

Psychology Department Advising FAQs

1. I am beginning my first year in psychology this fall. What courses should I take?

The two Psychology courses you should take in your first year are PSYC 1103 (Introduction to Psychology I: Natural Science) in the fall and **PSYC 1104** (Introduction to Psychology II: Social Science) in the **winter**. These two courses serve as pre-requisites for most other Psychology courses, so you will be very limited in what else you can take until you have completed them.

You should also try to take the four Foundation level Gen Ed (mtroyal.ca/gened) classes during your first year – you can take two in each term. For the rest of your classes, one possibility is to take introductory courses in other areas (business, science, arts, etc.) that would serve either as Gen Ed Tier 2 courses, or elective courses toward your degree requirements.

2. Are there other courses I should take at a specific time?

Yes! During the **fall** of your second year, you should take PSYC 2210 (Statistical Methods for Psychology I) and during the **winter** of your second year, you should take both PSYC 2211 (Statistical Methods for Psychology II) and PSYC 2213 (Research Methods I).

3. I'm in my first year and I'm curious about Honours. What should I do?

If you are thinking about pursuing the Honours program, you should meet with an advisor as soon as possible to ensure that you will be on track.

You will need to have PSYC 1103, 1104, 2210, 2211, and 2213 completed in your first two years if you are thinking about Honours, and then you will complete PSYC 4412 (fall) & 4413 (winter) in your third year, after which you will apply for Honours for fourth year.

4. Can psych courses count as gen eds?

As a Psychology major, Psychology courses, generally, do not count towards your 12 General Education courses. If you are pursuing a double-major, there may be some exceptions to this, so be sure to consult with your advisor.

Psychology courses can count towards your electives, though.

5. How do I get into grad school?

There is no one answer to this question, as the requirements for graduate school admission will vary for different degrees, programs, and schools. There are several things to do to prepare yourself for graduate study, including:

- a) Study and do well in your courses
- b) Gain research experience as a research assistant, doing a Directed Reading project, or in the
- c) Honours program
- d) Gain applied experience, either by volunteering or working in the field
- e) Meet with your advisor to talk about what you want to do to start narrowing down the
- f) type(s) of program(s) you will apply to
- g) Do some research – look at different programs and schools, find out what their admission
- h) criteria are and application deadlines
- i) Study for and take the GRE (or other admission test, e.g., LSAT, GMAT) if needed

The sooner you start this process, the better off you are.

6. When should I meet with an advisor?

During the first year of your program. If you haven't yet met with an advisor yet, book an appointment to review your record. If the meeting is for course selection book earlier in the term rather than later.

7. I'm having trouble understanding my mruGradU8 audit – help!

Make an appointment with your advisor and he or she will help you understand it.

In order to graduate, you will need to have a total of 40 courses; a minimum of 16 Psychology courses, 12 Gen Ed courses, and up to 12 electives. Additional Psychology courses (over the 16 required) count as electives, up to a maximum of 24 PSYC courses.

8. Who is my advisor?

A-Lh: your advisor is **Naomi Grant** ngrant@mtroyal.ca

Li-Z: your advisor is **Cass Foursha-Stevenson** cfourshastevenson@mtroyal.ca

If you are not a Psychology major, or if you are a Psychology major interested in pursuing a different major within the Faculty of Arts, please contact the Arts Advisors – artsadvising@mtroyal.ca

For all other majors (outside of Arts), contact Academic Advising – <http://www.mtroyal.ca/beadvised>

9. I'm going in to my last term soon and I want to make sure that the courses I've signed up for are sufficient to graduate. Can you please look at them for me?

Yes, please feel free to speak to your advisor at any point during your studies, including your final term. Once you have signed up for your final courses, submit an Application to Graduate form and submit it to the registrar's office. For more information about applying to graduate, visit this site:

http://www.mtroyal.ca/AcademicSupport/ResourcesServices/ConvocationGraduation/ApplytoGraduate/#apply_online