



**Department
Of
Psychology**

**Undergraduate
Advising Handbook**

1. Introduction

Message from the Head of the Department of Psychology

Welcome to Psychology! You have joined one of the largest and most successful departments on campus. Our faculty is comprised of leading edge scholars who are dedicated to creativity and innovation in research and teaching. Their work focuses on clinical psychology, applied social work - including program evaluation, culture and human development and, neuropsychology - including work with EEG, TMS and fMRI! And we now have a fabulous new Health Studies program! We believe that you will find your time with us both challenging and rewarding. We know from experience that our graduates are well received across the province and the country, whether they choose to enter the work force, to pursue professional training in other disciplines, or to proceed to advanced study in psychology.

This Handbook has been prepared with the goal of providing you with information on a variety of topics that may be of interest to you during your involvement with the Department. We hope that you will find it to be useful. For further detail and updated information, please visit our website, www.usask.ca/psychology/

On behalf of the faculty and staff of the Department, I want to wish you success in pursuing your academic goals.

Dr. Gordon Sarty
Head, Department of Psychology

Introduction to the Undergraduate Program in Psychology

Psychology is the study of behaviour and mental processes, and their relation to one's physical state, mental state, and external environment. ***The Department of Psychology offers five undergraduate programs leading to a Bachelor of Arts degree or a Bachelor of Science degree. The BA 3-year program requires a total of 90 credit units with a minimum of 30 credit units in Psychology. The BA and BSc 4-year programs requires 120 credit units with a minimum of 36 credit units in Psychology. The BA and BSc honours programs requires 120 credit units with 60 credit units in Psychology.***

Our degree program(s) give students broad exposure to various content areas of psychology, as well as "hands on" experience with the methods used to arrive at conclusions about behaviour. Specifically, the undergraduate programs are designed to:

- (1) Familiarize students with the varied perspectives and sub-fields that represent the discipline of psychology: biological, cognitive, developmental, psychodynamic, social, and cultural. The goal of the psychology undergraduate program is to acquaint students with the theories, concepts, and applications in each of the main areas, and not to train practitioners of the discipline. Courses are offered in such areas such as social psychology, child development, human neuropsychology, memory, psychology of language, abnormal psychology, and Aboriginal mental health. These courses engage students in an active learning environment, helping students to develop their writing, critical thinking, and communication skills.
- (2) Provide students with experience in the methods and research designs that are the typically used in the acquisition of knowledge in psychology. Students become acquainted with not only the basic precepts of experimental methodology, but are also taught about, and given direct experience in, observational methods, interviewing, and qualitative analyses in the form of laboratory courses. All five program levels (3-year, 4-year, and Honours') include statistics and laboratory requirements, with increased exposure to research required of our 4-year and Honours' students.

Our 3-year and 4-year programs are primarily designed for students who are satisfied with a baccalaureate degree in psychology, and/or are planning to pursue further professional training in another field (e.g., Education, Law). Our Honours program provides exceptional preparation for our students to pursue graduate studies in Psychology and advanced degrees in related disciplines. Be assured that no matter what program you choose in our department, we strive to give students a well-rounded and informed perspective on the discipline of psychology.

2. Course Listing and Descriptions

NOTE: PSY 120 and 121 are the prerequisites for 200 level courses. Please review the prerequisites requirements carefully. The Department of Psychology does NOT permit prerequisite waivers.

PSY 120.3

Biological and Cognitive Bases of Psychology

This course is designed to familiarize the student with the body of knowledge, scientific theory, and research related to the major biological and cognitive areas of psychology. The course focuses on the study of behavior dealing with the essential problems of psychology, the methods of investigation, and the advances that have been made in the fields of neuroscience, sensation and perception, consciousness, memory, learning, language, and motivation and emotion.

Note: Students with credit for PSY 110 may not take this course for credit.

This course is one-half of PSY 110.6, students with credit for PSY 110.6 cannot take PSY 120.3 for credit

PSY 121.3

Social Clinical Cultural and Developmental Bases of Psychology

This course is designed to familiarize the student with the body of knowledge, scientific theory, and research related to the major social, clinical, cultural and developmental areas of psychology. The course focuses on the study of behavior dealing with the essential problems of psychology, the methods of investigation, and the advances that have been made in the fields of intelligence, development, personality, social and cultural psychology, psychological disorders, treatment, and health, stress, and coping.

Note: Students with credit for PSY 110 may not take this course for credit.

This course is one-half of PSY 110.6, students with credit for PSY 110.6 cannot take PSY 121.3 for credit

PSY 207.3

Psychology of Death and Dying

Focuses on the psychological issues relevant to death and dying. Topics to be examined: societal attitudes, cultural differences, coping with dying, dealing with loss and grief, memorialization and funerals, developmental issues across the life span, relevant legal issues, suicide and life threatening behaviour, AIDS and the psychological meaning of death.

Prerequisite(s): PSY 121

PSY 213.3

Child Development

An examination of the social, emotional, moral, cognitive and physical development of typical children from conception to late childhood. Individual development is considered from a psychological perspective within the contexts of family and culture.

Prerequisite(s): PSY 121

PSY 214.3

Adolescent Development

An introduction to theories and research methods in adolescent development. Attention is given to normative development in physical, cognitive, social and emotional domains. Students will obtain an understanding of factors that influence normative trajectories and processes; basic theory underlying adolescent research; and strengths and weaknesses of methods in this area.

Prerequisite(s): PSY 121

PSY 216.3

Psychology of Aging

The study of normal psychological development through maturity to old age. Topics include: consideration of critical issues of research methods; problems of adjustment of the aged such as physical decline, retirement, aloneness, disengagement; the needs and care of the aged, antecedents of successful aging; the psychology of dying and death; theories of aging.

Prerequisite(s): PSY 121

PSY 222.3

Personality

A review of major theories, both historical and contemporary, in the study of personality. Psychoanalytic, social learning, existential-humanistic, and trait perspectives will be covered, along with a discussion of their strengths and limitations.

Prerequisite(s): PSY 121

PSY 223.3

Abnormal Psychology

Major patterns of abnormal behaviour are reviewed and studied with respect to origins, course and treatment. The focus is upon understanding abnormal behaviour with an integrated knowledge of basic principles of general psychology.

Prerequisite(s): PSY 121

Note: PSY 222 recommended.

PSY 224.3

Introduction to Culture and Psychology

A survey of theory and research on cultural issues in psychology, including developmental, cognitive and social psychology. By the end of the course, the student will be able to demonstrate an understanding of fundamental concepts and theoretical perspectives pertinent to the study of culture and human behaviour, knowledge of the findings of relevant classic and contemporary empirical studies, and familiarity with methodological issues pertaining to research in this area.

Prerequisite(s): PSY 121.

PSY 225.3

Group Dynamics and Intergroup Relations

Designed to give the student a broad overview of an important area of social psychology. Group dynamics and inter-group relations will be covered through lectures, readings, and assignments on topics such as group decision-making, leadership, conflict and cooperation, collective behaviour, prejudice, and minority-majority relations.

