# PSYCHOLOGY, BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (BS) / PRE-PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT (SRU) (3+2)

## PSYCHOLOGY, BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (BS) / PRE-PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT (SRU) (3+2)

The Psychology Pre-Physician Assistant program provides a base of scientific knowledge and skills for understanding human behavior and functioning, while also preparing students for careers as physician assistants. Student learn foundations of psychological processes, including interpersonal, developmental, cognitive, and emotional, with an emphasis on the neurobiological bases of behavior. The program includes coursework that will prepare students to apply to Master of Physician Assistant Studies programs at SRU.

## Program Learning Outcomes

1. **Knowledge Base in Psychology:** Students should demonstrate fundamental knowledge and comprehension in the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, historical trends, and empirical findings to discuss how psychological principles are applied. a. UG 2: Apply critical thinking to argument and problem solving, b. UG 3: Develop Scientific Literacy
2. **Scientific Inquiry and Critical Thinking:** The skills in this domain involve the development of scientific reasoning and problem-solving, including effective research methods. a. UG 2: Apply critical thinking to argument and problem solving, b. UG 3: Develop Scientific Literacy, c. UG 4: Apply quantitative reasoning in appropriate contexts
3. **Ethical and Social Responsibility in a Diverse World:** The skills in this domain involve the development of ethically and socially responsible behaviors for professional and personal settings in a landscape that involves increasing diversity. a. UG 9: Develop a worldview that acknowledges diversity and global independence
4. **Writing Competency:** Students should demonstrate competence in writing skills. a. UG 1: Act as effective communicators
5. **Professional Development:** Students should be able to express themselves effectively in written and oral communication. a. UG 5: Develop as a whole person, b. UG 7: Become civically engaged, c. UG 8: Act ethically

## What are your options?

**Pre-Physician Assistant SRU 3+2:** Earn a Master of Science degree in Physician Assistant Studies in five years rather than six. In the first three years, you complete your major courses and prerequisites for the SRU PA program. At the end of your second year, you apply for admission into the SRU PA program. If accepted, your first year in the SRU PA program meets the remaining requirements for your undergraduate degree. If not accepted, you continue to complete your undergraduate degree and can reapply to the program. The accelerated option is for incoming freshmen only.

**Pre-Physician Assistant (SRU Traditional):** Complete the requirements for your major and the prerequisites for the SRU PA program and apply to the SRU PA program in your senior year.

## Academic Policies for Students in the psychology pre-physician assistant (3+2) Program

Students are required to maintain a minimum Psychology GPA of 3.25 Overall and 2.5 in Psychology in order to retain a declared major. Students are required to earn a grade of C or higher in Introduction to Psychology (PSYC 105) in order to take all other Psychology courses. Students are required to earn a grade of C or higher in Psychological Science I: Research Methods (PSYC 231) and Psychological Science II: Statistical Applications (PSYC 232) in order to progress in the program. Per university policy, students may retake any given class up to *two* times in order to bring up their grade, and the university allows up to *six* repeats total (https://catalog.sru.edu/academic-policies/repeat-of-courses/).

## Related Links

Psychology - Pre-Physician Assistant, BS Program Page (https://www.sru.edu/academics/majors-and-minors/psychology-pre-physician-assistant/)

Professional Licensure/Certification Page (https://www.sru.edu/students/student-consumer-information/professional-licensures/)

## Curriculum Guide

### GPA Requirement

**1st Major: Psychology**

- Overall GPA: 2.00 or higher
- Major GPA (only includes Psychology courses): 2.50 or higher

**2nd Major: Pre-PA SRU 3+2 Psychology**

- Overall GPA: 3.00 or higher (before Fall 2018)
- Overall GPA: 3.25 or higher (Fall 2018 and after)

### Summary*

| Code | Title | Hours |
|---|---|---|
| Rock Studies 2 Requirements | | 44 |
| Writing Competency Requirements | | |
| Major Requirements | | 34-35 |
| Electives | | 42 |

* All undergraduate degree programs require a minimum of 120 credits. Some courses meet multiple requirements, but are only counted once toward the 120 credit total required to graduate. However, because this is a pre-professional program, credits taken during the 1st year of the graduate program are applied toward the undergraduate credit hours to meet the 120 credits required for your undergraduate degree.

