Welcome from the Department

Dear Psychology Student,

We’d like to welcome you to UCI and the start of the 2012-13 academic year!

We hope you’ll find this newsletter useful as you plan your schedule and start your academic career. Please read this carefully and keep it on hand for reference.

We look forward to seeing and hearing from you and wish you much success at UCI!

Regards,

Ramesh Srinivasan  
Department Chair  
Cognitive Sciences

Lisa S. Pearl  
Undergraduate Director  
Cognitive Sciences

Virginia M. Richards  
Honors Program Advisor  
Cognitive Sciences

Finding Information

Department Website:  
The department website ([www.cogsci.uci.edu](http://www.cogsci.uci.edu)) includes useful information such as this newsletter, the current schedule of classes, faculty offices, phones and e-mail links, research lab information, and current events including talks of interest to psychology majors.

Undergraduate Student Affairs Office:  
Do you have questions about satisfying your major or general school requirements for graduation?

See one of the Academic or Peer Counselors in the Social Sciences’ Undergraduate Student Affairs Office:

Location: SBSG 1201  
Hours (M-F): 8 am – 5pm (closed between 12-1pm)

Academic Counselors:  
(949) 824-6803

Peer Advisors:  
(949) 824-7263

Social Sciences Academic Resource Center (SSARC):  
SSARC provides information services for all Social Science undergraduate majors. SSARC houses information on graduate programs and opportunities for scholarships, internships, and jobs.

Call (949) 824-8322 or [ssarc@uci.edu](mailto:ssarc@uci.edu) for information and hours of operation.

Department/Faculty Offices:  
The department administrative suite is located in the Social & Behavioral Sciences Gateway Building (#214) on the 2nd floor, room 2201.

Faculty Offices are located in SBSG (2nd floor) as well as in the Social Science Plaza A and B buildings. Please refer to the Cog Sci website’s People page for office locations.
An Important Reminder

As a Psychology major, you must **successfully complete** the School of Social Sciences’ mathematics requirement **BEFORE** taking any of the courses that fulfill the departmental laboratory/research methods requirement.

**How does this affect you?**

If you don’t successfully complete your math before your senior year – or 5th year if taking 5 years to complete the degree – you **WILL NOT** graduate on time.

Please refer to the section on the Laboratory Requirement for course options.

Getting Involved in Your Major - Honors

**Psi Chi Honor Society:**

The Psi Chi National Honor Society in Psychology has been active on the UCI campus since our charter was granted in June 1988.

The UCI chapter of Psi Chi invites new members twice a year. Invitations are sent by e-mail no later than November 19 and April 15.

Please visit our website for information about eligibility requirements:


If you have questions about Psi Chi, please send an e-mail to Professor Lisa Pearl at: lpearl@uci.edu.

**Honors Program:**

The Honors Program is designed for students in the Psychology (Cognitive Sciences) major who are interested in pursuing graduate study in psychology or seeking challenging research experiences as a capstone to their undergraduate experience.

The program requires two (2) years to complete. It begins in the fall quarter of your junior year or 4th year (if taking 5 years to complete the degree) and ends in the spring quarter of your senior (or 5th) year.

The program includes advanced courses in Experimental Psychology, three seminar classes, and, crucially, research experience under faculty supervision that culminates in an honors thesis.

Minimal eligibility requirements include:

- Junior or 4th year student (if taking 5 years to degree)
- Overall UCI GPA of at least 3.2
- Overall Psychology GPA of at least 3.5

For further information about the Honors Program in Psychology, please visit: http://www.cogsci.uci.edu/honorsprogram.

If you have questions about the Honors Program, please send an e-mail to Professor Virginia Richards at: v.m.richards@uci.edu.

Psychology Student Association (PSA)

UCI’s Psychology Student Association (PSA) is dedicated to helping students further their interest in the field of psychology by:

1. Networking with professors and staff;
2. Meeting fellow peers;
3. Learning about on-campus resources and graduate school;
4. Offering community service and fund-raising opportunities;

For more information about PSA, please visit their website at: http://sites.google.com/site/psaucirvine/.

“A good way to start getting involved in research projects is to approach faculty members who you have had as instructors and whose area of expertise interests you.”
Research in Psychology

Participation in research should be an important and rewarding part of your education. Many of the faculty members in the Cognitive Sciences Department include undergraduate students in their ongoing research and supervise independent research undertaken by students.

A good way to start getting involved in research projects is to approach faculty members who you have had as instructors and whose area of expertise interests you. A list of faculty and their current office hours is available on the website (www.cogsci.uci.edu).

