

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



UFS
THE HUMANITIES

FACULTY OF THE HUMANITIES

Department of Psychology



GUIDE FOR PSYCHOLOGY STUDENTS

2026

Table of contents

	<i>Page</i>
Welcome	2
Admission requirements	2
How do I become a psychologist?	3
Undergraduate modules 2026	6
BPysch Honours Programme 2026	11
Master's and doctoral studies 2026	19
Applied Master's Programme 2026	20
Research-based Master's and PhD studies	23
DPsych in Child Psychology 2026	26
General policy and procedures	28
Frequently asked questions	32
Conclusion	39

Welcome

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, 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

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 subject. 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?

Psychology is a field that attracts 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 this profession aligns with your strengths, personality, and interests.

An essential factor to consider in choosing Psychology as a career is that a prospective psychologist needs to do all of the following:

- 1) Obtain an undergraduate degree with an excellent academic average,
- 2) Be selected for and successfully complete an Honours degree with an excellent academic average
- 3) Be selected for and successfully complete an applied Master's degree.

This implies **at least seven years** of studying before you can register as a psychologist. Psychology is a registered profession, and candidates who have obtained all the necessary qualifications described above, still need to successfully comply with all the regulations of the Health Professions Council of South Africa.

Psychology is not offered as a degree, but rather as a subject completed as part of a chosen degree. Most students study either a BSocSci or a BA degree and then select Psychology as a major subject in combination with various other subjects. The degree that you enrol for should align with your specific interests. Prospective Psychology students are encouraged to combine Psychology with a second major subject that could serve as a back-up plan should students not be immediately selected for postgraduate studies.

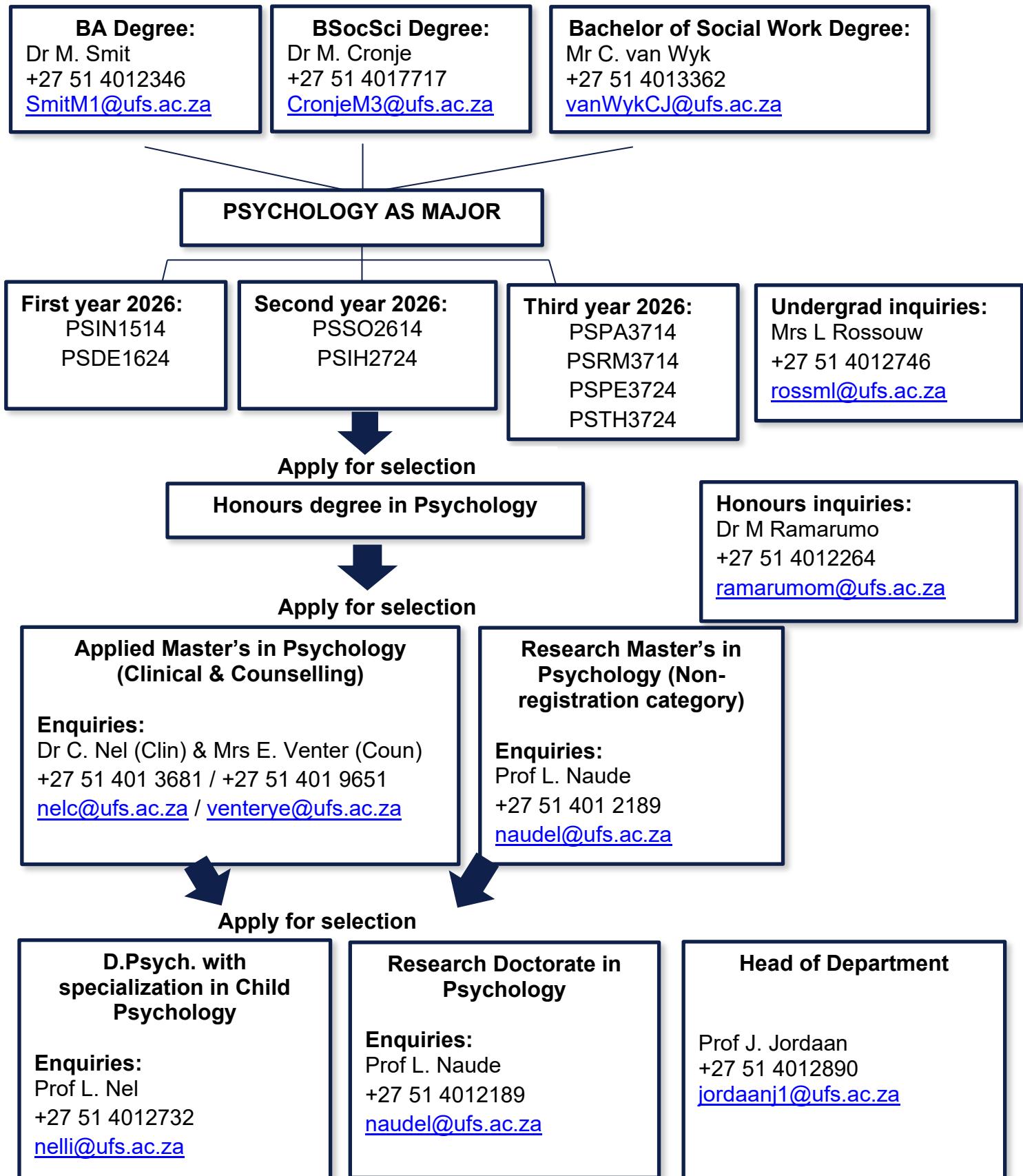
After completing your undergraduate degree with Psychology as a major subject (which ideally takes three years), you can apply for a BPsych Honours degree in Psychology. Students can only apply for a BPsych Honours degree in Psychology after they have completed ALL the undergraduate Psychology modules. **The selection process for the BPsych Honours degree in Psychology is highly competitive, and exceptional academic performance in all your undergraduate Psychology modules is crucial.** The BPsych 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 in Psychology (specialising in either Clinical Psychology or Counselling Psychology). **However, it's important to note that entry into this programme is highly competitive and involves a rigorous selection process.** The selection criteria for the Applied Master's