### Rock Studies 2 Requirements

| Code | Title | Hours |
|---|---|---|
| **The Rock** | | |
| SUBJ 139 | Foundations of Academic Discovery [1] | 3 |
| ENGL 102 | Critical Writing | 3 |
| ENGL 104 | Critical Reading | 3 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| STAT 152 | Elementary Statistics | 3 |
| Select one of the following: | | 3 |
| COMM 200 | Civil Discourse: Theory & Practice | |
| PHIL 110 | Ethics and Civil Discourse | |
| POLI 235 | Civil Discourse and Democracy | |
| Subtotal | | 15 |
| **Integrated Inquiry** | | |
| *Creative and Aesthetic Inquiry* | | |
| Select 3 Credits (https://catalog.sru.edu/undergraduate/rock-studies/rock-studies-program/) | | 3 |
| *Humanities Inquiry* | | |
| Select 3 Credits (https://catalog.sru.edu/undergraduate/rock-studies/rock-studies-program/) | | 3 |
| *Social Science Inquiry* | | |
| Select 3 Credits (https://catalog.sru.edu/undergraduate/rock-studies/rock-studies-program/) | | 3 |
| *Physical & Natural Sciences Inquiry* | | |
| BIOL 114 | Biology II: Foundations of Molecules, Genes and Cells with Lab | 4 |
| CHEM 107 & CHEM 111 | General Chemistry I and General Chemistry I Lab | 4 |
| Subtotal | | 17 |
| **Thematic Thread** | | |
| Select 12 Credits (https://catalog.sru.edu/undergraduate/rock-studies/rock-studies-program/) [2] | | 12 |
| **Total Hours** | | **44** |

[1] Course offered in multiple subjects; cannot take course in first major subject.

[2] One course from each category; six credits must be 300-level or above; no more than 4 credits from one subject area; specific courses required in first major, regardless of prefix of course, cannot be used to satisfy thread requirements; any course with same prefix as first major cannot be used to satisfy thread requirements, even if it is not a course in the first major.

## DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION REQUIREMENT

Students must take and pass a course with the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) designation prior to graduation. Students can meet this requirement by taking any DEI - designated course in any program at any time during their undergraduate career.

## Major Requirements

- All Psychology Required courses, except PSYC 105, and Professional Competency must be taken at SRU.
- If Psychology Electives are transferred in, only grades of A and B will transfer
- If you choose to pursue Pre-Physician Assistant SRU 3+2 Psychology and are not accepted into the PA program, then additional coursework is required to complete a first major of Psychology. Please refer to the Psychology BS Curriculum Guide

| Code | Title | Hours |
|---|---|---|
| **Psychology Required Courses (Grade of A or B required) [1]** | | |
| PSYC 105 | Introduction to Psychology | 3 |
| PSYC 231 | Psychological Science I: Research Methods | 3 |
| PSYC 232 | Psychological Science II: Statistical Applications | 3 |
| PSYC 244 | Developmental Psychology | 3 |
| PSYC 276 | Introduction to Abnormal Psychology | 3 |
| PSYC 311 | Introduction to Behavioral Neuroscience | 4 |
| Subtotal | | 19 |
| **Psychology Elective Diversity [1]** | | |
| Select one of the following: | | 3 |
| PSYC 300 | Psychology of Women, Gender and Culture | |
| PSYC 315 | Psychology of Sexual and Gender Diversity | |
| PSYC 392 | Cross Cultural Psychology | |
| **Psychology Elective Applied [1]** | | |
| Select one of the following: | | 3 |
| PSYC 304 | Theories of Counseling | |
| PSYC 306 | Introduction to Psychological Testing | |
| PSYC 318 | Psychopathology of Childhood and Adolescence | |
| PSYC 320 | Introduction to Clinical Psychology | |
| PSYC 375 | Psychopathology of Adulthood | |
| PSYC 475 | Behavior Modification | |
| **Psychology Elective Biobehavioral [1]** | | |
| Select one of the following: | | 3-4 |
| PSYC 233 | Sensation & Perception | |
| PSYC 289 | Positive Psychology | |
| PSYC 303 | Learning | |
| PSYC 321 | Drugs and Behavior | |
| PSYC 334 | Health Psychology | |
| PSYC 338 | Cognitive Psychology | |
| PSYC 471 | Psychopharmacology | |
| PSYC 473 | Hormones and Behavior | |
| PSYC 476 | Clinical Neuroscience | |
| **Psychology Elective Development [1]** | | |
| Select one of the following: | | 3 |
| PSYC 364 | Child and Adolescent Development | |
| PSYC 365 | Psychology of Aging | |
| PSYC 415 | Multicultural Identity Development | |
| PSYC 428 | Social and Emotional Development Across the Lifespan | |
| PSYC 435 | Resilience Across the Lifespan | |
| PSYC 445 | Infant and Child Cognition | |
| PSYC 477 | Developmental Neuroscience | |
| **Required Professional Competency [1]** | | |
| PSYC 420 | Community Service Internship in Psychology | 3 |
| **Total Hours** | | **34-35** |

[1] Courses count for 50% of Major requirements and Major GPA

* Some courses may require pre-requisites. Please see course descriptions to determine if there are any pre-requisites for that specific course.

