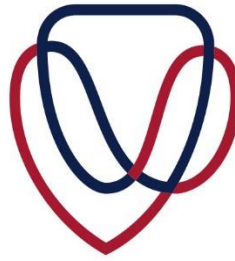


UNIVERSITY OF THE  
FREE STATE  
UNIVERSITEIT VAN DIE  
VRYSTAAT  
YUNIVESITHI YA  
FREISTATA



UFS  
THE HUMANITIES

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FACULTY OF THE HUMANITIES

Department of Psychology

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**GUIDE FOR  
PSYCHOLOGY STUDENTS**

**2023**

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# Welcome

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## **Welcome to the Department of Psychology!**

The Department of Psychology is one of the largest departments at the University of the Free State (UFS), with students from the Faculties of the Humanities, Economic and Management Sciences, Health Sciences, Natural Sciences, Education, Law, and Theology.

The Department of Psychology aims at enhancing Psychology as an academic discipline and profession and offers high-quality teaching that prepares students for the demands of South African society. Furthermore, the Department of Psychology does relevant research that contributes to enhancing Psychology as a science. Lastly, the Department of Psychology is involved in various community initiatives in service and learning in and with the community.

## **Admission requirements**

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Students who comply with the general admission requirements of the UFS can enrol for undergraduate modules in Psychology. No particular Grade 12 subjects are required for studying Psychology.

Students interested in furthering their studies in Psychology can enrol for any undergraduate programme (e.g., BSocSci, BA, BSc), with Psychology as a major. Students majoring in Psychology are advised to compile their learning programme in such a way (with additional majors and electives) to gain entry into other professions and opportunities such as Industrial Psychology, Communication Science, Education, and Biological Sciences.

# How do I become a psychologist?

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Psychology is a field chosen by students with differing interests and personalities. Some psychologists are reflective introverts who can listen very well; others are warm extroverts who are genuinely interested in their clients. Therefore, whether you are curious, intellectual, empathetic, serving, analytical, or playful, you may be suited for this career. Of course, a crucial first step is to complete a career assessment with a registered psychologist to ensure that you are an excellent match for the profession. An essential factor to consider in choosing Psychology as a career is that it takes **at least seven years** of studying before you can register as a psychologist.

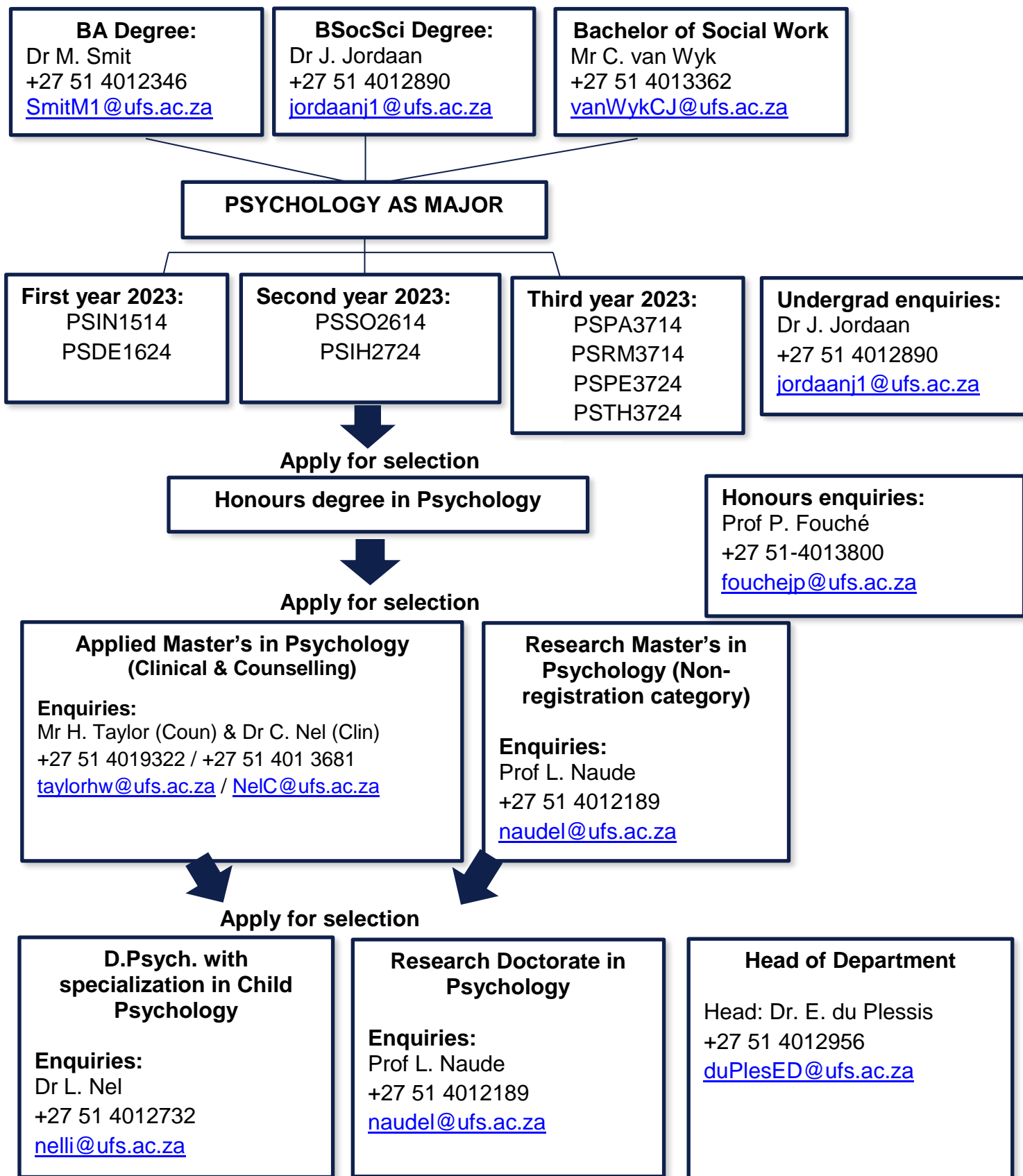
Psychology is not offered as an independent degree. Most students study either a BSocSci or a BA degree and combine Psychology with various other subjects. The degree that you enrol for would depend on your specific interests. After completing your undergraduate degree (which ideally takes three years), you can apply for an Honours in Psychology. **This degree is subject to selection, and excellent academic performance in ALL your undergraduate Psychology modules is key.** The Honours degree takes one year for full-time students and two years for part-time students.

After completing the Honours degree, you can apply for the Applied Master's Programme (Clinical Psychology or Counselling Psychology). **You also need to be selected for this programme.** The Applied Master's degree selection is quite strict and depends on several factors, such as academic performance, emotional stability, maturity, and empathy. Usually, the selection process involves various activities, including panel interviews. The Applied Master's degree consists of course work, a research (mini-) dissertation, and an internship year. After completing the internship, students in the **clinical** category will have to complete a community service year. Only students who successfully complete the Master's degree can write the Board examination (offered by the Health Professions Council of South Africa) to register as psychologists.

However, there are alternative routes available to students in Psychology. For example, you can enrol for a research master's in Psychology to complete a full dissertation instead of doing an applied master's degree.