Formerly: PSY 221

Prerequisite(s): PSY 121

Note: Students with credit for PSY 221 cannot take PSY 225 for credit.

PSY 226.3

Intrapersonal and Interpersonal Processes

Focuses on social psychological phenomena internal to the individual, such as social cognition, emotion, the self, and attitudes. It also considers issues associated with relations between individuals, such as altruism, aggression, attraction and social influence. Students who wish to pursue further studies in social psychology are encouraged to take both this course and PSY 225 (Group Dynamics and Intergroup Relations).

Formerly: PSY 221.

Prerequisite(s): PSY 121

Note: Students with credit for PSY 221 cannot take this course for credit.

PSY 227.3

Human Sexuality

Examines topics that fall under the rubric of human sexuality (e.g., sexual diversity, prostitution, and pornography). Through interdisciplinary readings and films, this course details how socio-cultural forces may shape individuals' experiences as sexual beings and their interpretations of various sexual practices.

Prerequisite(s): PSY 121 or permission of the instructor

PSY 230.3

Criminal Behaviour

The application of psychological theories to the understanding of criminal behaviour. An overview of assessment and treatment issues as these apply to specific types of criminals (e.g., sexual offenders, psychopathic offenders) will also be provided.

Prerequisite(s): PSY 121

Note: PSY 222 or 223 or 257 is recommended.

PSY 231.3

Psychology and Law

Examines the role psychology plays in promoting justice within the legal system. Theory, research, and methodology related to the psychology of evidence are reviewed. The focus is on the role psychologists play in obtaining and assessing witness evidence during the pre-trial and trial phases of the legal process.

Prerequisite(s): PSY 121

PSY 233.3

Statistical Methods in Behavioural Sciences

The role of statistics in research including: statistical concepts and models, estimation, simple tests of significance, linear regression and correlation, and introduction to analysis of variance. The laboratory component will consist of training in the utilization of statistical software.

Prerequisite(s): PSY 120 or 121

Note: Refer to Statistics Course Regulations in the Arts & Science section of the Calendar if intending to use for Arts & Science credit.

PSY 234.3

Statistical Methods in Behavioural Sciences

A continuation of the role of statistics in research covering methods of analysis of variance including cross-classification, introduction to multiple comparisons, factorials, multiple regression and covariance. The laboratory component will consist of training in the utilization of statistical software.

Prerequisite(s): PSY 233. Four-year and Honours students should take PSY 235 concurrently.

Note: Refer to Statistics Course Regulations in the Arts & Science section of the Calendar if intending to use for Arts & Science credit.

PSY 235.3

Research Methods and Design

Introduces students to both experimental and non-experimental research methods and designs used in psychology. The course focuses on the interplay between research questions, theory, the selection of appropriate research procedures and resulting conclusions. The laboratory component will consist of practical training and application of the concepts discussed in class.

Formerly: 372.6

Prerequisite(s): PSY 233.

Note: Four-year and Honours students should take PSY 234 concurrently; students with credit for PSY 232 or 372 cannot take this course for credit.

PSY 236.3 — 1/2(3L)

Qualitative Research in Psychology

This course introduces students to key concepts from the philosophy of science and from research design (e.g., ontology, epistemology, methodology, method) and provides a broad overview of contemporary approaches to qualitative inquiry in the discipline of psychology. Students will be introduced to ways of formulating research questions that are suitable for qualitative inquiry; methods for generating qualitative data (e.g., interviews, observations, online, visual); and ways of analyzing qualitative data from different methodological traditions (e.g., grounded theory, discourse analysis, narrative analysis).

Prerequisite(s): PSY 120 or PSY 121.

PSY 242.3

Physiological Psychology

An introduction to the language, techniques, concepts and general subject matter of physiological psychology. Topics will include: sensory processes, motor systems, the brain, memory and learning. This core knowledge will be useful to those wanting an exposure to the biological study of behaviour, or to those wanting a primer for more advanced study.

Prerequisite(s): PSY 120.

PSY 243.3

Evolutionary Psychology

The human mind and the behaviour that emerges as products of the mind, will be considered as the outcome of a large number of adaptations brought about by natural selection. The possibility of, and evidence for, a universal human nature at the level of evolved psychological mechanisms will be presented. The evolutionary significance of altruism, cooperation and conflict, morality, deceit, self-deception and illness will be examined.

Formerly: PSY 244.

Prerequisite(s): PSY 120

Note: Students with credit for PSY 244 cannot take this course for credit.

PSY 246.3

Introduction to Human Neuropsychology

An introduction to research and theory on the topic of human brain function. Topics include research techniques and strategies, developmental neuropsychology, localization and lateralization of function, recovery of function, and deficits associated with lesions of the neocortex.

Prerequisite(s): PSY 120

PSY 252.3

Perceptual Processes

A brief survey of the principles that have emerged from the empirical investigation of perception, with special reference to vision and hearing. An examination of the factors which underlie such fundamental features of behaviour as the perception of objects and of three-dimensional space and the maintenance of perceptual constancy.

Prerequisite(s): PSY 120

PSY 253.3

Introduction to Cognitive Psychology

An introduction to research and theory on the topic of human cognitive functioning. The course will explore how humans attend to, encode and remember their experiences, communicate using both written and spoken language, and engage in higher order processes such as reasoning, problem solving, and decision making.

Prerequisite(s): PSY 120

PSY 255.3

Human Memory

An introduction to research and theory on the structures and processes involved in human memory. Topics include the evidence for distinct sensory, short-term, and long-term memory stores, the format of representation in memory, and the determinants of effective memory performance.

Prerequisite(s): PSY 120

PSY 256.3 (not offered in 2017-2018)

Psychology of Language

Explores and evaluates theories and research involving the psychology of language. Broadly defined, the topics will include visual and auditory language issues regarding: encoding, representation, comprehension, production, acquisition, biological foundations, dysfunction, and cultural influences. Students will also learn about current research projects, and the preparation of research papers.

Prerequisite(s): PSY 120

PSY 257.3

Clinical and Counselling Psychology

Review of the relevant topics in clinical and counselling psychology including psycho diagnostic testing, and the major approaches to therapeutic change.

Prerequisite(s): PSY 121

Note: Students with credit for PSY 357 may not take this course for credit. This course was labeled PSY 357 for 2014-2016.

PSY 260.3

Health Psychology

Focuses on psychological theories and research related to the development, prevention and treatment of illness. Topics covered will include the effects of stress on health, coping with pain, the physician-patient relationship, patient non-compliance, and a variety of risky health behaviours such as substance abuse.

Prerequisite(s): PSY 121

Note: Students who have taken PSY 360 may not take this course for credit.

PSY 261.3

Community Psychology

Introduces psychological theories and research on the effects of the physical and social environments on human behaviour and on the design and evaluation of changes which might promote adaptive behaviour.

Prerequisite(s): PSY 121

Note: Students who have taken PSY 360 may not take this course for credit.

PSY 298.3

Special Topics

Offered occasionally by visiting faculty and in other special situations to cover, in depth, topics that are not thoroughly covered in regularly offered courses.