It is best to speak to faculty members during their posted office hours or to contact them via e-mail to schedule an appointment.

Psychology Courses in Research and Field Work

There are several courses that will give you exposure to research and field work.

**Psych 135A, B, C** (Memory and Decision-Making Research) covers a range of theoretical, empirical, and model-based memory and decision-making research topics, including reconstructive memory, decision-making in reinforcement learning problems, sequential sampling processes, hierarchical Bayesian methods, and the application of machine learning methods to corpora of human behavior. Concurrent with Psych 235A,B,C. Prerequisite is consent of the instructor.

**Psych141J-K-L** (Jumpstart: Early Language, Literacy, and Social Development) is an experiential course in the field of child development and education. Students commit a total of eight hours per week as mentors of disadvantaged preschool children. The prerequisite is consent of the instructor. Further information is given in the General Catalogue.

**Psych 145P-Q-R** (Attention and Learning Deficits in Children) includes both classwork and fieldwork with attention-deficit disordered children at the Child Development Center on North Campus. This sequence must begin the fall quarter.

**Psych148A, B, C** (Cognitive Development Research) provides experience in cognitive development research, centered around the child’s acquisition of number words and concepts. Students conduct research and review and discuss each other’s projects. Concurrent with Psych 228A,B,C. Prerequisite is consent of the instructor.

**Psych 158A, B, C** (Language Sciences Research) provides in-depth experience in all facets of research in language. Research topics include language acquisition and adult processing. Methodologies include behavioral research methods, brain imaging techniques, and computational methods. Students engage in research and participate in a weekly seminar. Concurrent with Psych 248A,B,C. Prerequisite is consent of the instructor.

**Psych 164A, B, C** (Neuroscience of Language Research) provides experience in cognitive neuroscience research and covers a range of neuroscience of language research topics including psycholinguistic and neuroscience foundations, methods, experimental design, and content areas such as speech perception/recognition, production, sensory-motor integration, lexical access, comprehension, working memory, sign language, and aphasia. Concurrent with Psych 264A,B,C. Prerequisite is consent of the instructor.

**Psych 165A, B, C** (Visual Neuroscience Research) covers a range of cognitive neuroscience research topics with emphasis on cortical organization of visual circuits, object recognition, motion perception, visual attention, and decision making. Concurrent with Psychology 263A, B,C. Prerequisite is consent of the instructor.

“Participation in research should be an important and rewarding part of your education.”
Curricula Guidelines

The tentative course offerings for this academic year are listed at the end of this newsletter.

These courses are only the courses offered by the Department of Cognitive Sciences (Psychology major). Other psychology courses may be offered by different departments and cross listed with this department.

Please refer to WEBSOC (http://websoc.reg.uci.edu/perl/WebSoc) for the most up to date list of courses offered each quarter.

Laboratory/Research Requirement

There are three (3) options to fulfill the laboratory requirement that will be offered this year:

- Psych 112A-BW-C (Experimental Psych)
- Psych 112M (Research Methods in Psychology),
- Psych 112R (Cognitive Robotics)

Students wishing an opportunity to conduct their own research and fulfill the upper-division writing requirement should take Psych 112A-BW-C, a 3-quarter sequence. The W in the course designation for Psych 112BW means that it fulfills the upper-division writing requirement. Psych 112A and 112BW have co-requisite labs.

Psych 112M is for majors who wish to fulfill the lab requirement separately from upper-division writing. It is a one-quarter course with a co-requisite lab and will be offered in the fall and spring.

Students who wish simply to fulfill the lab/research methods requirement in one quarter should take Psych 112M.

Psych 112R can also be taken by majors who wish to fulfill the lab/research methods requirement in one. This one-quarter course with a co-requisite lab will be offered in winter quarter.

If you have taken one (1) year of statistics (e.g., Psych 10 series or any other 10 series in the School of Social Sciences) or Math 2A-B and Math 7 / Stats 7, you have met the mathematical prerequisite for all of these courses.

Computer Science Requirement

Although the School of Social Sciences allows the computer science requirement to be fulfilled by three (3) options, one (1) of these options is not recommended for psychology majors.

In meeting the lab requirement, some knowledge of programming and program construction is important. Students taking ICS 21 or Informatics 41 will be exposed to these areas. Social Sciences 3A will not give you the background needed for the laboratory requirement.