degree are strict and take into account several factors, such as academic performance, emotional stability, maturity, and empathy. Usually, the master's 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 must 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.

Please read the "**Most Frequently Asked Questions**" section at the end of this guide for important information.



Undergraduate modules 2026

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 relevant theoretical foundations and understanding 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 at the undergraduate level. **Students taking Psychology as a major subject have to complete ALL these undergraduate modules.**

First year

CODE	NAME OF MODULE	NQF level	Credits
PSIN1514 First semester	<p>Introduction to Psychology: This module aims to expose students to a basic introduction to psychology as a science. Each unit briefly explores a subdiscipline within psychology and lays the foundation for later undergraduate psychology modules.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Module coordinator: Dr L. Stone, SG 6, Tel: +27 51 401 3611, StoneLC@ufs.ac.za • Module moderator: Mrs E. Venter, SG 106, Tel: +27 51 401 9651, venterye@ufs.ac.za 	5	16
PSDE1624 Second semester	<p>Developmental Psychology: 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 are discussed. Students will be required to apply their knowledge to short, simple case studies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Module coordinator: Dr L. Stone, SG 6, Tel: +27 51 401 3611, StoneLC@ufs.ac.za • Module moderator: Mrs E. Venter, SG 106, Tel: +27 51 401 9651, venterye@ufs.ac.za 	6	16

Second year

CODE	NAME OF MODULE	NQF level	Credits
PSSO2614 First semester	<p>Social Psychology: 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 specific psychosocial factors contribute to the development and maintenance of 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"> Module coordinator: Mr A. Siswana, SG 105, Tel: +27 51 401 3896, SiswanaA@ufs.ac.za Module moderator: Mrs T. Mduduma, SG 7, Tel: +27 51 401 3191, mdudumat@ufs.ac.za 	6	16
PSIH2724 Second semester	<p>Introduction to Health Psychology: This module aims to provide students with 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"> Module coordinator: Mr H.W. Taylor, SG 204, Tel: +27 51 401 9322, taylorhw@ufs.ac.za Module moderator: Prof J.P. Fouché, SG 108, Tel: +27 51 401 3800, fouchejp@ufs.ac.za 	7	16