PSY 299.6

Special Topics

Offered occasionally by visiting faculty and in other special situations to cover, in depth, topics that are not thoroughly covered in regularly offered courses.

PSY 315.3 — offered in Term 1

Advanced Development I Social and Emotional

Introduces students to the theoretical foundations, research designs, and methods used to study social and emotional development. The course will involve lectures and a lab component. In the lab component, students will participate in a collaborative research project.

Formerly: PSY 314.

Prerequisite(s): Permission of the department and 12 credit units of 200-level Psychology including one of PSY 213, 214, or 216; and PSY 233 and 235 (or HLST 210).

PSY 316.3 — offered in Term 2

Advanced Development II Social and Emotional Research

Students will develop independent research projects designed to answer an empirical question in the domain of social and emotional development. Each student will be responsible (either individually or as a member of a small group) for designing a study, testing participants, analyzing data, and writing up a research report.

Formerly: PSY 314.

Prerequisite(s): Permission of the department and PSY 233, 234, 235 (or HLST 210), and 315.

PSY 317.3 — offered in Term 1

Cognitive Development I

Introduces students to an in-depth study of major content areas, theoretical orientations, and research methods which are necessary to advance knowledge in the study of cognitive development. Students will learn about the special features of the cognitive developmental perspective and will conduct research projects in the laboratory component of the course.

Formerly: PSY 314.

Prerequisite(s): Permission of the department and 12 credit units of 200-level psychology, including one of PSY 213, 214, or 216; and PSY 233 and 235 (or HLST 210).

PSY 318.3 — offered in Term 2

Cognitive Development II Research

Students will develop independent research projects designed to answer an empirical question in the domain of cognitive development. Each student will be responsible (either individually or as a member of a small group) for designing a study, testing participants, analyzing data, and writing up a research report.

Formerly: PSY 314.

Prerequisite(s): Permission of the department and PSY 233, 234, 235 (or HLST 210), and 317.

PSY 323.3 — offered in Term 1

Qualitative Study of Lives and Social Practices

Qualitative approaches to understanding lives and social practices will be introduced. Topics include: an overview of non-positivist epistemologies and methodologies and an introduction to methods such as narrative analysis, grounded theory, ethnography and discourse analysis.

Prerequisite(s): Permission of the department and 12 credit units of 200-level Psychology, including 3 credit units from Group 1; and PSY 233 and 235 (or HLST 210).

PSY 324.3 — offered in Term 2

Research in Qualitative Study of Lives and Social Practices

A research course linked to Qualitative Study of Lives and Social Practices (PSY 323). Students participate in the design, data collection, analysis and write up of one group research project. A variety of data gathering approaches (e.g. archival searches, interviewing, observational field work) and methods of analysis (e.g. thematic analysis, narrative analysis, grounded theory, ethnography, discourses analysis) are used.

Prerequisite(s): Permission of the department and PSY 233, 234, 235 (or HLST 210) and 323.

PSY 325.3 — offered in Term 1

Research Methods in Social Psychology

Students will be introduced to the variety of research methods used in social psychology through one or more content areas determined by the instructor (e.g., prejudice, discrimination, attitude change, interpersonal conflict, impression management, aggression, media violence, prosocial behaviour, conformity, group processes, attraction, applying social psychology to the law, workplace, health problems, etc.).

Formerly: PSY 321.

Prerequisite(s): Permission of the department and 12 credit units of 200-level psychology, including one of PSY 225 or 226; and PSY 233 and PSY 235 (or HLST 210).

PSY 326.3 — offered in Term 2

Observation, Interview and Questionnaire Methods in Social Psychological Research

Students will research social interactions using observation, interview and/or questionnaire methods. Within a full-semester research project (conducted individually or in small groups), students will choose a research question, review the relevant

literature, obtain ethical approval, design and conduct the study, analyze data and write a research report.

Formerly: PSY 321.

Prerequisite(s): Permission of the department and PSY 233, 234, 235 (or HLST 210) and 325.

PSY 328.3 — offered in Term 2 (not offered in 2017-2018)

The Experimental Method in Social Psychological Research: An Independent Project

Provides an opportunity to research social psychological phenomena using the experimental method. Within a full-semester research project (conducted individually or in small groups), students will choose a research question, review the relevant literature, obtain ethical approval, design and conduct the study, analyze data and write a research report

Formerly: PSY 321.

Prerequisite(s): Permission of the department and PSY 233, 234, 235 (or HLST 210) and 325.

PSY 347.3 — offered in Term 1

Advanced Human Neuropsychology

Introduces the student to the theoretical and methodological issues in the study of the structure and function of the human neocortex. The course will involve lectures, seminars, and a lab component in which a series of experiments will be carried out by the students.

Formerly: PSY 346.

Prerequisite(s): Permission of the department and 12 credit units of 200-level psychology, including one of PSY 242, 243 or 246; and PSY 233 and PSY 235 (or HLST 210).

PSY 348.3 — offered in Term 2

Research in Human Neuropsychology

A laboratory course concerned with the concepts, theories, and experimental investigation of the structures and functions of the human neocortex. The course will provide the students with the opportunity to conceptualize, design, and implement an independent research project to answer an empirical question related to experimental neuropsychology.

Formerly: PSY 346.

Prerequisite(s): Permission of the department and PSY 233, 234, 235 (or HLST 210), and 347.

PSY 355.3 — offered in Term 1

Research in Advanced Cognitive Science

This lecture and laboratory course exposes students to current theory and research methods in cognitive science. Students will be expected to review, design, conduct, analyze and report a series of class experiments. Topics may include perception, attention, memory, thinking, reasoning and problem solving.

Formerly: PSY 352.

Prerequisite(s): Permission of the department and 12 credit units of 200-level psychology, including one of PSY 252, 253, 255 or 256 and PSY 233 and PSY 235 (or HLST 210)

PSY 356.3 — offered in Term 2

Advanced Cognitive Science III Independent Research Projects

In this laboratory course students develop independent experimental research projects in some area of cognitive science. Each student (either individually or as a member of a small group) is responsible for designing a study, testing participants, analysing the data, and writing up a research report following American Psychological Association style conventions.

Formerly: PSY 352.

Prerequisite(s): Permission of the department and PSY 233, 234, 235 (or HLST 210) and one of PSY 353 or 355.

PSY 379.3

Washington Center Topics in Psychology

Covers topics in Psychology, offered by the Washington Center, Washington D.C. Possible topics include The Rationality and Psychology of Conflict, Violence, and War, Citizenship in a Multicultural Society, Forensic Psychology or other topics approved by the Department of Psychology.

Prerequisite(s): 60 credit units of university level study including 6 credit units senior PSY.

Note: Registration in this course is restricted to students selected for the Washington Center Term Abroad program.

PSY 398.3

Special Topics

Offered occasionally by visiting faculty and in other special situations to cover, in depth, topics that are not thoroughly covered in regularly offered courses.

