

Typical FAQ during CalSO for Psychology

1. When do transfer students have to declare the major? Because Psychology is a capped major, we require that students declare their major within their first semester at Berkeley. **They do not follow the 80-unit cap.** Our application is due to the Student Services Office at the end of October for the fall semester.
2. Is it OK to take prerequisites during the fall term? YES. Students can apply to the major with work in progress. Our rule of thumb is students must be able to declare by the end of the term which allows them fall semester to complete all necessary prerequisites. Students cannot wait until the spring term based on L&S policy.
3. Can students declare the major during CalSO? Absolutely! If students are entering Berkeley with all their prerequisites completed, we encourage they complete the major application at CalSO. We will also accept applications from students that are completing their remaining prerequisites during summer session.
4. How do students know if they will be admitted to the major? Psychology guarantees admission if the student meets the following criteria: (a) has at least a 3.2 grade-point average in our seven prerequisite courses (yes we use the grades earned at the community college); (b) for transfer students, they are declaring their major within their first term at Berkeley (again, we do not look at units).
5. Will students be able to register for upper division Psychology courses during CalSO? YES. The department reserves seats in our decade courses (any of our upper division courses ending in "0", e.g., 110, 120, 130, 140, 150, 160). The student does not need to be a declared Psychology major to gain admission to these courses – the only stipulation is he/she must be a transfer student.
6. How many upper division Psychology courses should a transfer student take during their first term? We never recommend that students take more than two upper division psych courses in one term. We encourage that transfer students take two decade courses during their first term at Berkeley.
7. When should a student complete Psychology 101? We recommend this course be taken in a student's junior year; however, we do not encourage this be taken during their first semester. A student should try to fit this into his/her schedule during spring semester of junior year or during the summer before senior year. The closer this course is taken to completion of statistics, the easier it will be.

Note: Students should complete their bio requirement prior to matriculation at Berkeley, especially transfer students admitted in the fall term (rather than spring). If they must take a bio course at Berkeley, the department recommends MCB 64 (Exploring the Brain) offered in the fall. The other bio courses typically offered in the fall tend to be more rigorous (MCB 32, Bio 1A & Bio 1B).