It would be best to consult with the Department of Psychology to obtain more information on alternative career choices.

Please look at the "**Most frequently asked questions**" section at the end of this guide for further information.



# Undergraduate modules 2023

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## EXIT-LEVEL OUTCOMES – UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMME IN PSYCHOLOGY

**On the successful completion of the undergraduate programme, students should be able to:**

- Communicate effectively by applying the theoretical discourse of psychology as a science;
- Contribute to the full personal development and psychological wellbeing of others by applying the theoretical foundation of positive psychology and understandings of human resilience;
- Explain the nature and basic functioning of various physiological systems of the human body and describe the influence of these systems on human behaviour;
- Identify and analyse the nature, description, and classification of psychopathology as a field of study;
- Distinguish between the different paradigms and theories on personality development and behaviour that have contributed to existing Western as well as African and Eastern corpora of knowledge on psychology;
- Discuss the study of normal human development from conception to old age with specific reference to physical, cognitive, personality, and social development;
- Describe the principles underlying psychological counselling and utilise critical and creative thought in applying a therapeutic model and therapeutic techniques to a particular therapeutic scenario;
- Demonstrate an understanding of the world as a series of related systems by applying basic socio-psychological notions on interpersonal interactions and relationships within the South-African context and by discussing how certain psychosocial characteristics play a role in the development and maintenance of healthy personal relationships; and
- Gather, analyse, organise, and critically evaluate information using the basic research methodology concepts as applied to social and behavioural sciences.

The outcomes mentioned above have been established in professional ethics (as approved by psychologists worldwide) and contextualised for a multicultural South African context.

Various modules are presented on the undergraduate level. **Students taking Psychology as a major subject have to complete all these modules.**

## First year

CODE	NAME OF MODULE	NQF level	Credits
PSIN1514 First semester	<p><b>Introduction to Psychology:</b> This module aims at exposing students to a basic introduction to psychology as a science.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Module coordinator: Mrs E. Venter, SG 106, Tel: +27 51 401 9651, <a href="mailto:venterye@ufs.ac.za">venterye@ufs.ac.za</a></li> <li>• Module moderator: Mrs. K. de Villiers, QwaQwa Campus, Tel: +27 58 718 5417, <a href="mailto:devilliersK@ufs.ac.za">devilliersK@ufs.ac.za</a></li> </ul>	5	16
PSDE1624 Second semester	<p><b>Developmental Psychology:</b> This module aims to introduce students to the study of normal human development, from conception to old age. The various domains of development (physical, cognitive, personality, and social) are covered and important theories and controversies related to these. The module concludes with a study of the factors concerning risk and resilience in children. Students will be required to apply their knowledge to case studies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Module coordinator: Mrs E. Venter, SG 106, Tel: +27 51 401 9651, <a href="mailto:venterye@ufs.ac.za">venterye@ufs.ac.za</a></li> <li>• Module moderator: Dr F. Tadi, SG 6, Tel: +27 51 401 9313, <a href="mailto:tadinf@ufs.ac.za">tadinf@ufs.ac.za</a></li> </ul>	6	16

## Second year

CODE	NAME OF MODULE	NQF level	Credits
PSSO2614 First semester	<p><b>Social Psychology:</b> This module aims to provide students with an understanding of the importance of personal relationships for overall functioning and wellbeing. An additional aim is to understand how certain psychosocial features play a role in developing and maintaining healthy personal relationships. Particular attention is paid to applying basic social psychological concepts to interpersonal interactions and relationships within the South African context.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Module coordinator: Ms M.T. Mpilo, Tel: +27 58 718 5997, <a href="mailto:MpiloMT@ufs.ac.za">MpiloMT@ufs.ac.za</a></li> <li>• Module moderator: Dr J. Jordaan, SG 4, Tel: +27 51 401 2890, <a href="mailto:jordaanj1@ufs.ac.za">jordaanj1@ufs.ac.za</a></li> </ul>	6	16
PSIH2724 Second semester	<p><b>Introduction to Health Psychology:</b> This module aims to provide learners with a basic knowledge on the theoretical principles of physiological, biological and neurological psychology as well as the implications and practical application thereof on health and illness, against the background of a more holistic biopsychosocial understanding of human functioning.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Module coordinator: Mr H. Taylor, SG 204, Tel: +27 51 401 9322, <a href="mailto:taylorhw@ufs.ac.za">taylorhw@ufs.ac.za</a></li> <li>• Module moderator: Prof P. Fouché, SG 108, Tel: +27 51 401 3800, <a href="mailto:fouchejp@ufs.ac.za">fouchejp@ufs.ac.za</a></li> </ul>	7	16



## Third year

CODE	NAME OF MODULE	NQF level	Credits
PSPA3714 First semester	<p><b>Psychopathology:</b> This module aims to introduce students to the basic theoretical knowledge of the nature, description, and classification of conditions within the study of abnormal psychology.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Module coordinator: Mr H. Taylor, SG 204, Tel: +27 51 401 9322, <a href="mailto:taylorhw@ufs.ac.za">taylorhw@ufs.ac.za</a></li> <li>• Module moderator: Dr C. Nel, SG 8, Tel: +27 51 401 3681, <a href="mailto:nelc@ufs.ac.za">nelc@ufs.ac.za</a></li> </ul>	7	16
PSRM3714 First semester	<p><b>Research Methodology:</b> This module aims to briefly introduce research methodology in social and behavioural sciences. One can identify three main components in the execution of any research project in these sciences, i.e.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ planning or designing a project where information is gathered for investigating particular research problems,</li> <li>○ gathering this information according to the design, and</li> <li>○ analysing the information that was gathered.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Module coordinator: Mrs K. de Villiers Tel: +27 58 718 5417, <a href="mailto:devilliersk@ufs.ac.za">devilliersk@ufs.ac.za</a></li> <li>• Module moderator: Dr J. Jordaan, SG 4, Tel: +27 51 401 2890, <a href="mailto:jordaanj1@ufs.ac.za">jordaanj1@ufs.ac.za</a></li> </ul>	7	16
PSPE3724 Second semester	<p><b>Personology:</b> The module aims to introduce students to the different paradigms and theories concerning personality development and behaviour that have contributed to the existing Western and African, and Eastern corpus of knowledge on psychology.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Module coordinator: Dr A. Khanye Tel: +27 58 718 5424, <a href="mailto:khanyeAP@ufs.ac.za">khanyeAP@ufs.ac.za</a></li> <li>• Module moderator: Dr N. Pule, SG 105, Tel: +27 51 401 2689, <a href="mailto:pulent@ufs.ac.za">pulent@ufs.ac.za</a></li> </ul>	7	16

<p>PSTH 3724 Second semester</p>	<p><b>Introduction to Psychotherapy and Ethics:</b> This module aims to equip students with the skills for effectively helping clients by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ know and apply the key aspects and techniques surrounding therapeutic intervention,</li> <li>○ explain a basic therapeutic process and apply relevant theory on a case,</li> <li>○ facilitate a therapeutic dialogue,</li> <li>○ contextualise the therapeutic self as well as the therapeutic relationship,</li> <li>○ apply a variety of psychotherapeutic approaches to a case-study and</li> <li>○ demonstrate ethical sensitivity</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Module coordinator: Dr L. Nel, SG 209A Tel: +27 51 401 2732, <a href="mailto:nelli@ufs.ac.za">nelli@ufs.ac.za</a></li> <li>• Module moderator: Mr H. Taylor, SG 204, Tel: +27 51 401 9322, <a href="mailto:taylorhw@ufs.ac.za">taylorhw@ufs.ac.za</a></li> </ul>	<p>7</p>	<p>16</p>
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# Honours Programme 2023

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The Honours Programme at the Department of Psychology offers students an in-depth theoretical understanding of Psychology as a discipline, the opportunity to conduct a research project, and practical exposure to community engagement and service-learning activities.