PSY 399.6

Special Topics

Offered occasionally by visiting faculty and in other special situations to cover, in depth, topics that are not thoroughly covered in regularly offered courses.

PSY 410.3

Madness Mayhem and Mania: An Exploration of Mental Illness in Movies

The course is designed to expose students to a psychoanalytic way of understanding psychopathology and explore how mental illness is presented in the media. We will explore the psychoanalytic theory related to neurotic, borderline, and psychotic disorders and examine how these different categories of disorders are assessed, diagnosed, conceptualized, and treated. This will be done using case studies drawn from media with a specific focus on movies.

Prerequisite(s): PSY 222 or 223; and 6 credit units of 300-level PSY classes; and permission of the department.

PSY 418.3

Advanced Seminar in Developmental Psychology

An advanced seminar focussed on theoretical and empirical analyses of human development. A set of original research articles covering diverse areas of developmental psychology (e.g., behavioural genetics, development and psychopathology, cognitive development, social development, aging) will be assigned, read, and discussed by the class.

Prerequisite(s): Permission of the department and 6 credit units from PSY 213, 214, 216, 315, 317.

PSY 423.3

Disability Discourses and Social Practices

The goals of this Seminar course are two-fold: first, to provide knowledge about the interconnections between disability, discourses and social practices; second to provide students with the opportunity to pursue an issue of interest to them and to share their discoveries, thoughts and questions regarding this issue with their classmates. The course invites students to examine how cultural interpretations interact with biology or psychophysiology and social interactions to produce distinctive forms of disability.

Prerequisite(s): Permission of the department and 6 credit units of 300-level Psychology.

Note: Students who took PSY 498.3 Disability, Discourses and Social Practices may not take this course for credit. The course endorses a multidisciplinary perspective. Materials from the fields of disability studies, anthropology, psychology, history, philosophy, psychiatry, literature, law and ethics are examined to provide an interdisciplinary perspective on disability.

PSY 425.3

Advanced Group Dynamics and Intergroup Relations

Designed to give the student an in-depth knowledge of the social psychology of group dynamics and intergroup relations. Therefore, the course covers both the major theories and research in this area. Students will study important contemporary primary source articles. They will also give in-class presentations on selected topic areas. The course is designed to allow students to study this topic at an advanced level.

Formerly: PSY 420.

Prerequisite(s): Permission of the department and PSY 225 and one of PSY 226, 323 or 325.

PSY 426.3

Advanced Seminar in Intrapersonal and Interpersonal Processes

This advanced seminar examines social psychological phenomena internal to the individual, such as social cognition, motivation, emotion, the self, and attitudes and attitude change. It also considers issues associated with relations between individuals such as altruism, aggression, affiliation and social influence processes.

Formerly: PSY 420.

Prerequisite(s): Permission of the department and PSY 226 and one of 225, 323 or 325.

PSY 427.3

Sexual Minority Issues in Social Psychology

The purpose of Psychology 427.3 is to examine sociocultural representations of sexual minorities (in particular, gay men and lesbian women) from the late 1950s to the present day. Students will be exposed to a number of cultural artefacts (e.g., articles from peer-reviewed scientific journals, short stories, and films) and will be required to critically examine the ways in which these media represent sexual minorities. Of particular importance are the differences that emerge over time (i.e., how does the empirical discourse surrounding lesbian women during the 1960s, for example, differ from representations of lesbian women during the 1990s?).

Prerequisite(s): PSY 227; and 6 credit units of ANTH, PSY, SOC, or WGST courses at the 200-level or above; and permission of the department.

Note: Students with credit for PSY 498.3: Sexual Minority Issues in Social Psychology may not take this course for credit.

PSY 448.3

Advanced Seminar in Neuroscience

Using a seminar format, this course will survey selected topics in neuroscience. The topics covered may include neuropsychopharmacology, the neural bases of: memory, language, emotion, attention, consciousness, plasticity phenomena, spatial abilities; or other topics of interest to the faculty and students.

Formerly: PSY 440.

Prerequisite(s): Permission of the department and 6 credit units from PSY 242, 243, 246, 343, 347.

PSY 456.3

Advanced Seminar in Cognitive Science

An advanced seminar focussed on theoretical and experimental analyses of human perception, cognition, and performance. A set of original research articles covering diverse areas of cognitive science (e.g., basic perception, memory, language comprehension, human reasoning) will be assigned, read, and discussed by the class.

Prerequisite(s): Permission of the department and 6 credit units from PSY 252, 253, 255, 256, 353, 355.

PSY 472.6

B. A. Honours Thesis

Students will carry out a major project under the supervision of a faculty member, and report the project in the form of an honours thesis. The project will usually involve empirical research.

Prerequisite(s): Students must be enrolled in the Honours program or have written permission of the department and at least one 3 credit unit 300-level PSY A and one 3 credit unit 300-level PSY B course.

PSY 473.6

B. Sc. Honours Thesis

Students will complete an honours thesis research project with a faculty member, on a topic that falls clearly within Natural Science (see Calendar under Psychology for a complete listing of the courses and areas of Psychology that are in Group 2: Natural Science).

Prerequisite(s): Students must be enrolled in the Honours program or have written permission of the department and at least one 3 credit unit 300-level PSY A and one 3 credit unit 300-level PSY B course.

PSY 480.3

Aboriginal Mental Health and Illness – SEE ANTH 480.3

PSY 498.3

Special Topics

Offered occasionally by visiting faculty and in other special situations to cover, in depth, topics that are not thoroughly covered in regularly offered courses.

PSY 499.6

Special Topics

Offered occasionally by visiting faculty and in other special situations to cover, in depth, topics that are not thoroughly covered in regularly offered courses.

3. Planning Your Degree and Fulfilling Your Degree Requirements

In this section, information relevant to selecting your degree, courses, and planning your course sequence is provided. It is important to **plan ahead, and keep your options open**; all senior courses have prerequisites; therefore, some forethought is required when planning your schedule.

Choosing a degree program type will depend on your future career plans and your interest level. For example, students interested in graduate training in cognitive science and neuroscience will benefit from a better background in basic science. In fact, some universities' neuroscience graduate programs expect their incoming students to have a BSc, or more math and science training. Those students who are interested in pursuing graduate training in these areas are advised to contact the Psychology faculty member doing natural science research that the student is interested in, and to apply to the BSc Honours program.

The BA 3-year degree is designed to offer a general sampling of psychology. There are a sufficient number of courses available to pursue an area of interest in some depth; although there is not much opportunity for taking courses at the senior level (i.e., research- and seminar-based courses). This degree is suitable for students who are pursuing further training and education in professional fields such as Law, Education or Social Work.

The BA or BSc 4-year degree affords more breadth as well as more depth. In addition to Psychology 120/121, students are required to take between 30 and 54 additional credit units in psychology. Of these, there is opportunity to study the social, cultural, and environmental influences on behaviour and the cognitive, neuropsychological, and biological influences on behaviour.. In addition, students are exposed to research methods and statistics courses, and research based courses at the 300 level.