## Writing Competency Requirements

| Code | Title | Hours |
|---|---|---|
| Writing in Psychology #1 | | |
| Writing in Psychology #2 | | |
| Writing in Psychology #3 | | |
| Writing in Psychology #4 | | |

## Additional Physician Assistant Prerequisite Courses

| Code | Title | Hours |
|---|---|---|
| BIOL 209 | Advanced Human Anatomy and Physiology I with Laboratory | 4 |
| BIOL 309 | Advanced Human Anatomy and Physiology II with Laboratory | 4 |
| BIOL 250 | Genetics with Lab | 4 |
| BIOL 210 | Medical Microbiology with Lab | 3 |
| or BIOL 330 | Microbiology/Lab | |
| CHEM 108 & CHEM 112 | General Chemistry II and General Chemistry II Lab | 4 |
| CHEM 201 | Organic Chemistry I | 3 |
| EXER 250 | Medical Terminology | 3 |
| or HCAM 250 | Medical Terminology for Healthcare Administrators | |
| **Total Hours** | | **25** |

## Co-curricular and Experiential Learning

Students are encouraged to explore additional curricular and co-curricular opportunities. There is a strong correlation between long-term student success and participation in the following types of programs and activities:

1. International Study Programs
2. High-Impact Practice (HIP) designated classes
3. Student-faculty research
4. Student leadership (Psi Chi, Psychology Club, Reflections Body Image Organization, Nu Rho Psi, Neuro Rocks)
5. Service-learning classes
6. Career education planning (Office of Career Education and Development)
7. Internships
8. Volunteering in local human services and mental health agencies
9. Job shadowing

## Physician Assistant Studies (Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies)
## Prerequisite Admission Requirements – Pre- Physician Assistant 3+2

### For Application Requirements

Please refer to Slippery Rock University's Physician Assistant Studies (Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies) website for requirements:http://www.sru.edu/pa (http://www.sru.edu/pa/)

### Rock Studies 2

| Code | Title | Hours |
|---|---|---|
| **Prerequisite Courses - SRU Physician Assistant** | | |
| BIOL 114 | Biology II: Foundations of Molecules, Genes and Cells with Lab | 4 |
| BIOL 210 | Medical Microbiology with Lab | 3 |
| or BIOL 330 | Microbiology/Lab | |
| BIOL 209 | Advanced Human Anatomy and Physiology I with Laboratory | 4 |
| BIOL 309 | Advanced Human Anatomy and Physiology II with Laboratory | 4 |
| BIOL 250 | Genetics with Lab | 4 |
| CHEM 107 & CHEM 111 | General Chemistry I and General Chemistry I Lab | 4 |
| CHEM 108 & CHEM 112 | General Chemistry II and General Chemistry II Lab | 4 |
| CHEM 201 | Organic Chemistry I | 3 |
| EXER 250 | Medical Terminology | 3 |
| or HCAM 250 | Medical Terminology for Healthcare Administrators | |
| PSYC 105 | Introduction to Psychology | 3 |
| *Inferential Statistics Course* | | *3* |
| BIOL 325 | Biostatistics and Experimental Design with Lab | |
| STAT 152 | Elementary Statistics | |
| **Total Hours** | | **39** |

### Pre-Physician Assistant SRU 3+2 Requirements

**If any of these requirements are not met, the 3+2 designation will be removed from the student's record:**

1. A 3.25 or higher overall GPA must be maintained by the student.
2. The student can only be enrolled in the Pre-Physician Assistant SRU 3+2 program for a maximum of three (3) years, full-time continuous enrollment (fall/spring).

### Provision

Should a Pre-Physician Assistant SRU 3+2 student be unsuccessful in completing the 1st two semesters (summer or fall) of the Physician Assistant Program and wants to complete the original undergraduate degree, it is solely up to the discretion of the undergraduate program Department Chair to determine which, if any, Physician Assistant courses will count toward the completion of his/her undergraduate degree. In addition, students must complete any unfulfilled requirements of their undergraduate major. Students may still apply to the Physician Assistant Studies Program with an earned Bachelor's degree.

