

Psychology Associate of Arts Degree

East Central College

Admissions Office

Division

Program Faculty

East Central College is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and a participant in the Academic Quality Improvement Program (AQIP). 30 N. LaSalle St., Suite 2400 Chicago, Illinois 60602-2504 1 (800) 621-7440

THE CAREER

Psychology is a rich and diverse scientific field of study. The discipline examines two important relationships: one between brain function and behavior, and one between the environment and behavior.

Individuals who pursue careers in psychology may conduct behavior research, serve as consultants to communities or organizations, or diagnose and treat people with mental health problems. They may assess personality, intelligence, mental health and well-being.

The field brings important knowledge and skills to understand diverse cultures. The study of psychology is also good preparation for many other professions. Many employers are interested in the knowledge and skills that psychology majors bring to the workplace.

Professional Traits

Those pursuing a career in psychology should:

- Be active listeners
- · Anticipate and prevent problems
- Have excellent written and oral communication abilities
- Be mature, empathetic and possess high ethical

EMPLOYMENT & SALARY INFORMATION

To be a practicing psychologist, most state laws require professionals to hold a postbaccalaureate degree (specialist, master's or doctorate). They must also be licensed or certified by an official accrediting organization such as the American Board of Professional Psychology

The number of psychologist jobs is expected to increase by 12 pecent by 2022, per the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The median annual salary for psychologists was \$69,280 as of May 2012. The two primary fields and their median annual earnings were:

Industrial-Organizational Psychologists: \$83,580 Clinical, Counseling and School Psychologists \$67,650

Admission Requirements

To enter the program, students must have completed:

- ✓ High school diploma or the equivalent (documentation must be sent to the registration office)
- ✓ Application for admission
- ✓ A placement test as specified by the college (please note: some coursework requires minimum placement results)

GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

East Central College requires each transfer student complete a 42 hour general education block. General education at ECC is organized around the institution's common learning objectives and coursework. A student is required to demonstrate skills in each of the following three areas:

Communicating (COM):

Improve written and oral communication skills; adapt and apply communication to academic and professional purposes, audiences and contexts; demonstrate the use of technology to analyze and communicate information; and use active listening and reading skills.

- Creative/Critical Thinking (CCT): Improve the application of relevant knowledge and theory to new ideas, positions or solutions; assess and analyze concepts and data; formulate meaningful questions; and interpret and evaluate evidence and arguments.
- **Ethics and Social Responsibility (ESR):** Develop cross cultural awareness and an understanding of global interconnectedness; apply multiple worldviews, analyze ethical choices and consequences; and understand the core values and accountability of citizenship in a democratic society.

THE PROGRAM

ECC students who earn their Associate of Arts degree in Psychology are prepared to enter an undergraduate major leading to further training and careers in this discipline. Through the psychology program, available at both the Union campus and Rolla site, students obtain quality instruction from faculty with varied and extensive work experience in the field.

Students have several course options and electives available. Assuming appropriate placement scores, psychology is a two-year degree, with flexibility to customize the program toward the student's chosen career.

This academic plan consists of the 42-credit hour general education core required of all transfer degrees plus the necessary electives in psychology and the other social sciences. In addition, ECC provides various student activities, organizations and practicum experiences related to the discipline.

Transfer Options

This curriculum is intended for students planning to transfer to a four-year institution. Many of the credits, particularly the general education electives earned with this degree, are accepted as transfer credits by four-year colleges and universities. These decisions are made solely by the bachelor degree-granting institution.

Students seeking to transfer should communicate often with their faculty advisors and the East Central College transfer advisor. They should also make early contact with the four-year institution of their choice regarding the transferability of ECC credits and coursework.

PROGRAM OF STUDY

AA: 60 credit hours

This program of study is for a full-time student; part-time study is also available. Please contact an academic advisor for full course options. All academic schedules are subject to change. For the most current schedule, visit www.eastcentral.edu.

Hours

YEAR 1

FALL SEMESTER

Course		Hours
FS 1000/ FS 1001	Campus Orientation/ Foundation Seminar	1
EN 1223 EN 1233	English Comp I or Honors English Comp I	3
PY 1103	General Psychology	3
	Oral Communications or Public Speaking	3
MT 1403	College Algebra	3
	Total Hours	13

SPRING SEMESTER

Course

		1100115
EN 1333/ EN 1343	English Comp II or Honors English Comp II	3
SC 1000	Laboratory Safety for Students	0
	Science Elective Lecture/Lab **	5
	Ethics and Social Responsibility Elective	3
	Program Elective*	3
	Program Elective*	3
	Total Hours	17

SUMMER SEMESTER

Course		Hours
HI 1000/ PS 1000	Constitutions Study Module	0
	History or Government Requirement	3
	Total Hours	3

^{**} Science Elective: Only one must have a lab and SC 1000 for a total of five credit hours. Check with your advisor for degree specific recommendations.

YEAR 2

FALL SEMESTER

Course		Hours
	Science Elective Lecture**	3
	Ethics and Social Responsibility Elective: Ethics	3
	Communication Elective	3
	Program Elective*	3
	Total Hours	12

SPRING SEMESTER

Course		Hours
	Ethics and Social Responsibility Elective: Diversity	3
	Ethics and Social Responsibility Elective	3
	Creative and Critical Thinking Elective	3
	Program Elective*	3
	Program Elective*	3
	Total Hours	15

* Program Electives:

PY 2103	Personal and Social Adjustments
PY 2203	Child Psychology
PY 2213	Abnormal Psychology
PY 2303	Social Psychology
PY 2403	Human Development
PY 2503	Adolescent Psychology
MT 2103	Statistics