The BA or BSc Honours Degree is especially tailored for students interested in pursuing graduate studies in psychology. Of the five programs, the Honours program requires the most in terms of both breadth and depth. The emphasis is on learning to be a producer, as well as a consumer of knowledge; hence, there is a heavy emphasis on research- and seminar-based courses, with many requirements at the senior level.

To be eligible to apply to Psychology Honours, students must have:

- completed 60 credit units
- a minimum 70% CWA and a minimum 78% CWA in Psychology
- completed a 300 level A and 300 level B course (refer to course sequencing flow chart)
- letter of intent which indicates fulfillment of academic requirements and a signature of thesis supervisor

Note: Students interested in pursuing an Honours program are encouraged to meet with the Psychology advisor before selecting 2nd year classes; however, prospective Honours students are not eligible to apply to the Honours program until completion of the Psy 300 level classes which typically occurs at the end of their third year.

Fulfilling Your Degree Requirements

BA PSY Requirements

- B1** 12 c.u. Social Sciences
- B2** 6 c.u. Humanities
- B3** 6 c.u. Sciences
- B4** 6 c.u. Languages
- B5** 6 c.u. General
- B6** Senior Courses in Major
- B7** Arts & Science Electives

BSc PSY Requirements

- C1** 15-18 c.u. Sciences
- C2** 6 c.u. Humanities (Writing)
- C3** 6 c.u. Social Sciences
- C4** 6 c.u. Math/Stats
- C5** 6 c.u. General
- C6** Senior Courses in Major
- C7** Arts & Science Electives

Requirements #1 through #5 are called Distribution Requirements. Distribution requirements expose students to all areas considered important in a liberal arts education. Whether you are pursuing the B.A. or B.Sc. degree, you must complete a variety of courses outside of your specialization. Many first year students choose to take a mix of distribution requirements to help them narrow down areas of interest for their major. When choosing your distribution requirements there are a couple of restrictions to keep in mind:

For each of the Requirements 1 to 5, students must choose from a list of acceptable courses to fulfill the required number of credit units. For the full list of acceptable courses for each Program Type, go to the Course and Program Catalogue and select the Academic Information & Policies tab to view the B.A. and B.Sc. Degree Requirements <http://www.usask.ca/programs/colleges-schools/arts-science/psychology/index.php>

NOTE:

- Many majors will list specific courses that must be completed within the distribution requirements, so always consult the Course and Program Catalogue.
- No course may be used simultaneously in two or more of the Requirements 1 to 5. For example, if FREN 122.3 and FREN 125.3 are used to fulfill the Language requirement, they may not be used to fulfil the Humanities requirement as well.
- No more than 6 credit units from one subject may be used in Requirements 1 - 4 in Program Types A, B, D, or in Requirements 1 - 5 of Program Type C. For example, if ENG 110.6 is used in the Language Requirement, no other course in English may be used in the Humanities Requirement.

Requirement #6 refers to the senior (200-level and higher) courses required in your major. Normally students cannot take senior level courses until they have completed the 100 level prerequisites or a minimum number of university credits; however, Psychology students are able to register in 200 level Psychology courses in the 2nd term of their first year (refer to 2.B.3 for course expectations). Please note that for B.A. programs there are a maximum number of courses that you can take in any one subject. For a Four-year or Honours degree it is 60 credit units and for a Three-year degree it is 42 credit units

Requirement #7 refers to your electives. These are courses you choose because of interest or because they will strengthen your understanding of your major. Some departments require you to take certain electives (cognate courses) as part of your degree requirements. Electives may also be used to complete a Certificate of Proficiency, minor in another subject, receive recognition in a language, or meet admission requirements for another college.

* Note, most degrees in Arts & Science are structured around these 7 requirement areas; however, there are exceptions.

In the BA 3-year and BA 4-year program, there is a minimum senior credit unit requirement for the total number of credits towards your degree. For the BA3Y, students must complete 42cu at the 200-level or above. BA4Y and HON students must complete 66cu at the 200-level or above. Keep this in mind when choosing electives.

4. Psychology Program Q&A

In what order should I take my classes?

Year 1:

- Psy 120.3 and Psy 121.3
- Distribution requirements

Year 2:

- Psy 233.3, Psy 234.3, Psy 235.3 (pre-requisites for 300 level courses)
- 6cu Group 1
- 6cu Group 2
- Distribution requirements

NOTE: The Psychology 300 level courses have specific 200 level prerequisites. In order to progress to the 300 level courses, selection of Group 1 and 2 200 level courses should be carefully considered,.

Year 3:

- 6cu Psy 300 level (4 year BA)
- 9cu Psy 300 level (4 year BSc and BA Honours and BSc Honours)
- Psychology and distribution requirements.

Year 4:

- Psychology and other degree requirements

How do I find out more about a course I am interested in?

- Consult the University Course and Program Catalogue (<http://www.usask.ca/programs/index.php>)
- Consult with an Undergraduate Advisor (psychology.advising@usask.ca)
- Ask the instructor. Professors are usually more than willing to answer questions and provide information.
- Ask other students (undergraduates or graduates)

What should I expect from:

100-level PSY courses?

- A general overview of the phenomena, theories, and empirical methods in psychology.

200-level PSY courses?

- A more in depth view of a particular area of psychology.
- Courses range from socio-cultural influences on behaviour, human development, forensic and abnormal psychology, cognitive processes (including perception, memory, and attention), evolutionary perspectives on behaviour, and the neural basis of behaviour.
- Material is primarily lecture based, although this varies from instructor to instructor
- A term paper, and/or written assignments, a mid-term exam, and a final exam; additional assignments are often also required