After completion of the Honours Programme, students can apply for admission (subject to selection) to postgraduate training in professional psychology (Master's in Applied Psychology) or academic psychology (Master's in Research).

The programme's duration is one academic year for full-time students or two academic years for part-time students. Students who want to complete the programme in more than two years will have to apply for special permission.

Certain modules are offered during the day and others during the late afternoon. Day and late afternoon modules rotate annually. Full-time students are expected to attend both the day and late afternoon lectures. Part-time students are accommodated in the late afternoons. Lectures mostly commence at 16:00 in the late afternoons. All students must attend contact sessions weekly (**the Honours programme is not presented via distance learning**).

Most modules involve one three-hour contact session per week. For specific modules, practical opportunities and service-learning activities will be scheduled as well. **Please note** that community outreach activities take place **in the day time** and not in the late afternoons or evenings. Part-time students will thus have to make personal arrangements with their employers regarding absence from work at certain times in the week to attend community outreach projects. No student may participate in their own community outreach project if they are unable to attend those offered by the Department. At the commencement of each module, the lecturer will provide an outline of the module.

The contact sessions for this programme will only be in English. All learning guides and assessment activities will be available in English.

## SELECTION PROCESS FOR THE HONOURS PROGRAMME IN PSYCHOLOGY

Prospective students are subjected to a selection process. Information regarding the selection process is available on the Department's website ([www.ufs.ac.za/psy](http://www.ufs.ac.za/psy)) or from the following people:

- Programme Coordinator:  
Prof P. Fouché, SG 108, Tel: +27 51 401 3800, [fouchejp@ufs.ac.za](mailto:fouchejp@ufs.ac.za)
- Administrative officer:  
Mrs A. Diesel, SG 101, Tel: +27 51 401 9314, [denobilia@ufs.ac.za](mailto:denobilia@ufs.ac.za)

## EXIT-LEVEL OUTCOMES – HONOURS PROGRAMME IN PSYCHOLOGY

### **On completion of this qualification, students will be able to:**

- Apply quantitative and qualitative research principles, methodological tools, and practical skills to plan competently, create, conduct and report on a research project of limited scope in the field of psychological research;
- Plan, conduct, and evaluate a psychosocial intervention regarding specific contemporary psychosocial issues in a community setting;
- Apply in-depth theoretical learning of normal human development throughout the lifespan to real-life situations;
- Use critical and creative thinking to discuss, apply and critically evaluate various approaches to psychotherapy;
- Portray an ethical sensitivity toward a variety of therapeutic situations;
- Demonstrate understanding, knowledge, and skill in the psychological assessment process of administering, scoring, and interpreting of selected psychological measuring instruments ethically and professionally; and
- Portray an integrative understanding of and theoretical approaches to psychopathology during childhood, adolescence, and adulthood.

The Honours programme consists of seven modules. Enrolled students should complete **ALL** of the modules.

## Year modules

CODE	NAME OF MODULE	NQF level	Credits
PSHA6804 Year module	<p><b>Advanced Psychological Assessment:</b> This module aims to equip the student with advanced knowledge of and skills in the ethical and professional conducting, value allocation, and limited interpretation of selected psychological measuring instruments. The following assessment domains are covered: visual-motor integration, intelligence, interest, aptitude, and personality.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Module coordinator: Dr N.T. Pule, SG 105, Tel: +27 51 401 2689, <a href="mailto:pulent@ufs.ac.za">pulent@ufs.ac.za</a></li> <li>• Module moderator: Dr C. Nel, SG 8, Tel: +27 51 401 3681, <a href="mailto:nelc@ufs.ac.za">nelc@ufs.ac.za</a></li> </ul>	8	16
PSHC6804 Year module	<p><b>Community and Social Psychology:</b> This module aims to equip students with the theoretical underpinnings and analytic skills of community psychology to plan, conduct, and evaluate a psychosocial intervention regarding specific contemporary psychosocial issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Module coordinator: Prof P. Fouché, SG 108, Tel: +27 51 401 3800, <a href="mailto:fouchejp@ufs.ac.za">fouchejp@ufs.ac.za</a></li> <li>• Module moderator: Dr P. Naidoo, SG 104, Tel: +27 51 401 2340, <a href="mailto:naidoo@ufs.ac.za">naidoo@ufs.ac.za</a></li> </ul>	8	16
PSHM6804 Year module	<p><b>Advanced Research Methodology:</b> This module aims to provide students with advanced knowledge regarding research methodology and methods in the social and behavioural sciences. Quantitative and qualitative approaches within the main umbrella paradigms and philosophical underpinnings that guide research will be addressed. Students will have to be able to select an appropriate paradigm and research design and coherently apply different advanced methodologies/techniques in psychological research.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Module coordinator: Dr P. Naidoo, SG 104, Tel: +27 51 401 2340, <a href="mailto:naidoo@ufs.ac.za">naidoo@ufs.ac.za</a></li> <li>• Module moderators: Prof P. Fouché, SG 108, Tel: +27 51 401 3800, <a href="mailto:fouchejp@ufs.ac.za">fouchejp@ufs.ac.za</a> &amp; Prof S.P. Walker, SG 120B, Tel: +27 51 401 2424, <a href="mailto:walkersp@ufs.ac.za">walkersp@ufs.ac.za</a></li> </ul>	8	16

PSHR6808 Year module	<p><b>Applied Research Methodology:</b> This module aims to provide students with the knowledge to understand the underlying research principles. Furthermore, students will be equipped with the practical skills and methodological tools to plan, conduct, and report on the research process competently.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Module coordinator: Dr P. Naidoo, SG 104, Tel: +27 51 401 2340, <a href="mailto:naidoo@ufs.ac.za">naidoo@ufs.ac.za</a></li> <li>• Module moderators: Prof P. Fouché, SG 108, Tel: +27 51 401 3800, <a href="mailto:fouchejp@ufs.ac.za">fouchejp@ufs.ac.za</a> &amp; Prof S.P. Walker, SG 120B, Tel: +27 51 401 2424, <a href="mailto:walkersp@ufs.ac.za">walkersp@ufs.ac.za</a></li> </ul>	8	32
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## First semester modules