Third year

CODE	NAME OF MODULE	NQF level	Credits
PSPA3714 First semester	<p>Psychopathology: 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"> Module coordinator: Dr M. Ramarumo, SG 102, Tel: +27 51 401 2264, ramarumom@ufs.ac.za Module moderator: Mr H.W. Taylor, SG 204, Tel: +27 51 401 9322, taylorhw@ufs.ac.za 	7	16
PSRM3714 First semester	<p>Research Methodology: This module aims to briefly introduce research methodology in the 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"> planning or designing a project where information is gathered for investigating particular research problems, gathering this information according to the design, and analysing the information that was gathered. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Module coordinator: Dr N. Ndimande-Khoza, Qwaqwa campus, Tel: +27 58 718 5397, NdimandeKhozaMN@ufs.ac.za Module moderator: Mrs. K. De Villiers, Qwaqwa Campus, Tel: +27 58 718 5417, devilliersk@ufs.ac.za 	7	16

PSPE3724 Second semester	<p>Personology: 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"> Module coordinator: Dr A. Khanye, Qwaqwa campus, Tel: +27 58 718 5424, khanyeAP@ufs.ac.za Module moderator: Dr F. Tadi SG 6, Tel: +27 51 401 9313, tadinf@ufs.ac.za 	7	16
PSTH 3724 Second semester	<p>Introduction to Psychotherapy and Ethics: This module aims to equip students with the skills for effectively helping clients by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> know and apply the key aspects and techniques surrounding therapeutic intervention, explain a basic therapeutic process and apply relevant theory to a case, facilitate a therapeutic dialogue, contextualise the therapeutic self as well as the therapeutic relationship, apply a variety of psychotherapeutic approaches to a case study, and demonstrate ethical sensitivity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Module coordinator: Mrs T. Mduduma, SG 7, Tel: +27 51 401 3191, mdudumal@ufs.ac.za Module moderator: Dr M. Ramarumo, SG 102, Tel: +27 51 401 2264, ramarumom@ufs.ac.za 	7	16

BPysch Honours Programme 2026

The BPysch 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 BPysch 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 based on exceptional merit.

All modules are offered during the day. Full-time students are expected to attend all the lectures. Part-time students are accommodated with afternoon lectures. Modules are only offered during the day from 08:00 to 17:00. All students must attend contact sessions weekly (**the BPysch 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 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 and a study guide 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 BPSYCH HONOURS PROGRAMME IN PSYCHOLOGY

Prospective students are subjected to a selection process. Academic performance in **all undergraduate Psychology modules** will be the principle selection criterion. To ensure a fair basis of comparison, no other marks will be taken into account. Also, no other aspects such as age, work experience, personal circumstances or other qualifications (apart from Psychology modules) will be considered. Each year, applications will open on 1 August. The closing date for applications is the end of September of the year preceding the intended study. No late or incomplete applications will be considered. All applications must be done online via the UFS website and electronically submitted. Since selection takes place during October, only the module marks available at the time of selection will be considered. The

online application link to the BPsycho Honours programme is <https://apply.ufs.ac.za/Application/Start>. Information regarding the selection process is available on the Department's website (www.ufs.ac.za/psy) or from the following people:

- Programme Coordinator:
Dr M. Ramarumo, SG 102, Tel: +27 51 401 2264, ramarumom@ufs.ac.za
- Administrative officer:
Mrs A. Diesel, SG 101, Tel: +27 51 401 9314, denobilia@ufs.ac.za

EXIT-LEVEL OUTCOMES – BPSYCH 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 competently plan, create, conduct and report on a research project of limited scope in the field of psychological research;
- Plan, conduct, and evaluate a psychosocial intervention in the format of either the Study-Buddy project or Lettie Fouché, teacher and hostel staff well-being, project 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 selected psychological measuring instruments ethically and professionally; and
- Portray an integrative understanding of and theoretical approaches to psychopathology during childhood, adolescence, and adulthood.

The BPsycho Honours programme consists of seven modules. Enrolled students should complete **ALL** of the modules. Part-time students are allowed to complete the seven modules over a period of two years.