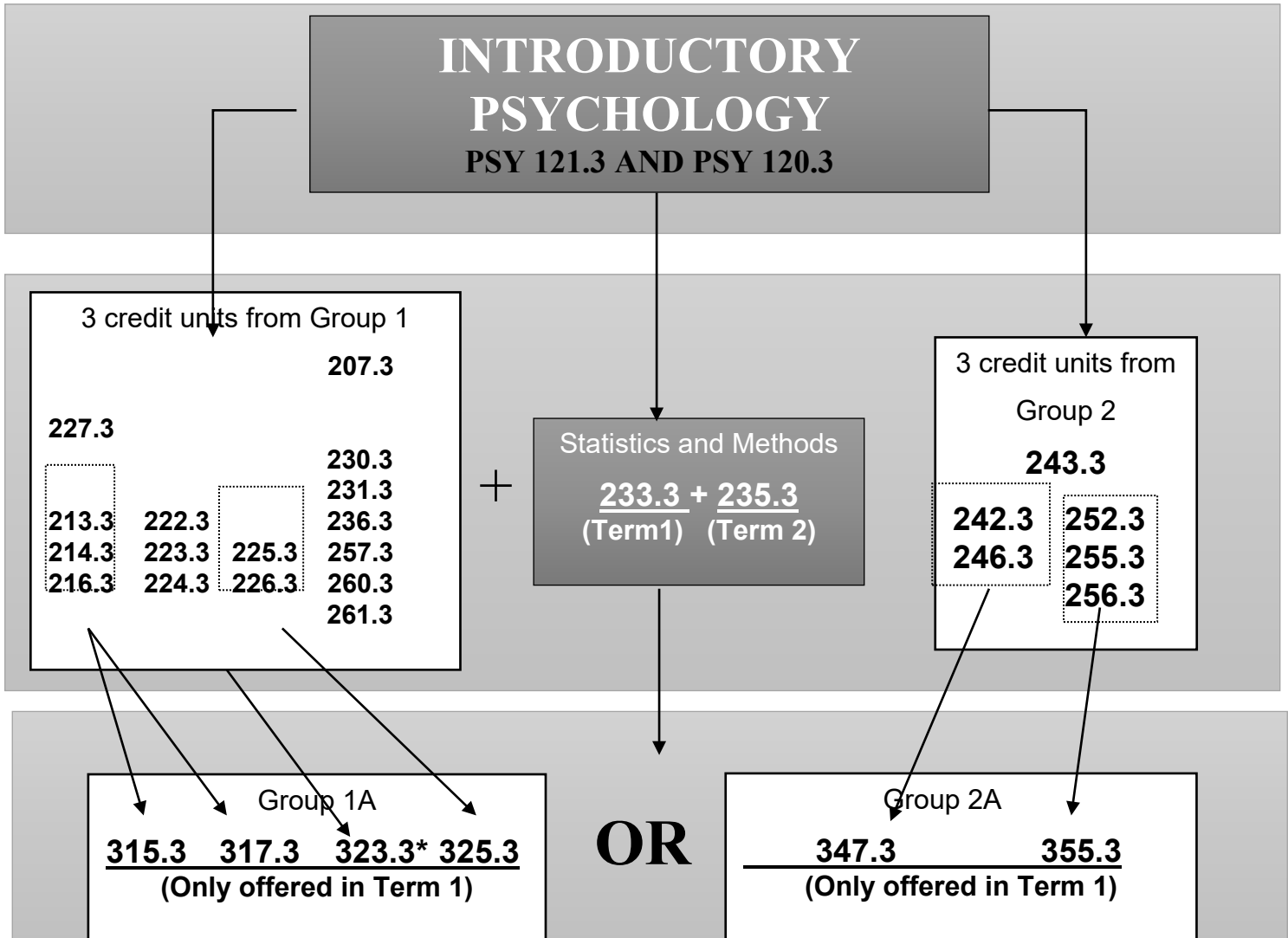
300-level PSY courses?

- A research-based focus
- Training in research methodology appropriate to the content of the course
- The *odd-numbered* courses are designed to teach students the basic elements of doing research in a particular subject area. These are activity-based courses, and students can expect to take part in two or three class projects during the term. Students will be expected to write APA-style reports based on these projects; these courses also have a final exam. Additional activities, such as seminar presentations and discussions, are also often required.
- The *even-numbered* courses afford students the opportunity to engage in independent research. In these courses, students are responsible for researching, designing, executing, analysing, and writing up the results of a study. Students are able to explore in depth an area of psychology that interests them; these courses are also excellent preparation for an Honours thesis. Consequently, it is recommended that you take these courses in your 3RD year, prior to embarking on your Honours project.

400-level PSY courses?

- These courses are typically offered as seminar courses.
- The course material is often focussed to offer an in-depth view of an issue, or set of related issues in psychology.
- Students are expected to contribute actively to the class by participating in class discussions, preparing seminars, leading discussions, etc.
- At this level, students are expected to be relatively autonomous, and to be capable of reading, learning, and thinking independently.

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN PSYCHOLOGY (3 YEAR)



* = any 3 cu from Group 1 + 9cu additional 200=level PSY

A = mandatory prerequisites

NOTES: An additional

- 9 credit units of Psychology courses are required
- 12 credit units of additional Psychology courses may be taken

90 credit units of courses are required for the degree.
 30 credit units of Psychology courses are required (up to 42 cu permitted).
 48 credit units of courses outside of Psychology are required including B1 to B5 distribution requirements.
 42 credit units of senior-level courses (200-level or above) are required for this degree.

Arrows indicate prerequisites for subsequent courses

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN PSYCHOLOGY (4 YEAR)

INTRODUCTORY PSYCHOLOGY PSY 121.3 AND PSY 120.3

6 credit units from Group 1

			207.3
			227.3
			230.3
			231.3
213.3	222.3		236.3
214.3	223.3	225.3	257.3
216.3	224.3	226.3	260.3
			261.3

Statistics and Methods

$\frac{233.3}{\text{(Term 1)}} + \frac{234.3 + 235.3}{\text{(Term 2)}}$

6 credit units from
Group 2

243.3

242.3	252.3
246.3	255.3
	256.3

Group 1A

315.3 317.3 323.3* 325.3
(Only offered in Term 1)

+ / OR

Group 2A

347.3 355.3
(Only offered in Term 1)

Group 1B

316.3 318.3 324.3 326.3
(Only offered in Term 2) 328.3

Group 2B

348.3 356.3
(Only offered in Term 2)

Choose 6 credit units from the following categories so as to take courses from one of the combinations of 1A and 2A; or 1A and 1B; or 2A and 2B:

* = any 3 cu from Group 1A +
9cu additional 200-level PSY

A = mandatory prerequisites

NOTES: An additional

- 3 credit units of 400-level Psychology courses are required
- 24 credit units of additional Psychology courses may be taken