Other courses that may be used (by petition) to fulfill this requirement and which provide a good background for those planning to go on to graduate school include:

- Phys 114M (Matlab) and
- Phys 119 (MEL or C Programming).

For any of these courses to help you in the lab requirement, you must take it before you take the lab course!
Helpful Hints

1. Plan to take about 16 units per quarter.

2. Any courses taken to satisfy your major requirements must be completed with a letter grade except those courses offered as P/NP only.

3. You should fulfill University requirements first while laying a foundation for psychology with Psych 9A,B,C and psychology core courses.

Try to complete the one (1) year of statistics before your junior year, so you can fulfill the lab requirement in your junior year.

This will allow you to conduct research in your senior year and let you take electives in other areas of interest to you.

4. Generally, psychology majors should not take lower division psychology courses other than Psych 9A,B,C.

Psychology majors may not take Psych 7A for credit toward the major.

5. If completing the language requirement (General Ed VI) by taking additional courses in a language previously studied, take the courses as soon as possible while you still remember what you previously learned.

6. Course sequences should be taken in order and in many cases they must be taken in order.

Exception: Psych 9A,B,C may be taken in any order.

7. The math requirement (General Ed V) can be fulfilled by:
   - Math 2A-B & Math 7/Stats 7, or
   - Psych 10A-B-C
   - as well as any 10A-B-C series offered by other Soc Sci departments.

Math 2A-B & Math 7/Stats 7 is recommended for anyone considering graduate school.

Sample Programs of Study – Psychology Majors

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>General</th>
<th>Grad School</th>
<th>Honors</th>
<th>Transfer</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Senior</td>
<td>9 Electives and select one (1): Psych 190 &amp; 2 Psych 199 - 3 UDP</td>
<td>9 Electives 1 Psych 190 2 Psych 199</td>
<td>8 Electives Psych H101B-C 2 Psych 199</td>
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NOTES:

1 3 Quarters Statistics is either Psych 10A-B-C, Math 2A-B & Math 7 / Stats 7, or any other 10 series offered in the School of Social Sciences. The Math series is recommended for those planning to attend graduate school in Psychology.

2 Core is a psychology core course, an upper division course with the ending number "0".

3 UDP is an upper division psychology course.
2012-13 Course Offerings

The following list is the tentative undergraduate course offerings from the Department of Cognitive Sciences. Offerings are subject to change. Make sure you have backup options in mind when figuring out your class schedule.

Please refer to WEBSOC (http://websoc.reg.uci.edu/perl/WebSoc) for the most up-to-date list of the department's course offerings.

Courses listed below are those being taught and offered by the Department of Cognitive Sciences. Other courses, offered by other departments, may be cross-listed with this department but are not shown below. Check on WEBSOC for these courses.

Course descriptions can be found on the online UCI catalogue at: http://www.editor.uci.edu/catalogue/ss/ss.4.htm.

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<th>Fall 2012:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7A     Intro to Psych</td>
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<tr>
<td>9A     Psych Fundamentals</td>
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<tr>
<td>9B     Psych Fundamentals</td>
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<tr>
<td>9C     Psych Fundamentals</td>
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<tr>
<td>10A    Prob &amp; Stats I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H101A  Honors Seminar I</td>
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<td>H101B  Honors Seminar II</td>
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<tr>
<td>H111A  Hon Experiment Psych</td>
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<tr>
<td>112A   Experiment Psych</td>
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<td>112M   Psych Res Methods</td>
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<th>Winter 2012:</th>
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<tr>
<td>7A     Intro to Psych</td>
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<tr>
<td>9A     Psych Fundamentals</td>
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<td>9B     Psych Fundamentals</td>
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<tr>
<td>9C     Psych Fundamentals</td>
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<tr>
<td>10B    Prob &amp; Stats II</td>
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<tr>
<td>56L    Acquisition of Lang I</td>
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<tr>
<td>111BW  Hon Experiment Psych</td>
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<tr>
<td>112BW  Adv Experiment Psych</td>
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<tr>
<td>112R   Cognitive Robotics</td>
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<td>114M   Matlab</td>
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<td>9B     Psych Fundamentals</td>
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<tr>
<td>9C     Psych Fundamentals</td>
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<tr>
<td>10C    Prob &amp; Stats III</td>
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<tr>
<td>H101C  Honors Seminar III</td>
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<td>H111C  Hon Experiment Psych</td>
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<td>112C   Experiment Psych</td>
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<td>112M   Psych Res Methods</td>
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<td>120D   Developmental Psych</td>
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