PROGRESSION AND RE-ADMISSION RULES AT THE HONOURS LEVEL:

- Students who are admitted to postgraduate programmes are generally expected to pass all the modules for which they registered in a particular study year. **A student will only be allowed to proceed with a programme for the next study year if she/he has passed at least 75% of the modules in an academic year** and/or mini-dissertation to complete the qualification. (**General Rules, page 74, paragraph A21.8**)
- A student who has not yet completed the qualification after the minimum duration of the relevant qualification plus one (1) year – calculated from the date of first registration for

the Bachelor Honours Degree in question – may, on the basis of exceptional merit and on the recommendation of the academic head of department, be granted admission by the dean (Examination Board) for one (1) additional year, with written notification to the Registrar. **(General Rules, page 74, paragraph A21.9.1 a (i))**

- A student who, after the minimum period plus one (1) year and one (1) further semester (or one (1) year in the case of an outstanding year module) has not yet obtained the qualification, but has completed at least 85% of the total number of credits required for the qualification, may be readmitted for one (1) additional semester or year (in the case of an outstanding year module) if the academic head of department recommends such readmission to the dean (Examination Board) on the basis of exceptional merit, with written notification to the Registrar. **(General Rules, page 74, paragraph A21.9.1 a (ii))**

In practical terms, what does this imply for full-time Honours students?

Full-time Honours students may be allowed to extend their studies into a second year of study **provided that they meet the progression rule of completing 75% of the required credits (96 credits out of the 128 credits)** in the first year of study. The Examination Board of the Faculty of the Humanities will review Honours students' progress and decide on readmission to complete the remaining 32 credits required for the degree. Additionally, full-time Honours students may be granted a third year of study to complete their degree **provided that they meet the progression rule of 75% of credits (96 credits) completed in the first year of study and 85% of credits (112 credits) completed by the end of the second year of study (96 credits in the first year of study and an additional 16 credits in the second year of study)**. If these conditions are met, they may be readmitted to complete the final 16 credits. The Examination Board of the Faculty of the Humanities will determine compliance with these progression rules and decide on further continuation of studies.

In practical terms, what does this imply for part-time Honours students?

Part-time Honours students are expected to complete 64 credits per year over two years (50% of the total 128 credits each year) to finish their Honours degree within two years. If they do not complete the degree within two years, **they may be allowed a third year, provided they meet the progression rule of completing 85% (112 credits) over two years**. This includes **64 credits in the first year and an additional 48 credits in the second year**. The Examination Board will evaluate whether the progression rules have been adhered to and decide if the student may complete the remaining 16 credits in the third year. In both cases, students' readmission to additional years of study depends on their adherence to the specified progression rules and the Examination Board's approval.

CLASS ATTENDANCE AT THE HONOURS LEVEL:

- The Department of Psychology expects 100% class attendance as research indicated a significant relationship between class attendance and academic performance. Class

attendance also applies to other contact sessions such as tutorials, practicals, academic facilitation sessions, or group work.

- The rules and regulations of the UFS make provision for **compulsory class attendance** of teaching and learning opportunities as part of the module requirements for **admission to an examination or summative assessment**. In the BPsych Honours Programme students will be expected to **attend a minimum of 70% of the lectures in each module to obtain admission to the examination or summative assessment in each module**. **Class attendance will be monitored weekly**. Students who do not have a minimum of 70% class attendance **will not be allowed to participate** in summative assessments or examinations and **will receive an incomplete for the module**.

For more information, please consult the Guide for Honours Students.

Year modules

CODE	NAME OF MODULE	NQF level	Credits
PSHC6804 Year module	<p>Community and Social Psychology: 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"> Module coordinator: Prof J.P. Fouché, SG 108, Tel: +27 51 401 3800, fouchejp@ufs.ac.za Module moderator: Mr A. Siswana, SG 105, Tel: +27 51 401 3896, SiswanaA@ufs.ac.za 	8	16
PSHM6804 Year module	<p>Advanced Research Methodology: 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"> Module coordinator: Prof L. Nel, SG 209A, Tel: +27 51 401 2732, nelli@ufs.ac.za Module co-presenter: Prof M. Engelbrecht, SG 103, engelmc@ufs.ac.za Module moderators: Dr P. Naidoo, SG 104, Tel: +27 51 401 2340, naidoop@ufs.ac.za & Prof S.P. Walker, SG 120B, Tel: +27 51 401 2424, walkersp@ufs.ac.za 	8	16

PSHR6808 Year module	<p>Applied Research Methodology: 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"> Module coordinator: Dr P. Naidoo, SG 104, Tel: +27 51 401 2340, naidoop@ufs.ac.za Module moderator: Prof S.P. Walker, SG 120B, Tel: +27 51 401 2424, walkersp@ufs.ac.za 	8	32
----------------------------	---	---	----