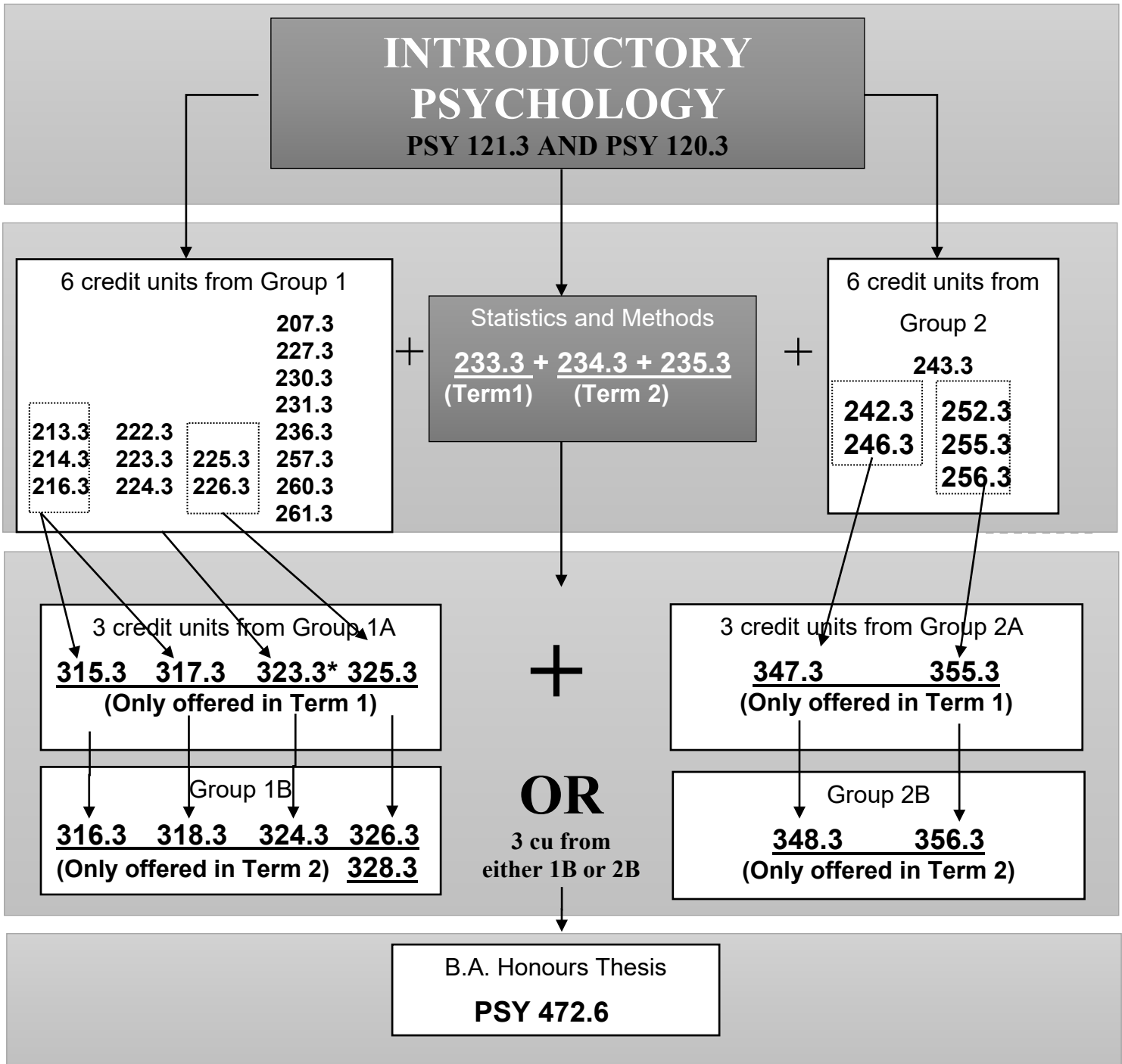
120 credit units of courses are required for the degree.

36 credit units of Psychology courses are required (up to 60 cu permitted).

60 credit units of courses outside of Psychology are required including B1 to B5 distribution requirements.

66 credit units of senior level courses (200-level or above) are required for this degree.

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN PSYCHOLOGY (HONOURS)



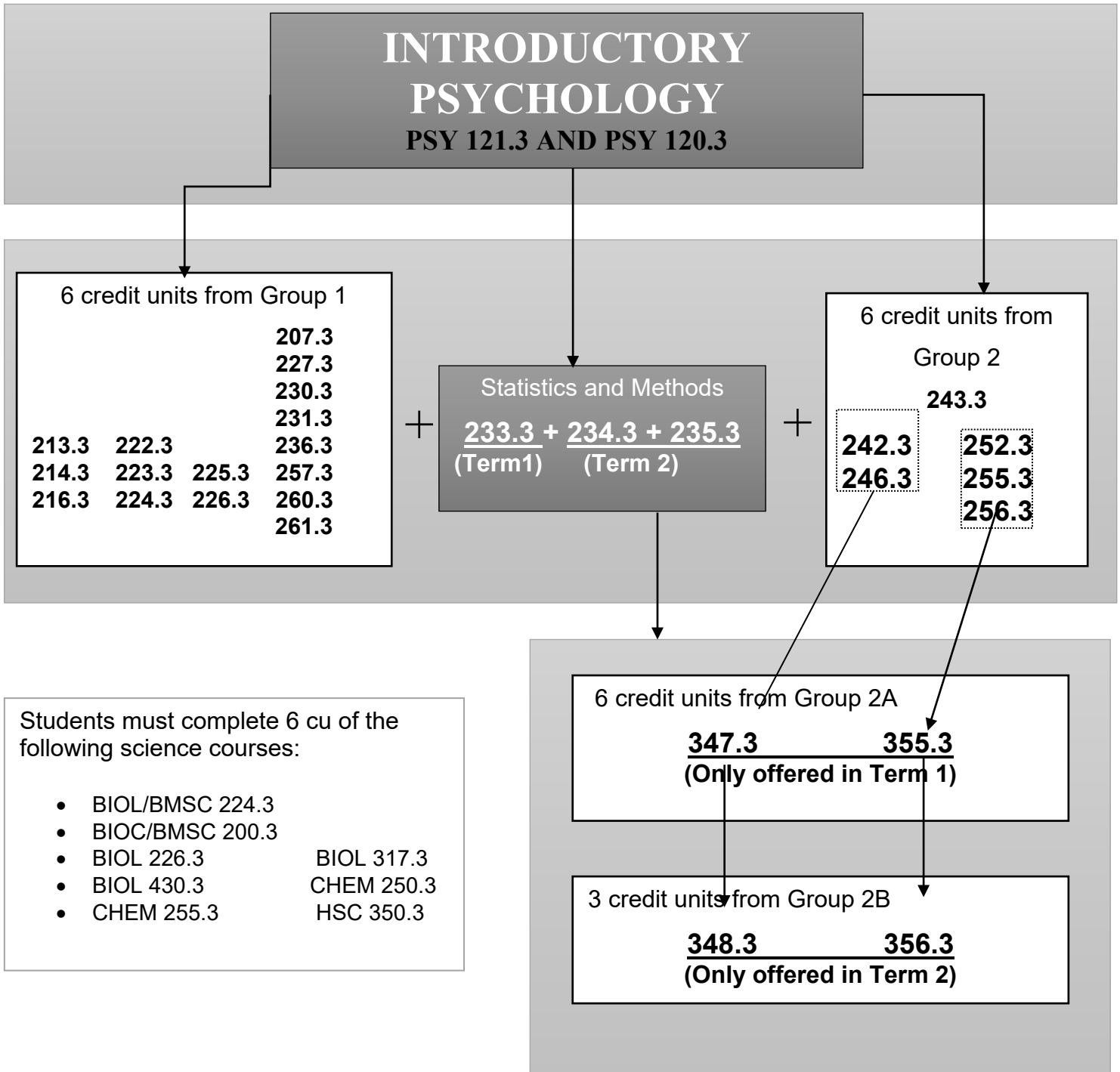
* = any 3 cu from Group 1A + 9cu additional 200-level PSY **A** = mandatory prerequisites

NOTES: An additional

- 12 credit units of Psychology courses are required
- 6 credit units of 400-level Psychology seminar required

120 credit units of courses are required for the degree.
 60 credit units of Psychology courses are required.
 60 credit units of courses outside of Psychology are required including B1 to B5 distribution requirements
 66 credit units of senior level classes (200-level or above) are required for this degree.