CODE	NAME OF MODULE	NQF level	Credits
PSHD6814 First semester	<p><b>Advanced Developmental Psychology:</b> This module aims to equip students with an in-depth understanding of normal human development throughout the life span. This includes knowledge of the issues and theories of development, in-depth knowledge of the different areas in development, and knowledge of the life stages and development tasks from conception to death. Students are expected to develop the skill to integrate and apply the above-mentioned to case studies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Module coordinator: Dr F. Tadi, SG 6, Tel: +27 51 401 9313, <a href="mailto:tadinf@ufs.ac.za">tadinf@ufs.ac.za</a></li> <li>• Module moderator: Prof L. Naudé, SG 111, Tel: +27 51 401 2189, <a href="mailto:naudel@ufs.ac.za">naudel@ufs.ac.za</a></li> </ul>	8	16

PSHT6814 First semester	<p><b>Advanced Psychotherapy and Ethics:</b> This module aims to equip students with advanced knowledge of various psychotherapeutic approaches and the ability to evaluate the suitability of these approaches in various contexts critically. In addition to this, students are expected to demonstrate the competence to approach complex dilemmas that might arise during a psychotherapeutic process with the needed ethical sensitivity and responsible practice. Students are also encouraged to reflect on their professional development as future therapists.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Module coordinator: Prof L. Naudé, SG 111, Tel: +27 51 401 2189, <a href="mailto:naudel@ufs.ac.za">naudel@ufs.ac.za</a></li> <li>• Module moderator: Mr H. Taylor, SG 204, Tel: +27 51 401 9322, <a href="mailto:taylorhw@ufs.ac.za">taylorhw@ufs.ac.za</a></li> </ul>	8	16
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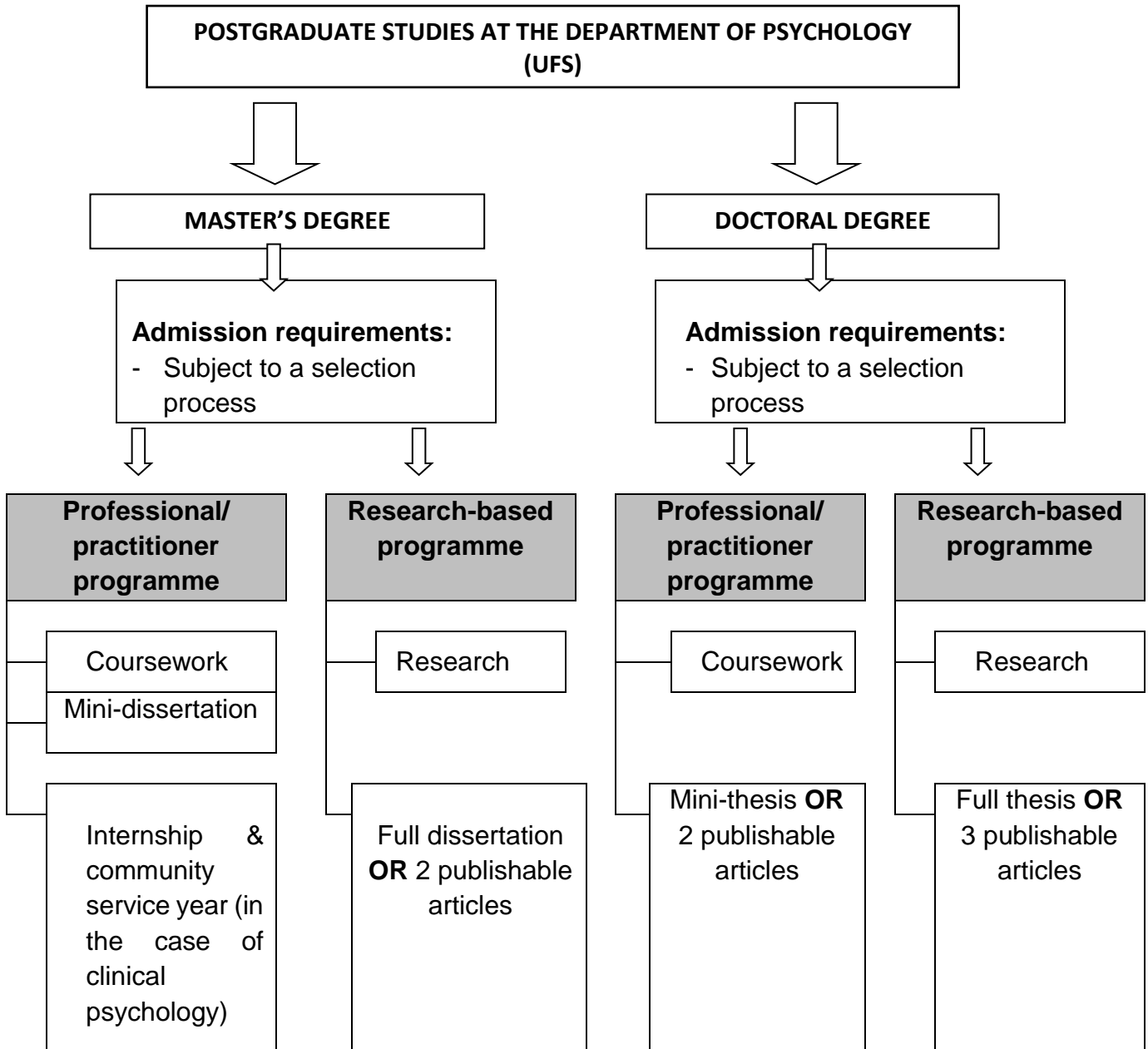
## Second semester module

CODE	NAME OF MODULE	NQF level	Credits
PSHP6824 Second semester	<p><b>Advanced Psychopathology:</b> This module aims to sensitise and train students on both theoretical and applied levels concerning the biological, psychological, and social mechanisms and interactions involved in the development, clinical description, cause, and treatment of various psychological disorders during childhood (including adolescence) and adulthood.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Module coordinator: Mr H. Taylor, SG 204, Tel: +27 51 401 9322, <a href="mailto:taylorhw@ufs.ac.za">taylorhw@ufs.ac.za</a></li> <li>• Module moderator: Dr L. Nel, SG 209A, Tel: +27 51 401 2732, <a href="mailto:neli@ufs.ac.za">neli@ufs.ac.za</a></li> </ul>	8	16

# Master's and doctoral studies in 2023

## ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR POSTGRADUATE STUDIES IN PSYCHOLOGY

A brief outline as to the categories and admission requirements for each degree is represented in the following flowchart:





# Applied Master's Programme 2023

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This programme entails a professional qualification leading to registration as a psychologist (Clinical Psychology or Counselling Psychology) with the Professional Board for Psychology (HPCSA). It takes at least three years for a Clinical psychologist (first year theory; one year internship and one year community service) and at least two years for a Counselling psychologist (first year theory and one year internship) as well as the submission of a mini-dissertation OR one publishable article and the successful completion of the Board Exam before someone can register as a Psychologist.

The first year of study's theoretical training entails a wide spectrum of therapeutic, assessment, diagnostic and community-intervention strategies and knowledge. Students offer therapeutic services to the public focusing on the assessment, intervention, and development of children, adolescents, and adults. The second year entails an internship for which students must apply at various internship organisations.

