Combined B.A./M.S. or B.S./M.S. Program in Psychology

The Villanova Department of Psychological & Brain Sciences offers a combined bachelor/master’s degree program which is open to especially qualified undergraduate students. Like the M.S. program, the bachelor/master’s program is designed to provide a strong foundation for individuals seeking entry into Ph.D. programs in most subfields of Psychology. In addition, the program services the needs of students unsure of their future professional goals, of individuals wanting a more gradual transition between undergraduate and Ph.D. level work, and for those seeking a terminal Master’s degree.

Students in the combined bachelor/master’s degree program receive the Bachelor of Arts diploma or the Bachelor of Science diploma after completing, respectively, the requirements for the Bachelor of Arts in Psychology or the Bachelor of Science in Psychology (normally four years). After completing all requirements for the Bachelor’s degree, the student is transferred to graduate status in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Because some of the courses the student takes as an undergraduate will be graduate courses that count toward both the Bachelor’s and the Master’s degree, it is possible to complete the requirements for the Master of Science in Psychology program in one additional academic year.

A limited number of partial tuition waivers are available to students in the program, which cover the last graduate course taken (i.e., one course during the last semester of the program will be covered by a tuition waiver). These waivers are awarded on a competitive basis at the time of admission to be combined program.

Minimum Requirements for Application to the B.A./M.S. or B.S./M.S. Program:

- Villanova psychology major with junior status
- A cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 (most accepted applicants have higher GPAs)
- A GPA in the psychology major of at least 3.2 (most accepted applicants have higher GPAs)
- A completion or enrollment in at least six psychology courses which must include:
  - PSY 2000 (Statistics)
  - PSY 2050 (Research Methods)
  - PSY 2100 (Seminar in Professional Development)
  - PSY 4200 (Biopsychology) or PSY 4500 (Cognitive Psychology)
  - Two additional psychology courses
- Although not required for application, most successful applicants have demonstrated interests in psychological research by participation in a research laboratory.

Application Deadline: March 15th

To apply to the bachelor/master’s program follow these steps:
1) Complete the application form (available in the Department of Psychological & Brain Sciences office or on the department website).
2) Obtain an official transcript documenting your undergraduate courses.
3) Write a personal statement (2 pages maximum) describing your career goals and reasons for pursuing a master’s degree.
4) Submit two letters of recommendation from faculty assessing your potential for success in the bachelor/master’s program. Recommendation forms are contained in the application for graduate studies.
5) The GRE exam is not required but the student’s SAT or ACT scores will be reviewed by the admissions committee.
6) Submit your completed applications (Items 1-3 above) to Louise Carbone, Administrative Assistant, Department of Psychological & Brain Sciences (334 Tolentine Hall) by March 15th.

Please note: Acceptance into the BA/MS or BS/MS track is competitive. Only a small number of students can be admitted into the program each year.
Curriculum of the BA/MS or BS/MS Program in Psychology

Course sequence for completing the BA/MS or BS/MS track:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Spring</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Senior Year (4th Year)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Undergraduate course</td>
<td>Undergraduate course</td>
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<td>Undergraduate course</td>
<td>Undergraduate Research (PSY 5900)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seminar in Research (PSY 8000)*</td>
<td>Statistics &amp; Experimental Design (PSY 8100)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biopsychology (PSY 8050)*</td>
<td>Cognitive Psychology (PSY 8150)*</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Graduate Year (5th Year)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Thesis I (PSY 9032)</td>
<td>Thesis II (PSY 9033)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 Graduate Electives</td>
<td>2 Graduate Electives</td>
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*Counted as both graduate and undergraduate courses

**Graduate Psychology Curriculum.** For students in the BA/MS or BS/MS track there is no change in the requirements for the M.S. in psychology. They will complete the same number of credits and the same courses that are required for students accepted into the existing M.S. program. However, the students admitted into the BA/MS or BS/MS track will begin to complete these requirements by enrolling in four graduate courses during their senior year: Seminar in Research (PSY 8000), Biopsychology (PSY 8050), Statistics & Experimental Design (PSY 8100), and Cognitive Psychology (PSY 8150). During the fifth year, the BA/MS or BS/MS students will be full-time graduate students and will take the remaining graduate courses needed to complete the M.S.

**Undergraduate Psychology Curriculum.** For students in the BA/MS or BS/MS track, the requirements for the BA or BS in psychology will remain substantially the same as the current undergraduate program. However, the following three graduate courses will count both toward their B.A. or B.S. and their M.S. in psychology: Seminar in Research (PSY 8000) will replace Foundations in Modern Psychology (PSY 5150), Biopsychology (PSY 8050) will count either as Biopsychology (PSY 4200) or as a psychology elective, and Cognitive Psychology (PSY 8150) will count either as Cognitive Psychology (PSY 4500) or as a psychology elective. Because university policy limits to three the number of graduate courses that can be counted both as a graduate and an undergraduate course, Statistics & Experimental Design (PSY 8100) is the only course to be taken during the senior year that will not count toward fulfilling undergraduate requirements. Finally, students in the BA/MS or BS/MS track will be limited to taking a total of four courses each semester during their senior year. One of the undergraduate courses taken in the spring must be Undergraduate Research (PSY 5900) which would be used to prepare the student for thesis work.

**Undergraduate Core Curriculum.** All core curriculum requirements of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences must be satisfied. Students in the BA/MS or BS/MS track will be considered full time undergraduates during their senior year, but they will be taking only seven courses (3 graduate and 4 undergraduate) that count as undergraduate courses. This is three undergraduate courses fewer than a typical senior would take. Although this is not a problem for the many students who enter Villanova with several AP courses already on their transcripts, other students accepted into the BA/MS or BS/MS track may need to take undergraduate courses in the summer before their senior year so that they can complete all their undergraduate requirements before beginning their graduate (5th) year. It is expected that students will be awarded their B.A. or B.S. degree in May of their senior year with their graduating class. (Under rare special circumstances, a student may be allowed to complete his/her undergraduate requirements in the summer following his/her senior year and to graduate in September.)

Last Revised 01-09-2018