progress in modules is assessed through a variety of activities in the form of normative and continuous assessments. Assessment is designed to ensure that all the outcomes of the modules have been evaluated.
- iii. The final results for all modules will only be published after confirmation of the results by the examination commission of the Faculty of Humanities. No results will be released beforehand.

Promotion to next study year

The programme is a one-year full-time course.

Pass with distinction

The degree is awarded with distinction if a candidate obtains at least a 75% cumulative weighted average on successful completion of the degree.

Curriculum: Final year

Minimum credits: 120

Elective modules

Select 4 elective modules.

Availability of elective modules is subject to departmental resources. Not all modules are presented each year, please confirm with the department before registration.

Core modules

Theories and paradigms 751 (SLK 751)

Module credits	15.00
NQF Level	08
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	1 lecture of 2 hours per week
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Psychology
Period of presentation	Semester 1 or Semester 2

Module content

*Closed – BSocSciHons specialising in Psychology only.

In this module various paradigms in psychology and typical theories emanating from these paradigms, are considered. The philosophical underpinnings of these paradigms and theories are explored, specifically with reference to ontology, epistemology, methodology and method. Emphasis is then placed on the praxis of theory-building against the background of research.

Research report 761 (SLK 761)

Module credits	30.00
NQF Level	08
Prerequisites	No prerequisites
Contact time	1 lecture of 2 hours per week
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Psychology
Period of presentation	Year

Module content

*Closed - BSocSciHons specialising in Psychology only. Requires departmental selection.

The research report for BSocSciHons specialising in Psychology constitutes an integrated assessment of all learning offered for this learning programme. Students will be required to write a full research project on an approved topic in the specific context selected for the elective component, and complying to all requirements set by the supervisor.

Research methodology 764 (SLK 764)

Module credits	15.00
NQF Level	08
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	1 lecture of 2 hours per week
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Psychology
Period of presentation	Semester 1 or Semester 2

Module content

The focus is on knowledge and skills necessary to understand the empirical research process as applied in psychology. The following aspects are included: theoretical and epistemological assumptions in psychological research, problem and hypothesis formulation, basics of measurement, control in research, threats to validity, and research designs. The module also incorporates statistical methods applicable in research as well as skills necessary to analyse qualitative data all of which is aimed at providing students with greater skills within the realm of research.

Elective modules

Social psychology 752 (SLK 752)

Module credits	15.00
NQF Level	08
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	1 lecture of 2 hours per week
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Psychology
Period of presentation	Semester 1 or Semester 2

Module content

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Selected themes such as the following are explored in this module: social cognition, attitudes and attitude change, persuasive communication and social influence, human aggression, intergroup relations and intergroup conflict, social identity theory, and the role of culture in human behaviour. These themes are applied to problems in the contemporary South African context.

Community psychology 753 (SLK 753)

Module credits	15.00
NQF Level	08
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	1 practical per week, 1 lecture of 2 hours per week

Language of tuition Module is presented in English

Department Psychology

Period of presentation Semester 1 or Semester 2

Module content

*Closed - BSocSciHons specialising in Psychology only.

The module focuses on the nature of community psychology, theoretical approaches, community settings, consultation, interventions and the design and management of effective programmes. It includes the planning, coordination and facilitation of workshops. The practical component is based on community interventions. The module consists of two components: a theoretical part to develop a frame of reference to use in thinking about community processes and practical experience to address community issues. Focus will be on needs assessment, design, implementation and evaluation of interventions, basic counselling and group facilitation skills.

Psychological assessment 755 (SLK 755)

Module credits 15.00

NQF Level 08

Contact time 1 lecture of 2 hours per week

Language of tuition Module is presented in English

Department Psychology

Period of presentation Semester 1 or Semester 2

Module content

*Closed - BSocSciHons specialising in Psychology only. Requires departmental selection.

This is a theoretical module that deals with the process of assessment of human behaviour within various contexts. It does not include professional training to become a psychometrist. It does include topics such as the multi-dimensional nature, purpose, and characteristics of assessment; critical issues, such as cultural tailoring in psychological assessment within the South African context; the reasons for statutory control of psychological assessment and the ethics of assessment; the appropriate use of different kinds of psychometric and assessment methods and instruments; and the process of integration of assessment results and report writing.

Psychopathology 756 (SLK 756)

Module credits 15.00

NQF Level 08

Prerequisites No prerequisites.

Contact time 1 lecture of 2 hours per week

Language of tuition Module is presented in English

Department Psychology

Period of presentation Semester 1 or Semester 2

Module content

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The focus of this module is to enhance knowledge and insight into various mental disorders. A holistic approach is utilised where we explore the experiences of individuals who have these disorders, as well as the impact of these disorders on those close to them. Introductory diagnostic skills are developed: how to diagnose an individual when appropriate, the correct manner of writing a diagnosis and considering cultural beliefs when diagnosing.