First semester modules

CODE	NAME OF MODULE	NQF level	Credits
PSHD6814 First semester	<p>Advanced Developmental Psychology: 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"> Module coordinator: Dr F. Tadi, SG 6, Tel: +27 51 401 9313, tadinf@ufs.ac.za Module moderator: Prof. L. Naudé, SG 111, Tel: +27 514012189, naudel@ufs.ac.za 	8	16

PSHT6814 First semester	<p>Advanced Psychotherapy and Ethics: 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"> Module coordinator: Prof L. Naudé, SG 111, Tel: +27 51 401 2189, naudel@ufs.ac.za Module moderator: Mr H.W. Taylor, SG 204, Tel: +27 51 401 9322, taylorhw@ufs.ac.za 	8	16
-------------------------------	---	---	----

Second semester module

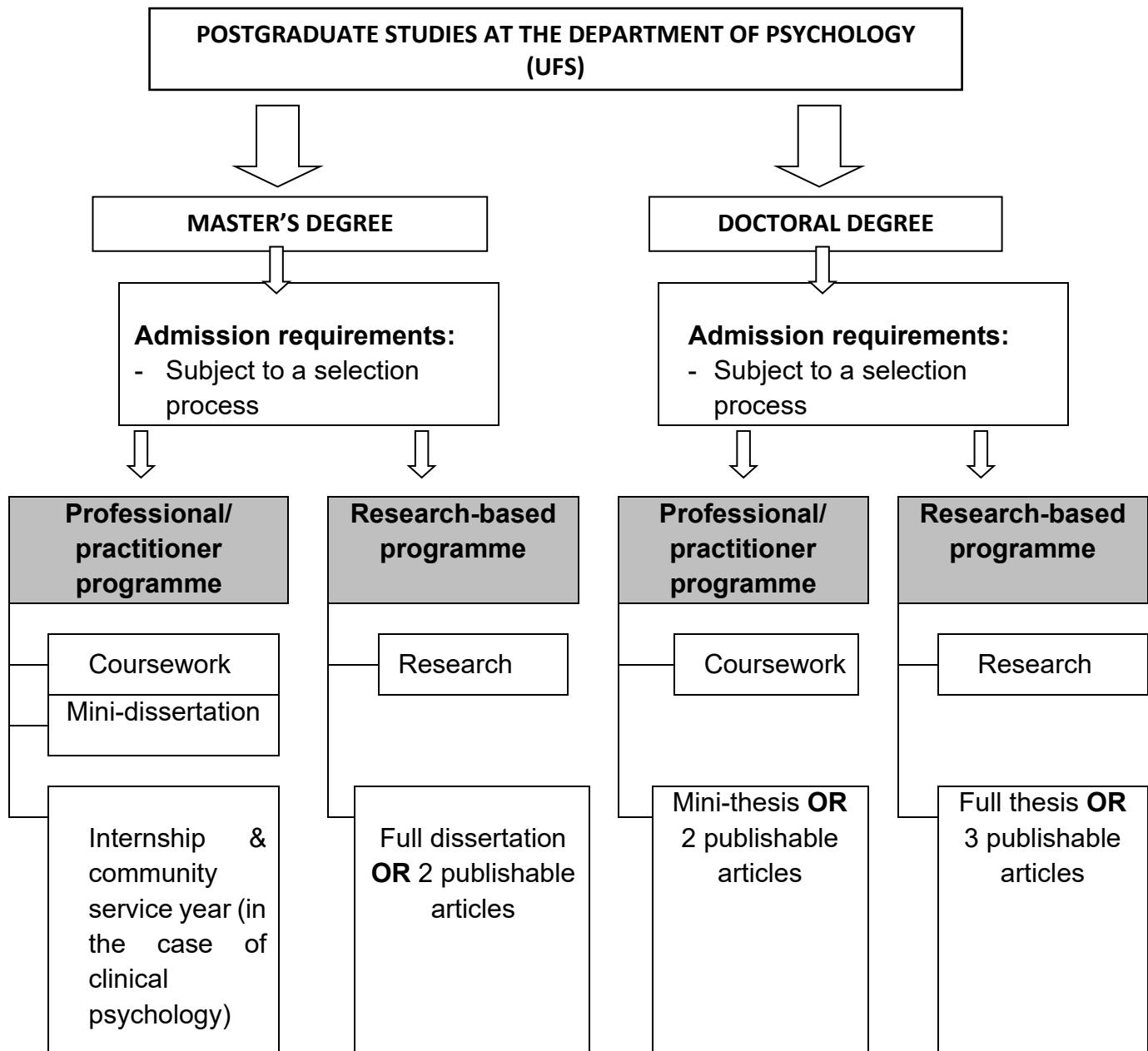
CODE	NAME OF MODULE	NQF level	Credits
PSHA6824 Second semester	<p>Advanced Psychological Assessment: This module introduces students to the psychometric principles underpinning psychological assessment, as well as the ethical aspects that guide the process. The module also covers how assessment measures are developed and adapted for different contexts, how an individual's culture and context influence their performance and experience of psychological assessment, and how different assessment procedures are used for specific contexts and domains of functioning. This module aims to equip the student to understand the principles of interpretation and communication of assessment results.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Module coordinator: Mrs E. Venter, SG 106, Tel: +27 51 401 9651, venterye@ufs.ac.za Module moderator: Prof L. Nel, SG 209A, Tel: +27 51 401 2732, nelli@ufs.ac.za 	8	16

