

September 17, 2013

Psychology Major Eligibility Requirement Proposal

Effective beginning with students on the 2014-15 Catalog.

Motion:

The following material is added to section 3500 (Psychology) of the Catalog:

All 3000-4000 level Psychology courses except PSYC 3140, PSYC 3450, PSYC 4040, and PSYC 4400 require students to

- have completed the necessary PSYC courses in the Psychology Area F (currently PSYC 1101 and two of the following courses: PSYC 2030, PSYC 2040, PSYC 2050, PSYC 2070, PSYC 2080, PSYC 2101, PSYC 2103) and
- have earned an average of 2.3 grade points across these three courses.

This GPA will be calculated based on the first attempt at the first three Area F PSYC courses taken at Georgia State University. WFs counts as attempts. Ws do not count as attempts.

Transfer students who transfer these course(s) into Georgia State may use the grades in the transferred course(s) to calculate the GPA or they may attempt them once at Georgia State.

If a student has a grade of K in Psych 1101, the GPA will be computed based on the other two courses.

Once a student is eligible to take 3000-4000 Psychology courses, they remain eligible to take them as long as they are eligible to enroll at Georgia State University.

Rationale:

Unprecedented growth in the psychology major has limited the extent to which the number of sections of PSYC3510, PSYC3530 (CTW), and PSYC 4800 (CTW) we can offer in a single semester meets the needs of our majors. Although Psychology is meeting demand for these courses, most of the students who are able to register for them are seniors. As these are the most challenging courses, many students find out too late that they are not prepared to complete the major in psychology. They must then complete another major even after they have earned many credit hours. A filter at an earlier stage is necessary.

Data collected by GSU Institutional Research indicate that there is a large, significant correlation between GPA in Psychology's Area F and grade points in PSYC3510 and 3530. The motion allows the early identification and redirection of students unlikely to be successful as Psychology majors.