## SELECTION PROCESS FOR THE APPLIED MASTER'S IN PSYCHOLOGY

Because of the limited number of internships available, prospective students are subjected to a selection process. Information regarding the selection process is available from the following people:

- Programme Coordinators:
  - Mr H. Taylor (Counselling), SG 204, +27 51 401 9322, [taylorhw@ufs.ac.za](mailto:taylorhw@ufs.ac.za)
  - Dr C. Nel (Clinical), SG 8, +27 51 401 3681, [nelc@ufs.ac.za](mailto:nelc@ufs.ac.za)
- Administrative officer:
  - Mrs E. du Plessis, SG 202, +27 51 401 9420, [duplesse@ufs.ac.za](mailto:duplesse@ufs.ac.za)

## EXIT-LEVEL OUTCOMES – MASTER'S PROGRAMME IN APPLIED PSYCHOLOGY

### **On successful completion of this programme, students should be able to:**

- Demonstrate skills in interview assessment and psychometric assessment by completing diagnostic interviews and assessment batteries accurately;
- Use efficient individual, group, and community interventions based on empirical principles, as well as to demonstrate the ability to document the run of their interventions in clear process notes;
- Implement referrals and interventions for a wide range of patient populations under the supervision of a senior psychologist in a competent and independent manner;

- Submit written examples of assignments (portfolios) in which the formulation of a treatment case and a treatment plan is proposed, indicating an empirically based and interdisciplinary, culturally competent approach to treatment;
- Demonstrate skill in an empirical approach to clinical practice as represented in the presentation of cases; this will entail the demonstration of knowledge concerning the pertinent research literature, the assessment of critical ideographic and cultural data, and the integration of data in a workable treatment plan;
- Demonstrate awareness of the ethical issues and relevant ethical behaviour in their clinical activities; and
- Complete one research study consisting of a written product.

## Year modules

Enrolled students should complete all of the following modules.

CODE	NAME OF MODULE	NQF level	Credits
CLIN7900 / COUN7900	<b>Theoretical division:</b> The aim of this module is to 1) equip students with theoretical and practical skills in psychopathology; 2) equip students with theoretical knowledge and skills in a wide array of psychology-related fields, such as ethics and practice management, developmental psychology and programme development; 3) equip students with the biological, psychological and social mechanisms and interactions involved in the development, causes and clinical description of psychological disorders; 4) equip students with theoretical knowledge and skills regarding psychometric assessment across a variety of domains. Neuropsychology, forensic psychology and pharmacology also form part of this division.	9	60
CLIN7900 / COUN7900	<b>Practical division:</b> The aim of this module is the acquisition of thorough theoretical knowledge as well as practical skills concerning interventions for children, adolescents and adults through supervised practical work.	9	60
CLIR7900 / COUR7900	<b>Extended Mini-dissertation/Publishable Article:</b> This module aims to equip postgraduate students with applied research skills.	9	120

# Research-based Master's and PhD studies

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Students interested in furthering their studies in research can complete a master's dissertation or a doctoral thesis in Psychology.

More information regarding these qualifications as well as admission/selection processes is available on the Department's website ([www.ufs.ac.za/psy](http://www.ufs.ac.za/psy)) or from the following people:

- Programme Coordinator:  
Prof L. Naude, Psychology Building Room 111, +27 51 401 2189, [naudel@ufs.ac.za](mailto:naudel@ufs.ac.za)
- Administrative Officer:  
Mrs E. Du Plessis, Psychology Building Room 202, +27 51 401 9420, [duplesse@ufs.ac.za](mailto:duplesse@ufs.ac.za)

## MASTER OF PSYCHOLOGY

<b>Qualification</b>	<b>MASTER OF PSYCHOLOGY</b>				
<b>Abbreviation</b>	<b>MPsych</b>				
<b>Min. study period</b>	<b>Programme Code</b>	<b>Degree Code</b>	<b>Academic Plan Code</b>	<b>NQF Level</b>	<b>Total Credits</b>
<b>1 Year</b>	<b>B1848</b>	<b>18480</b>	<b>BC180248</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>180</b>

### 1. INFORMATION

A dissertation (**PSMD8900**) OR two interrelated, publishable manuscripts or published articles in accredited journals (**PSMA8900**) should be completed successfully.

### 2. ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

In addition to the requirements as presented in 1.4 under General Information in the UFS Rule Book, the following requirements apply:

- (i) Prospective candidates should have at least an Exit Level 8 qualification in Psychology (Honours or a BPsych equivalent).
- (ii) Admission to the degree is subject to departmental approval and is granted based on a combination of criteria. A pass mark of at least 60% in the Exit Level 8 qualification in Psychology is a prerequisite. Information regarding specific admission and selection requirements are available from the Department of Psychology.
- (iii) UFS students who have not interrupted their studies must apply for admission to the academic head or research coordinator of the relevant Department.
- (iv) Students who interrupted their studies and students from other universities must apply for admission to the academic head or research coordinator of the relevant Department, as well as to the Student Academic Services division.

### 3. CURRICULUM

Select **ONE** of the following:

CODE	NAME OF MODULE	CREDITS	NQF Level	SEMESTER
PSMD8900	Dissertation option: Psychology (Research) OR	180	9	1 and 2
PSMA8900	Article option Psychology (Research): Two interrelated, publishable manuscripts / published articles	180	9	1 and 2

### 4. ASSESSMENT

A degree will be awarded after successful completion and assessment of the dissertation/ two interrelated, publishable manuscripts or published articles by a panel of assessors.

### DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN PSYCHOLOGY

Qualification	DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN PSYCHOLOGY				
Abbreviation	PhD(Psychology)				
Min. study period	Programme Code	Degree Code	Academic Plan Code	NQF Level	Total Credits
2 years	B1990	19481	BC190648	10	360

#### 1. INFORMATION

A thesis (PSDT9100) OR at least three interrelated publishable manuscripts or published articles in accredited journals (PSDA9100) should be completed successfully.

#### 2. ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

In addition to the requirements as presented in 1.4 under General Information in the UFS Rule Book, the following requirements apply:

- (i) Prospective candidates should have at least a Master's degree in Psychology at Exit Level 9.
- (ii) Admission to the degree is subject to departmental approval and is granted based on a combination of criteria. A pass mark of at least 65% in the Master's degree in Psychology is a prerequisite. Information regarding specific admission and selection requirements are available from the Department of Psychology.

(iii) UFS students who have not interrupted their studies must apply for admission to the academic head or research coordinator of the relevant Department.

(iv) Students who interrupted their studies and students from other universities must apply for admission to the academic head or research coordinator of the relevant Department, as well as to the Student Academic Services division.

### 3. CURRICULUM

Select **one** of the following:

CODE	NAME OF MODULE	CREDITS	NQF Level	SEMESTER
PSDT9100	Thesis option: Psychology (PhD)	360	10	1 and 2
PSDA9100	Article option Psychology: Three interrelated, publishable manuscripts or published articles in accredited journals	360	10	1 and 2

### 4. ASSESSMENT

A degree will be awarded after successful completion and assessment of the thesis OR three interrelated, publishable manuscripts or published articles in accredited journals by a panel of assessors.