PSHP6824 Second semester	<p>Advanced Psychopathology: 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"> Module coordinator: Mrs T. Mduduma, SG 7, Tel: +27 51 401 3191, mdudumat@ufs.ac.za Module moderator: Prof L. Nel, SG 209A, Tel: +27 51 401 2732, nelli@ufs.ac.za 	8	16
--------------------------------	--	---	----

Master's and doctoral studies in 2026

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 Programmes 2026

These programmes entail a professional qualification leading to registration as a psychologist (either in the Clinical Psychology or Counselling Psychology category) 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 in each programme 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 PROGRAMMES IN CLINICAL OR COUNSELLING 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:

- Clinical Psychology Programme Coordinator:
 - Dr C. Nel, SG 203, +27 51 401 3681, nelc@ufs.ac.za
- Counselling Psychology Programme Coordinator:
 - Mrs E. Venter, SG 106, +27 51 401 9651, venterye@ufs.ac.za
- Administrative officer:
 - Mrs E. du Plessis, SG 202, +27 51 401 9420, duplesse@ufs.ac.za

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

On successful completion of the Clinical Psychology programme, students should be able to:

1. Use psychological assessment to conceptualise, diagnose, plan and monitor therapeutic processes and outcomes.
2. Develop theoretical and aetiological formulations and should have acquired the ability to use a range of psychological interventions with different age groups and contexts.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of psychological practice that meets professional and ethical standards.

4. Design, manage and conduct ethical and responsible research which contributes to psychological knowledge, theory and practice and to report on such research and implement research findings in clinical practice.

On successful completion of the Counselling Psychology programme, students should be able to:

1. Utilise different psychological assessment instruments to conceptualise, diagnose, plan, and monitor therapeutic processes and outcomes with clients.
2. Develop theoretical and aetiological conceptualisations of client cases and acquired the knowledge and skills to use a range of psychological interventions with different age groups and contexts.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of psychological practice that meets professional and ethical standards.
4. Design, manage and conduct ethical and responsible research which contributes to psychological knowledge, theory, and practice and report on such research and implement research findings in counselling practice.

Year modules

Enrolled students should complete all of the following modules for the programme they have been selected for:

MSocSci (Clinical Psychology)			
CODE	NAME OF MODULE	NQF level	Credit s
CLIN7900	Students undergo a full-time 42-week programme consisting of daily lectures, training sessions, and group discussions related to the different competencies contained in the standards for training in Clinical Psychology set by the HPCSA. In addition to the acquisition of thorough theoretical knowledge, students are expected to gain practical skills concerning interventions for children, adolescents, and adults through supervised clinical work in different contexts and settings.	9	120
CLII7900	12-Month Full-time Internship At an accredited internship institution.	9	0
CLIR7900	Mini-dissertation/Publishable Article: This module aims to equip postgraduate students with applied research skills.	9	120

MSocSci (Counseling Psychology)			
CODE	NAME OF MODULE	NQF level	Credit s
COUN7900	Theoretical division: 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
COUI7900	12-Month Full-time Internship: At an accredited internship institution	9	0
COUR7900	Mini-dissertation/Publishable Article: This module aims to equip postgraduate students with applied research skills.	9	120

Research-based Master's and PhD studies

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) or from the following people:

- Programme Coordinator:
Prof L. Naude, SG 111, +27 51 401 2189, naudel@ufs.ac.za
- Administrative Officer:
Mrs E. Du Plessis, SG 202, +27 51 401 9420, duplesse@ufs.ac.za

MASTER OF PSYCHOLOGY

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

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:

- Prospective candidates should have at least an Exit Level 8 qualification in Psychology (Honours or a BPsych equivalent).
- 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 Exit Level 8 qualification in Psychology is a prerequisite. Information regarding specific admission and selection requirements are available from the Department of Psychology.
- UFS students who have not interrupted their studies must apply for admission to the academic head or research coordinator of the relevant Department.
- 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 2026

This qualification offers registered psychologists the opportunity to deepen their theoretical expertise. Students are **selected** for this programme. **The next selection date is 2027 (for 2028 intake)**. The DPscyh 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: Prof L. Nel
SG 209A
Tel: +27 51 401 2732
nelli@ufs.ac.za
- Administrative officer: Mrs A. Diesel
SG 101
Tel: +27 51 401 9314
denobilia@ufs.ac.za

Qualification	DOCTOR OF PSYCHOLOGY IN CHILD PSYCHOLOGY				
Abbreviation	DPsych in Child Psychology				
Min. study period	Programme Code	Degree Code	Academic Plan Code	NQF Level	Total Credits
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	DPsych (Child Psychology): 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.	10	48x3
PSDC9100 PSAC9100	Mini-thesis/Two Articles: 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gain advanced expert knowledge and applied research skills; and• Contribute to the corpus of knowledge in a particular area of Child Psychology.	10	216

The assessment for PSCF9100, PSCC9100 and PSCR9100 consists of a continuous evaluation of papers and oral presentations. Students 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

GENERAL REGULATIONS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE FREE STATE

The General Regulations of the UFS are available at the website at 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 module 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. In such cases, the EXAMINATION mark will be the final mark. 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 the **first year and second year modules**, **THREE** (03) semester tests will be scheduled. **ALL THREE** semester test marks will contribute to your semester mark (predicate). Students who want to qualify to promote these modules must participate in **ALL THREE** scheduled semester tests. Students who missed a semester test and can provide valid reasons for missing it within 48 hours after the specific test was written will be allowed to participate in the sick test. This sick test will be scheduled at the end of the semester, covering the entire semester's module content. Only one sick test will be scheduled for the semester. Thus, the sick test can only replace a maximum of one of the scheduled tests. It is, therefore, a priority to write all three of the scheduled tests in the first place. Also, four (04) Questionmark quizzes will be scheduled. The marks of the best two (02) Questionmark quizzes will contribute to your semester mark (predicate).

For the third year modules, **THREE** (03) semester tests will be 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.

REASONS ACCEPTED FOR ACCESS TO SICK TESTS

- When an illness diagnosed by a registered medical practitioner, psychologist, homoeopath, professional nurse or registered traditional healer prevents the student from attending the test.
 - The medical certificate must accompany the student's application to participate in the sick test.
- Circumstances that prevented the student from participating in the test and that could be considered on empathetic or humane grounds, e.g., the death of an immediate family.
 - An affidavit made at the South African Police Services (SAPS) in which the circumstances for compassionate grounds are described, must accompany the student's application to participate in the sick test, e.g., date of passing, date of funeral, relation to the student, etc.
 - A SAPS-certified copy of the death certificate (if applicable) must accompany the application.
- Any convincing, credible, and conclusive circumstances that occurred without warning and/or were beyond the student's control (e.g., sport commitments, criminal acts committed against the student, a motor vehicle accident, etc.).
 - An affidavit made at the SAPS, in which the compelling circumstances are described, must accompany the student's application.
 - If the student had been involved in a motor vehicle accident or a criminal act had been committed against the student a SAPS case number must be included in the affidavit.
 - Any other documents that could support the application may be included to the student's application.
- Test timetable clashes: if another module's test is scheduled during the same time slot (this happens on rare occasions), lecturers must discuss alternative options with each other.

Assignments: Assignments have to be submitted on the due date indicated in the module guide. Marks will be deducted for late submission (20% 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 marked correctly, and that marks have been added correctly. An application for reassessment of test and **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 they 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

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 underprepared students to succeed in Higher Education. These students are allowed to complete their undergraduate studies over four years instead of three years.

Are there any prerequisites for completing the undergraduate Psychology modules?