Neuropsychology 760 (SLK 760)

Module credits	15.00
NQF Level	08
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	1 lecture of 2 hours per week
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Psychology
Period of presentation	Semester 1 or Semester 2

Module content

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This module introduces the neuropsychology of acquired brain injury and neurodegenerative disorders. The synthesis of brain structure and function in relation to cognition, emotion and behaviour will be reviewed in detail. Various neuropsychological assessments and case studies highlighting distinct neuropsychological clinical profiles form the focus of the practical application of the module.

Cognitive psychology 762 (SLK 762)

Module credits	15.00
NQF Level	08
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	1 lecture of 2 hours per week
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Psychology
Period of presentation	Semester 1 or Semester 2

Module content

*Closed - BSocSciHons specialising in Psychology only.

This module addresses intermediate, well-formed and systematic knowledge and understanding of cognitive processes in order to provide evidence-based solutions for topical issues related to cognitive psychology. The module involves, inter alia, evaluation of current scholarly debates and discourses in cognitive psychology, analysis of contemporary contexts, and a critical evaluation of topical issues related to cognitive functioning.

Personality psychology 765 (SLK 765)

Module credits	15.00
NQF Level	08
Contact time	1 lecture of 2 hours per week
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Psychology
Period of presentation	Semester 1 or Semester 2

Module content

*Closed – BSocSciHons specialising in Psychology only.

In this module a wide range of personality theories are studied. The aim of the module is to teach conception of the implications of various personality theories for human functioning. The applications are relevant in therapeutic and counselling contexts, as well as for our understanding of human functioning in everyday life.

Therapeutic psychology 766 (SLK 766)

Module credits	15.00
NQF Level	08
Contact time	1 lecture per week
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Psychology
Period of presentation	Semester 1 or Semester 2

Module content

*Closed – BSocSciHons specialising in Psychology only.

This module introduces students to various postmodern approaches and ethical issues. In addition, upon completion of the module, students should have acquired an in-depth knowledge of a specific therapeutic approach of their choice and demonstrate these approaches can be used to intervene at the, individual, family and community level.

Developmental psychology 767 (SLK 767)

Module credits	15.00
NQF Level	08
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	1 lecture of 2 hours per week
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Psychology
Period of presentation	Semester 1 or Semester 2

Module content

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The module deals with the study of human development over the entire life span. Developmental Psychology supplies important background information for students who would like to become clinical or counselling psychologists. Knowledge gained by studying developmental psychology is also most valuable for parents, teachers, social workers as well as people in the health professions and in the business world or industry.

Capita selecta 768 (SLK 768)

Module credits 15.00

NQF Level 08

Prerequisites No prerequisites.

Contact time 1 lecture of 2 hours per week

Language of tuition Module is presented in English

Department Psychology

Period of presentation Semester 1 or Semester 2

Module content

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The offering of this module is subject to staff capacity and determined in consultation with the HOD.

Students are exposed to a contemporary topic or field in Psychology not covered elsewhere in the curriculum, such as positive psychology, sports psychology or evolutionary psychology, for example.

General Academic Regulations and Student Rules

The [General Academic Regulations \(G Regulations\)](#) and [General Student Rules](#) apply to all faculties and registered students of the University, as well as all prospective students who have accepted an offer of a place at the University of Pretoria. On registering for a programme, the student bears the responsibility of ensuring that they familiarise themselves with the General Academic Regulations applicable to their registration, as well as the relevant faculty-specific and programme-specific regulations and information as stipulated in the relevant yearbook. Ignorance concerning these regulations will not be accepted as an excuse for any transgression, or basis for an exception to any of the aforementioned regulations. The G Regulations are updated annually and may be amended after the publication of this information.

Regulations, degree requirements and information

The faculty regulations, information on and requirements for the degrees published here are subject to change and may be amended after the publication of this information.

University of Pretoria Programme Qualification Mix (PQM) verification project

The higher education sector has undergone an extensive alignment to the Higher Education Qualification Sub-Framework (HEQSF) across all institutions in South Africa. In order to comply with the HEQSF, all institutions are legally required to participate in a national initiative led by regulatory bodies such as the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET), the Council on Higher Education (CHE), and the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA). The University of Pretoria is presently engaged in an ongoing effort to align its qualifications and programmes with the HEQSF criteria. Current and prospective students should take note that changes to UP qualification and programme names, may occur as a result of the HEQSF initiative. Students are advised to contact their faculties if they have any questions.