# DPsych in Child Psychology 2023

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This qualification offers registered psychologists the opportunity to deepen their theoretical expertise. Students are **selected** for this programme, and **the next selection date is 2024 (for 2025 intake)**. The DPsych in Child Psychology entails three contact sessions of one week each, across the three years of the programme (thus nine contact sessions), and assignments and seminars. The students must also complete a mini-thesis.

- Programme coordinators: Dr L. Nel  
SG 209A  
Tel: +27 51 401 2732  
[neli@ufs.ac.za](mailto:neli@ufs.ac.za)
- Administrative officer: Mrs A. Diesel  
SG 109B  
Tel: +27 51 401 9314  
[denobilia@ufs.ac.za](mailto:denobilia@ufs.ac.za)

<b>Qualification</b>	DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN PSYCHOLOGY				
<b>Abbreviation</b>	PhD(Psychology)				
<b>Min. study period</b>	<b>Programme Code</b>	<b>Degree Code</b>	<b>Academic Plan Code</b>	<b>NQF Level</b>	<b>Total Credits</b>
3 years	B1948	19490	BC194801	10	360

## Year modules

Enrolled students should complete **ALL** of the following modules.

CODE	NAME OF MODULE	NQF level	Credits
PSCF9100 PSCC9100 PSCR9100	<p><b>DPsych (Child Psychology):</b> The Doctorate in Child Psychology entails a number of modules over a period of three years, as well as a mini-thesis or three publishable articles. The overarching goal is the enhancement of knowledge and expertise in Child Psychology as discipline.</p> <p>The particular goals are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gain advanced scientific and theoretical knowledge in the various disciplines in child psychology; and</li> <li>• Make a contribution to the corpus of knowledge in a particular area of child psychology in the form of a dissertation or three publishable articles.</li> </ul>	10	48x3
PSDC9100 PSAC9100	<p><b>Mini-thesis/Two Articles:</b> The Doctorate in Child Psychology entails a number of modules over a period of three years. A research module has been incorporated into this course and consists of a thesis or two publishable articles. The aims of this research module are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gain advanced expert knowledge and applied research skills; and</li> <li>• Contribute to the corpus of knowledge in a particular area of Child Psychology.</li> </ul>	10	216

The assessment for PSCT9100, PSCH9100 and PSCP9100 consists of a continuous evaluation of papers and oral presentations. The candidate must also complete a thesis of limited scope or two interrelated, publishable manuscripts or published articles at the completion of the study. The final pass mark for the degree is based on the successful completion of the three modules and the thesis/articles.

# General policy and procedures

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## GENERAL REGULATIONS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE FREE STATE

The General Regulations of the UFS is available at the website at [www.ufs.ac.za](http://www.ufs.ac.za). Other important information regarding assessment procedures and general rules concerning study at the UFS is available at:

<https://www.ufs.ac.za/humanities/faculty-of-the-humanities-home>

## CLASS ATTENDANCE

- Research indicated a significant relationship between class attendance and academic performance. Thus, 100% class attendance is expected. Class attendance also applies to other contact sessions such as tutorials, practicals, academic facilitation sessions, or group work.
- Practical arrangements, for example, adjustments of test dates or assignments, may often be discussed during lecture times. Students who fail to make sure of information disseminated during class time risk being unaware of important information. Students will not be excused from any activities or requirements because of ignorance due to not attending classes. No exceptions will be made for students who do not take responsibility for obtaining the correct information.
- Timetable clashes will not be accepted as a valid reason for non-attendance. It is the students' responsibility to ensure, at registration, that no timetable clashes will occur.
- Class tests, oral assessments, writing short reports, etc., may occur during class times without prior notice. Students who are absent from these classes without valid reasons will forfeit the marks related to those particular assessments.

## ASSESSMENT POLICY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

### Important general information:

- Students must comply with all the requirements for a particular module (as provided in the study guide). Suppose students, therefore, miss an assessment opportunity (e.g. a class test) because they have been absent. In that case, the lecturer is under no obligation to repeat the assessment opportunity, and the students will forfeit those marks. If students do not comply with predicate/module mark requirements, they may be refused admission to the examination.
- **Promotion** in Psychology is **only applicable at the first-year and second-year levels** and **only** when the first-year and second-year modules are lectured face-to-face and when the assessments are conducted face-to-face. The promotion system does not apply when the teaching and assessments are done online. The promotion system also does not apply to exit-level modules such as third-year Psychology



modules, whether these modules are lectured and assessed online or face-to-face. The promotion system also does not apply when Psychology modules are completed as part of the Higher Certificate, as these modules are then also exit-level modules. **Please note that students can promote first-year and second-year Psychology modules when they have predicates of 70% and higher for these modules, and when they have participated in all of the scheduled assessments (all the semester tests) in the module, covering all the module content.** However, such students may still participate in examinations if they wish to improve their final marks for these modules. However, please note that promotion module marks **are not allowed to be condoned** according to the General Rules. **Thus, a student who achieves 69% as a promotion mark may not be condoned to 70% and may not be promoted based on the 69%.**

- Thorough preparation for tests is of great importance because the Department allows no additional tests.
- Students writing tests when they are not feeling well do so at their own risk and may not request additional tests.
- Other tests scheduled for the same day will not constitute an excuse for lack of preparation time.
- Students who do not take part in all assessment opportunities (tests, assignments, and the examination) will receive an 'incomplete' for the module. This means that the student will have to repeat the entire module.
- No enquiries concerning results will be dealt with telephonically. All information and marks will appear on Grade Book and Student Portal.
- Suppose students choose to complete their examination paper/computer sheet in pencil and/or use correction fluid. In that case, **NO** corrections/queries will be accepted after the paper has been given back to the students.

**Tests – undergraduate modules:** For each module, **THREE** assessment opportunities (semester tests) are scheduled. To obtain a semester mark (predicate), students are required to take part in at least **TWO** of these three opportunities (semester tests). However, if you choose to, you will be allowed to complete all three of these assessment opportunities (semester tests). In this case, the best two marks will contribute towards your final semester mark (predicate). Students are strongly advised to make use of all three opportunities in preparation for the examination. However, please note that in the **promotion modules**, students must have **participated in all the assessment opportunities** (i.e., semester tests, Questionmark quizzes, Blackboard quizzes, assignments, etc.) in order to qualify to promote the module when their predicates are 70% or higher. Medical certificates are required for compulsory assessments that are missed.

**Assignments:** Assignments have to be submitted on the due date indicated in the module guide. Marks will be deducted for late submission (5% per day – only up to five days). Assignments submitted after five days (inclusive of working days and weekends) will not be accepted.

**Reassessment of answer sheets:** As part of the Department's quality assurance mechanisms, the assessment of tests is controlled rigorously. However, students remain responsible for ensuring that answer sheets have been assessed correctly, and that marks have been added correctly. An application for reassessment of **examination** papers can be made by completing the designated departmental form within five days after the marks have been made available. The coordinator processes the applications once a day for the five-day period. The designated administrative person informs the students per email of any changes if applicable.