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN PSYCHOLOGY (4 YEAR)



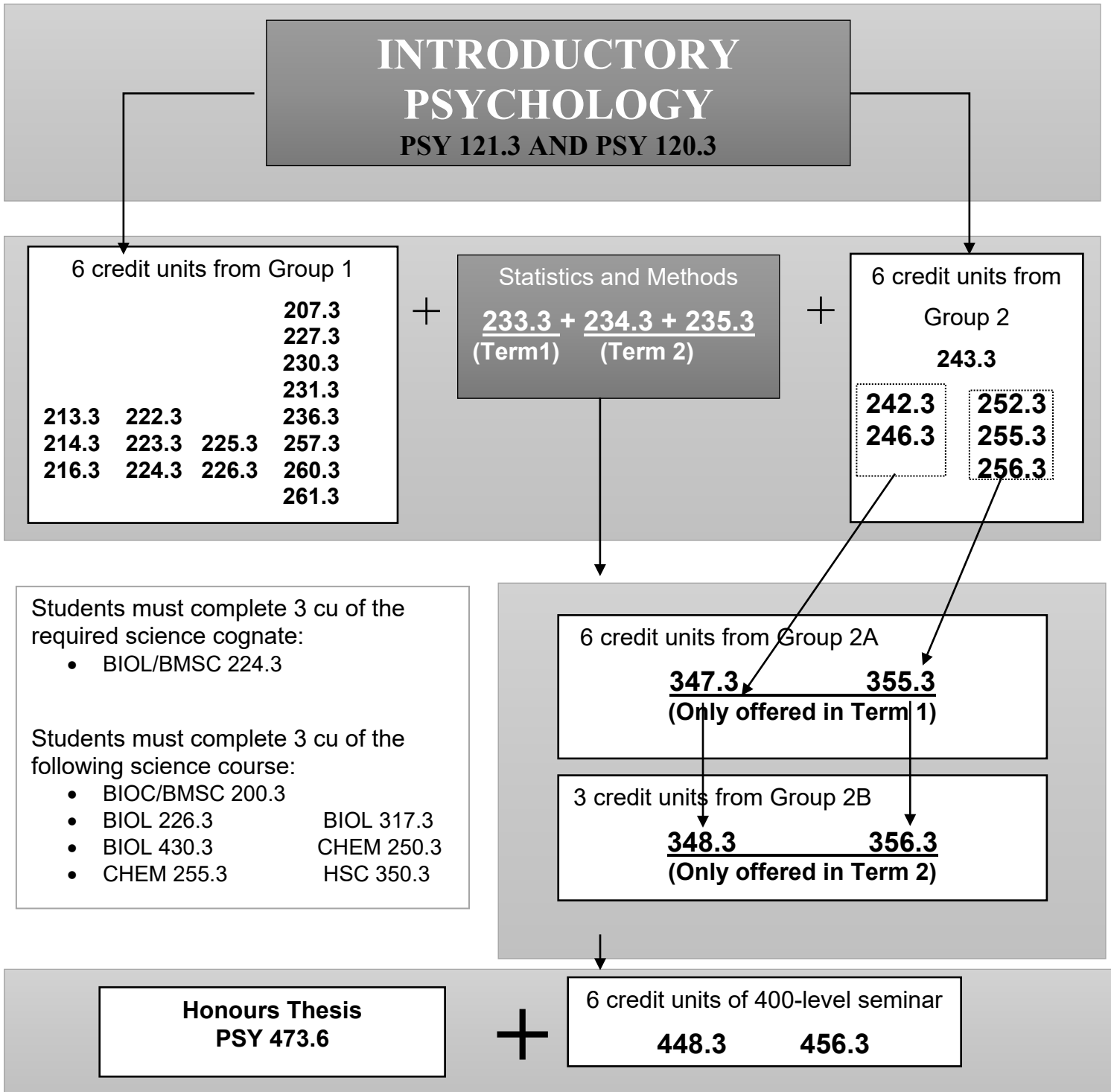
NOTES:

A = mandatory prerequisites

- An additional 6cu group 2 courses are required.
- An additional 3cu 400-level Psychology courses are required.
- An additional 3cu other Psychology courses are required.

120 credit units of courses are required for the degree.
 48 credit units of Psychology courses are required.
 60 credit units of courses outside of Psychology are required, including C1 to C5 Distribution Requirements
 66 credit units of senior level courses (200-level or above) are required for this degree.

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN PSYCHOLOGY (HON)



A = mandatory prerequisites

- An additional 6cu group 2 courses required
- An additional 6cu other Psychology courses are required.

120 credit units of courses are required for the degree.
 60 credit units of Psychology courses are required.
 60 credit units of courses outside of Psychology are required, including C1 to C5 Distribution Requirements
 66 credit units at the senior level (200-level or above) are required for this degree.

3. Advice from Students (Words of Wisdom)

Talk to Your Professors

Professors are an important part of your university experience. Feeling comfortable with your professors allows you to communicate any difficulties that you may have in their class. This can lead to improved academic success and increased enjoyment of the material.

Get Involved In Research

Research is an important part of the psychology undergraduate experience, especially if you plan to continue your studies into graduate school. Not only does it increase your knowledge of psychology, but you will be able to see the theoretical knowledge that you learn in class be demonstrated in applied settings.

These accomplishments look quite impressive when applying for scholarships and for graduate school.

Get Involved...

Besides joining research teams, there are benefits to volunteering with other organizations. Any volunteer experience will contribute to your curriculum vitae (academic resume) and graduate school applications.

The Saskatoon Psychology Students' Society (SPSS) is a great academic and social organization that provides support and entertainment as well as resources for the undergraduate student body. There are two ways to get involved with this organization. First, students can become members of the SPSS. This entitles students to academic resources, such as the PSY exam file, APA manuals, textbooks, GRE prep and graduate school advice. Also, many events are organized throughout the year especially for members, such as pub crawls, steak nights, and a graduation banquet at the end of the year, which are great ways to meet people. Therefore, not only is the SPSS a great academic organization, but it is also a social organization. The second way to be involved with the SPSS is to become an executive member. There are seven positions: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Academic Affairs Executive, Social Director, Fund-Raising and Graduation Executive, Communications and Administration Executive, and Merchandising Executive. The executive is involved in planning all the events of the year. It is not only an exciting and fun society to be involved with, but being an executive member also looks great on your resume (or curriculum vitae). Whether you're a member or an executive member, there are many benefits, both academic and social, to being involved with the society.

"Always ask, especially when not sure." - 5th year student

"Plan ahead! – look at what classes you want to take in your later years and work backwards." – 4th year student

"If you want to go to grad school, start planning early." - 4th year student

"Find out what it takes [to get into grad school] and if you don't have what it takes look at other options". - 4th year student

"Join the SPSS!" - 4th year student

"Don't base your opinion of psychology on PSY 120+121." - 4th year student.

"Get to know your professors; they can be cool." - 4th year student

"Don't underestimate the power of advising!" - 4th year student

"The lab classes require a lot of work, but are much more interesting and practical than first and second year classes." - 3rd year student

"Save the text books from your second year classes for your lab class. Most lab classes don't require a text, and old texts serve as useful references." - 4th year student