There are no specific prerequisites for completing the individual undergraduate Psychology modules. In other words, these modules do not build on each other, and one is not a requirement for registering for another. However, please note that the undergraduate degree you are enrolled in may have its own prerequisites or progression rules that apply. If you fail a Psychology module, you may still register for other undergraduate Psychology modules while waiting to repeat the failed one, provided this aligns with the rules of the chosen undergraduate degree.

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?

It is important to remember that very few students are selected for an applied master's programme (only 12 per year), and even less are selected directly after completing an Honours degree. Selection is not guaranteed, and depends on multiple factors. Students are strongly advised to select their second undergraduate major strategically, so they can utilise that major to obtain work while waiting to reapply for an Applied Master's programme in Psychology. This second major will, however, depend on your own interests. It is advisable to obtain Career Counselling from a registered Psychologist who will advise you on possible

career paths and degree options. Some students also choose to continue with research in Psychology.

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

The Department of Psychology offers two applied programmes: MSocSc in Clinical Psychology and MSocSc in Counselling 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 one of 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.

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.

What can I do with an BPPsych Honour's degree in psychology?

The BPPsych 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's BPPsych 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 BPPsych Honour's degree in psychology may not directly lead to practising in psychology, the skills obtained during this course serve you well in other careers or fields of work.

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. 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 master's degree in this specialisation after obtaining their medical (MBChB) 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 challenges 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. 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.

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.

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. In such cases, the Examination mark will be the final mark. 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 Neliswa Emeni-Tientcheu at EmeniTientcheuNP@ufs.ac.za or Thompson at 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?

Unfortunately, students are no longer permitted to redo or repeat modules through Occasional Studies for the purpose of improving their marks.

What are the progression rules at the Honours level?

Students who are admitted to postgraduate programmes are generally expected to pass all the modules for which they registered in a particular study year. **A student will only be allowed to proceed with a programme for the next study year if she/he has passed at least 75% of the modules in an academic year** and/or mini-dissertation to complete the qualification. (General Rules, page 74, paragraph A21.8)

A student who has not yet completed the qualification after the minimum duration of the relevant qualification plus one (1) year – calculated from the date of first registration for the Bachelor Honours Degree in question – may, on the basis of exceptional merit and on the recommendation of the academic head of department, be granted admission by the dean (Examination Board) for one (1) additional year, with written notification to the Registrar. (General Rules, page 74, paragraph A21.9.1 a (i))

A student who, after the minimum period plus one (1) year and one (1) further semester (or one (1) year in the case of an outstanding year module) has not yet obtained the qualification, but has completed at least 85% of the total number of credits required for the qualification, may be readmitted for one (1) additional semester or year (in the case of an outstanding year module) if the academic head of department recommends such readmission to the dean (Examination Board) on the basis of exceptional merit, with written notification to the Registrar. (General Rules, page 74, paragraph A21.9.1 a (ii))

In practical terms, what do the progression rules imply for full-time Honours students?

Full-time Honours students may be allowed to extend their studies into a second year of study **provided that they meet the progression rule of completing 75% of the required credits (96 credits out of the 128 credits)** in the first year of study. The Examination Board of the Faculty of the Humanities will review Honours students' progress and decide on readmission to complete the remaining 32 credits required for the degree. Additionally, full-time Honours students may be granted a third year of study to complete their degree **provided that they meet the progression rule of 75% of credits (96 credits) completed in the first year of study and 85% of credits (112 credits) completed by the end of the second year of study (96 credits in the first year of study and an additional 16 credits in the second year of study)**. If these conditions are met, they may be readmitted to complete the final 16 credits. The Examination Board of the Faculty of the Humanities will determine compliance with these progression rules and decide on further continuation of studies.

In practical terms, what do the progression rules imply for part-time Honours students?

Part-time Honours students are expected to complete 64 credits per year over two years (50% of the total 128 credits each year) to finish their Honours degree within two years. If they do not complete the degree within two years, **they may be allowed a third year, provided they meet the progression rule of completing 85% (112 credits) over two years.** This includes **64 credits in the first year and an additional 48 credits in the second year.** The Examination Board will evaluate whether the progression rules have been adhered to and decide if the student may complete the remaining 16 credits in the third year. In both cases, students' readmission to additional years of study depends on their adherence to the specified progression rules and the Examination Board's approval.

Conclusion

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