**TAKE NOTE OF GENERAL RULE A9.11: A student does not have recourse to the right of exception if she/he has erred in respect of the examination timetable and/or the scheduled test timetable or as regards submission of assignments.**

## GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

We invite all students who experience problems with any aspect of their learning to discuss the matter with us. If you do experience problems, please follow the procedure:

- Step 1: Student/s approach class representative.
- Step 2: Class representative approaches lecturer via email and lecturer responds within three working days.
- Step 3: Lecturer arranges one-on-one meeting with student/s (class representative may also be present). Decisions are recorded.
- Step 4: Class representative is informed that issue has been resolved.
- Step 5: If the issue was not resolved, class representative and lecturer approach AHD.
- Step 6: AHD appoints a senior member of staff as a referee and informs Student Executive of challenge within two working days.
- Step 7: Referee and one member of Student Executive meet with all stakeholders to assess why the challenge was not resolved within ten days.
- Step 8: Referee and member of Student Executive make recommendations to AHD as to how the challenge may be resolved within ten days.
- Step 9: AHD facilitates the resolution using the recommendations made by meeting of stakeholders.
- Step 10: If still not resolved, the AHD refers to the Dean, and the Student Executive informs SRC of the challenge. Dean and SRC negotiate further resolution process.

## RECOGNITION OF CREDITS: 5 YEAR RULE:

A Faculty decision was taken in 2016 that the faculty will not acknowledge modules after a period of 5 years. This policy was implemented from 2017, and will only be applicable to the following cases:

- a) Students who interrupted their studies with a year or more, and who want to continue in 2017.
- b) Students who transfer from other universities or from another faculty within the UFS.
- c) Students who, from 2017, transfer from one degree in the Faculty of the Humanities to another degree in the faculty.

Students who transferred from other universities or faculties within the UFS, or between qualifications in the Faculty of the Humanities in 2016 and before, will be excluded from this policy.

## Frequently asked questions

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### **What is Psychology?**

In general, psychology is all about studying human behaviour, mental processes and how they are affected by and/or affect an individual or group's physical state, mental state, and external environment.

### **Can I enrol for an undergraduate degree in Psychology?**

NO. Psychology is NOT offered as an independent degree on an undergraduate level. Psychology can only be taken as a subject as part of your enrolled degree.

### **What degree should I enrol for with Psychology as my major?**

The degree that you enrol for will depend on your specific interests. It is advisable to obtain Career Counselling from a registered Psychologist who will advise you on possible career paths and degrees.

### **Are there any subject requirements to study Psychology?**

There are NO subject requirements to study Psychology. However, matric subjects that could assist you in your studies in Psychology are Life Sciences and Mathematics. It is also important that you familiarise yourself with the subject requirements of the degree you wish to enrol for.

### **What AP score is required for studies in Psychology?**

This will to a large extent, depend on the degree you enrol for. An AP score of 30 or more is generally required for mainstream programmes, and an AP score ranging between 25 and 29 is sufficient for the extended programmes.

### **What is the extended programme?**

The extended programme was created to assist students that struggle academically. These students are allowed to complete their undergraduate studies over four years instead of three years.

### **How long does it take to complete my studies in Psychology?**

It takes A MINIMUM OF SEVEN (7) YEARS of studying before you can register as a psychologist. Your undergraduate studies generally take three years to complete, while a BPsych Honours degree in Psychology is one year full-time or two years part-time. An Applied Master's in Psychology (to become a Clinical or Counselling psychologist) is another three (Clinical Psychology) or two (Counselling Psychology) years, respectively. Only after completing the mentioned degrees will you be able to register as a psychologist at the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA).

### **Are there any selection processes involved when it comes to studying Psychology?**

YES. There are NO selection processes involved on an undergraduate level, but when you apply for a BPsych Honours degree in Psychology, your application will be subject to selection. The selection is based purely on your academic performance in ALL your undergraduate Psychology modules, thus, first-, second- and third-year Psychology modules. Only your Psychology modules will be considered. This excludes Industrial Psychology. No specific average is required, as the top 65 academic achievers are selected. In short: The higher your marks, the better your chances of being selected for the BPsych Honours programme. After completing the BPsych Honours degree, you can apply for the Applied Master's Programme (Clinical or Counselling psychology), which is also subject to selection. This selection process is quite strict and depends on several factors: academic performance, emotional stability, maturity, and empathy. The selection process also involves various activities, including panel interviews.

### **What are my options when I do not immediately obtain selection for the Applied Masters' programme in Psychology?**

Students are usually advised to select a second undergraduate major that they can utilise to obtain work while waiting to reapply for the Applied Master's programme in Psychology. This second major will, however, depend on your own interests. Some students also choose to continue with research in Psychology.

### **What are the different registration categories offered at the Department of Psychology?**

Clinical and Counselling Psychology forms part of the Applied Master's Programme at the Department of Psychology. Educational Psychology is NOT offered at the Department of Psychology and forms part of the Faculty of Education. The same applies to Industrial Psychology that is part of the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences.

## **What are the current registration categories for Psychology in South Africa?**

Clinical, Counselling, Neuro, Educational, Research and Industrial

## **Are there any registration categories for Sport, Forensic or Child Psychology in South Africa?**

NO. Currently, there are no registration categories for these fields of Psychology in South Africa. However, you may continue with your studies in these fields by completing a PhD that specifically focuses on these different fields of Psychology.

## **What is the difference between Clinical Psychology and Counselling Psychology?**

**Clinical psychology** is a specialist category within professional psychology that provides continuing and comprehensive mental and behavioural healthcare to individuals and groups across the lifespan. This includes assessing, diagnosing, evaluating, and treating psychological and mental health disorders that range from mild to severe and complex. Biological, social, and psychological elements all play a role in psychological assessment, diagnosis, and formulation. Clinical psychologists provide a variety of high-intensity psychological therapy that has been shown to be useful in treating mental health illnesses as well as psychological suffering caused by medical conditions.

**Counselling Psychology** is a specialist category within professional psychology that promotes the personal, social, and educational functioning, career functioning, and wellbeing of individuals, couples, families, groups, organisations, and communities. Counselling psychologists assist people with normal developmental issues and prevent and alleviate psychological and mental health disorders ranging from mild to moderate severity. Psychological assessment, diagnosis, and formulation draw on a holistic appreciation of people's lived experiences and sociocultural contexts. Counselling psychologists deliver a range of high-intensity psychological interventions that consider the therapeutic potential of positive relationships and people's strengths and resources.

## **What is the difference between Psychology and Industrial Psychology?**

The role of Clinical and Counselling Psychologists can be viewed in the question above. However, the study of workplace behaviour is known as industrial psychology. Industrial psychologists are constantly studying employee behaviour and attitudes in every major industry, compiling the most recent results and recommendations, and making them available to businesses. These psychologists advise employers how to hire, train, and manage people more effectively, as well as how to get better feedback from them. Employee performance, morale, wellbeing, and safety are all improved by industrial psychologists, which helps the company's bottom line. Industrial Psychologists do not diagnose, counsel and treat patients who have psychological problems or disorders such as Clinical and Counselling Psychologists.

**Is it possible to practice as a Psychologist without having a degree in the Applied Master's Programme and without being registered at the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA)?**

NO. Psychologists must hold a professional degree from an accredited institution and be registered with the HPCSA as a psychologist to practice.