## Important Curriculum Guide Notes

This Curriculum Guide is provided to help SRU students and prospective students better understand their intended major curriculum. Enrolled SRU students should note that the My Rock Audit may place already-earned and/or in progress courses in different, yet valid, curriculum categories. Enrolled SRU students should use the My Rock Audit Report and materials and information provided by their faculty advisers to ensure accurate progress towards degree completion. *The information on this guide is current as of the date listed. Students are responsible for curriculum requirements at the time of enrollment at the University*.

PASSHE - Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education Institutions

PSYCHOLOGY - BS (6170)
Pre-PA SRU 3+2 (6SPP)
This program is effective as of Summer 2023
Revised 09.22.2025

UCC 09.19.2023

# Recommended Three-Year Plan

| Course | Title | Hours |
|---|---|---|
| **First Year** | | |
| **Fall** | | |
| PSYC 105 | Introduction to Psychology | 3 |
| BIOL 114 | Biology II: Foundations of Molecules, Genes and Cells with Lab | 4 |
| ENGL 102 | Critical Writing | 3 |
| ESAP 101 | FYRST Seminar * | 1 |
| LIBR 110 | Introduction to Library & Information Resources | 1 |
| STAT 152 | Elementary Statistics | 3 |
| SUBJ 139 | Foundations of Academic Discovery [1] | 3 |
| | **Hours** | **18** |
| **Spring** | | |
| PSYC 231 | Psychological Science I: Research Methods | 3 |
| PSYC 244 | Developmental Psychology | 3 |
| BIOL 250 | Genetics with Lab | 4 |
| ENGL 104 | Critical Reading | 3 |
| Creative & Aesthetic Inquiry (https://catalog.sru.edu/undergraduate/rock-studies/rock-studies-program/) | | 3 |
| | **Hours** | **16** |
| **Second Year** | | |
| **Fall** | | |
| PSYC 232 | Psychological Science II: Statistical Applications | 3 |
| PSYC 276 | Introduction to Abnormal Psychology | 3 |
| BIOL 209 | Advanced Human Anatomy and Physiology I with Laboratory | 4 |
| CHEM 107 & CHEM 111 | General Chemistry I and General Chemistry I Lab | 4 |
| Humanities Inquiry (https://catalog.sru.edu/undergraduate/rock-studies/rock-studies-program/) | | 3 |
| Declare a Thematic Thread [2] | | |
| | **Hours** | **17** |
| **Spring** | | |
| PSYC 420 | Community Service Internship in Psychology | 3 |
| PSYC Elective #1 | | 3 |
| BIOL 309 | Advanced Human Anatomy and Physiology II with Laboratory | 4 |
| CHEM 108 & CHEM 112 | General Chemistry II and General Chemistry II Lab | 4 |
| Select one of the following: | | 3 |
| COMM 200 | Civil Discourse: Theory & Practice | |
| PHIL 110 | Ethics and Civil Discourse | |
| POLI 235 | Civil Discourse and Democracy | |
| | **Hours** | **17** |
| **Third Year** | | |
| **Fall** | | |
| PSYC Elective #2 | | 3 |
| PSYC Elective #3 | | 3 |
| CHEM 201 | Organic Chemistry I | 3 |
| Thematic Thread Requirement (https://catalog.sru.edu/undergraduate/rock-studies/rock-studies-program/) | | 3 |
| Thematic Thread Requirement (https://catalog.sru.edu/undergraduate/rock-studies/rock-studies-program/) | | 3 |
| Thematic Thread Requirement (https://catalog.sru.edu/undergraduate/rock-studies/rock-studies-program/) | | 3 |
| | **Hours** | **18** |
| **Spring** | | |
| PSYC 311 | Introduction to Behavioral Neuroscience | 4 |
| PSYC Elective #4 | | 3 |
| BIOL 210 | Medical Microbiology with Lab | 3 |
| EXER 250 | Medical Terminology | 3 |
| Thematic Thread Requirement (https://catalog.sru.edu/undergraduate/rock-studies/rock-studies-program/) | | 3 |
| | **Hours** | **16** |
| | **Total Hours**** | **102** |

1 Course offered in multiple subjects; cannot take course in first major subject.

2 Work with your Academic Adviser to declare a Thematic Thread by the end of your fall semester in your second year.

* Students are encouraged to take ESAP 101 as a Free Elective.

***This document serves as a guide. Earning a degree requires at least 120 credits, though some majors require more. Before registering for courses, consult your academic adviser and review your curriculum guide. Be sure to review and confirm your plan with your adviser at least once each academic year.*

Major Code: 6170
Concentration Code: 6SPP
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