**Does the UFS offer a programme for students to be trained as registered counsellors or psychometrists?**

The Department of Psychology of the University of the Free State does not have an accredited programme to train Registered Counsellors or Psychometrists. You can visit the HPCSA website to enquire which universities still provide such programmes.

**Are there any bursaries available at the Department of Psychology?**

NO. Information regarding bursaries is available from [www.ufs.ac.za](http://www.ufs.ac.za). You can also visit the Administration Department of the UFS. Postgraduate students can obtain information from the Postgraduate School at the UFS.

**What is the difference between a Psychologist and a Psychiatrist?**

Psychologists and psychiatrists both provide treatment to individuals with emotional problems. Psychology is both a profession and an independent scientific discipline. Psychiatry is a specialisation within the field of medicine. Typically, a psychologist will have a Master's or Doctorate degree, and a psychiatrist will have a medical degree. Psychologists help people control and change their behaviour as a primary method of treating problems. Their focus is on tailoring plans to help their clients develop skills and techniques to cope with difficulties and prevent ongoing issues. They often use a combination of therapies appropriate to the situation. Psychiatrists prescribe medication as a primary means of changing people's behaviour. Psychiatrists are specialist medical doctors who have obtained additional qualifications to practice in the speciality of psychiatry. They specialise in the diagnosis and medical treatment of mental illness and can prescribe medication and use other therapies. Both psychologists and psychiatrists assume that complex emotional problems are likely to result from biological and psychological causes.

**What is the difference between Forensic Psychology and Criminology?**

**Forensic psychology** is the practice of psychology specifically within the legal system. Here, the teachings and principles of psychology are applied to the justice system to create a more robust and infallible justice delivery system. More specifically, forensic psychologists use their expert judgment and analysis to determine if a defendant is competent or mentally fit to stand trial or not. Forensic psychologists also try to determine whether the defendant was mentally stable or insane when they committed the crime or not. Forensic Psychologists also work at correctional centres and clinics to diagnose and treat offenders' psychological and mental health disorders.

On the other hand, **Criminology** is the study of criminal behaviour at the micro and macro levels (i.e., individual and social levels). Using scientific methods and tools, criminologists study crime, the criminal's behaviour, and the victims of the crime. The purpose of criminologists is to understand why crimes occur, the impact they have and leave behind and how to prevent those crimes from happening again in the future. Criminologists use statistics, empirical evidence, past research, and quantitative methods to study crime.

### **What can I do with a bachelor's degree in psychology?**

While most professions in psychology require some sort of postgraduate degree, a bachelor's degree in psychology can provide useful training and chances in a variety of sectors. Psychology is a subject that educates you about the mind, behaviour, and motivation of humans. It also teaches you how to communicate effectively, both verbally and in writing. These skills can be tremendously useful in many fields of work, such as sales, marketing, and advertising.

### **How do I become a child psychologist?**

Within the HPCSA categories, there is currently no specific category for child psychology. However, training in clinical, counselling and educational psychology focuses on children and adolescents. Should child psychology be your field of interest, you will be able to do so with your registration as a psychologist.

The UFS is also the only university in South Africa that offers an applied doctoral programme in child psychology. Any person with five years of practical experience as a registered psychologist can apply for this doctoral degree.

### **What can I do with an BPsych Honour's degree in psychology?**

An honour's degree is a requirement for practical training (internship) to register as a registered counsellor or psychometrist. Please note that there is no practical programme as part of the University of the Free State BPsych Honours degree. You can visit the HPCSA website to enquire which universities still provide such programmes. UFS students who wish to register as registered counsellors or psychometrists will need to apply to registered internships programmes at other training institutions. While a BPsych Honour's degree in psychology may not directly lead to practicing in the psychology profession, the skills obtained during this course serve you well in other careers or fields of work.

### **Does promotion apply to Psychology modules?**

**YES. Promotion** in Psychology is **only applicable at the first-year and second-year levels** and **only** when the first-year and second-year modules are lectured face-to-face and when the assessments are conducted face-to-face. The promotion system does not apply when the teaching and assessments are done online. The promotion system also does not apply to exit-level modules such as third-year Psychology modules, whether these modules are lectured and assessed online or face-to-face. The promotion system also does not apply when Psychology modules are completed as part of the Higher Certificate, as these modules

are then also exit-level modules. **Please note that students can promote first-year and second-year Psychology modules when they have predicates of 70% and higher for these modules, and when they have participated in all of the scheduled assessments (all the semester tests) in the module, covering all the module content.** However, such students may still participate in examinations if they wish to improve their final marks for these modules. However, please note that promotion module marks **are not allowed to be condoned** according to the General Rules. **Thus, a student who achieves 69% as a promotion mark may not be condoned to 70% and may not be promoted based on the 69%.**

During online teaching, the continuous assessment structure is followed in all undergraduate Psychology modules. **Continuous assessment** is used as an alternative to summative assessment. Continuous assessment is a series of assessments that occurs throughout the learning process and not only after the learning process. Students are thus examined continuously over a quarter, semester or year. It is cumulative, and the marks are calculated to produce a final result. There are no predicates and examinations for a module when the continuous assessment structure is used.

**I already have a tertiary qualification. However, I did not complete any or all the undergraduate Psychology modules. What can I do to complete the undergraduate Psychology modules or the outstanding undergraduate Psychology modules?**

Students with existing undergraduate qualifications can complete additional modules as Occasional studies students. Occasional studies are only allowed if you have already obtained a tertiary degree. Occasional studies are for non-degree purposes, which means that you will not obtain a new qualification (degree certificate or attend graduation). However, you will receive an academic record with all the additional modules you completed. If you are interested in completing undergraduate Psychology modules through Occasional studies, please email Mrs Ravhuhali at [RavhuhaliNF@ufs.ac.za](mailto:RavhuhaliNF@ufs.ac.za) or Mrs. Thompson at [ThompsonUC@ufs.ac.za](mailto:ThompsonUC@ufs.ac.za) from the Faculty of the Humanities. They will send you the necessary application documents to complete. Please note that students must apply for Occasional studies before the end of September each year.

**I have already completed an undergraduate degree and all the undergraduate Psychology modules. However, I want to improve my marks in some undergraduate Psychology modules. What can I do to improve my marks?**

Students can improve their marks in undergraduate Psychology modules through Occasional studies. Occasional studies are only allowed if you have already obtained a tertiary degree. Occasional studies are for non-degree purposes, meaning you will not obtain a new qualification (degree certificate or attend graduation). Your improved marks will appear on your academic record. If you are interested in completing undergraduate Psychology modules through Occasional studies, please email Mrs Ravhuhali at [RavhuhaliNF@ufs.ac.za](mailto:RavhuhaliNF@ufs.ac.za) or Mrs Thompson at [ThompsonUC@ufs.ac.za](mailto:ThompsonUC@ufs.ac.za) from the Faculty of the Humanities. They will



send you the necessary application documents to complete. Please note that students must apply for Occasional studies before the end of September each year.

## **Conclusion**

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This document provided the basic information on studying Psychology at the University of the Free State. However, do not hesitate to contact the Information officer, Mrs B Nel (+2751 401 2187), should you have more questions. We hope that pursuing your studies at our Department will be a rewarding and enriching experience.