

**Example Transfer Plan**  
**Psych Majors – Willamette University**  
*(Fall 2021 Catalog and later – please see separate ‘Guide to the Major’ for full requirements)*

Transfer students wanting to major in psychology, who enter with credit for Introduction to Psychology (e.g., from taking PSYC201/202 introductory psychology sequence at a community college), can expect to take 2 PSYC-prefix courses per term across four terms to meet major requirements in two years. (In two terms, it will be 2.5 courses to allow for the PSYC310/410 half-credit professional development sequence.)

**JUNIOR YEAR**

Fall -

252W RMA I (*it is important to take this course as soon as possible!*)  
300-level breadth category (one of four breadth classes required)

Spring-

253 RMA II  
300-level breadth category (second of four breadth classes required)  
\*PSYC310 (2-credit half course; professional development, only offered spring term)

**SENIOR YEAR**

Fall-

300-level breadth category (third of four breadth classes required)  
\*PSYC497 OR PSYC498 - senior internship (only offered fall term)  
\*PSYC410 (2-credit half course; professional development, only offered fall term)

Spring-

300-level breadth category (fourth of four breadth classes required)  
PSYC431W - seminar in psych (small, discussion based class)

\* Classes marked by an asterisk must be taken in that term / year as they are not offered at other times.

**NOTES:**

- There is flexibility within this but as a general plan it is one that would work well.
- Students planning to spend three years at Willamette can spread out the psychology coursework.
- We strongly recommend all transfer students take the full PSYC252 / PSYC253 Research Methods sequence at Willamette. The PSYC252W / PSYC253 sequence has continuity built in, so it can be difficult to skip one or both portions. We have found transfer students are most successful and satisfied with their experience when starting this sequence fully at WU. Sometimes transfer students have taken a research methods or statistics course at another college, in which case we recommend applying those as general credits toward graduation rather than to the psych major.
- Transfer students who have taken topical psychology classes that required Intro Psych as a prerequisite may be able to have one or more of the 300-level ‘breadth’ classes waived, in consultation with a faculty member in psychology. Decisions to waive one or more of the 300-level breadth class requirements will consider both course content (e.g., syllabi, course materials) as well as course credit value (e.g., whether the class transfers as 3 or 4 semester hours at Willamette). In general, the department will waive one of the courses in the 300-level breadth requirement if an approved course transfers as 3 or 4 semester hours, but in order for two courses in the 300-level breadth category to be waived, the approved courses must equal at least 8 semester hours (i.e., we will allow 3 semester hours to waive a 4 semester hour requirement for one course, but not 6 semester hours to waive an 8 semester hour requirement for two courses). Note that courses will only be considered for the breadth requirement if they were courses at the prior institution that required Introduction to Psychology as a prerequisite (which typically excludes 100-level courses).

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs):

- **I'm transferring from a community college with an associate's degree / 2-year block transfer and have only taken Introduction to Psychology. Can I finish the psychology major requirements in 2 years?**

*Absolutely! See the sample schedule above for how this will work. To graduate on time, you can expect about half of your coursework each semester to be in the psychology major. It's important to start the methods sequence early (PSYC252/253) to stay on track.*

- **I've taken some 100-level general psychology classes that did not require Introduction to Psychology as prerequisite. Can these classes also count toward the major?**

*No, we do not accept 100-level classes prior to Introduction to Psychology toward the major, though you may find those courses useful as general background for your psych major.*

- **I've already taken a statistics or methods course. Can I skip PSYC252W and/or PSYC253?**

*We strongly recommend all transfer students take the full PSYC252W / PSYC253 Research Methods sequence at Willamette. The PSYC252W / PSYC253 course sequence has continuity built in and uses a shared textbook, so it can be difficult to skip one or both portions. We have found transfer students are most successful and satisfied with their experience when starting this sequence fully at Willamette. If you have taken a research methods or statistics course at another college, note that those classes can still be applied as general credits toward graduation (i.e., you don't lose those credits, and they will still contribute toward graduation!).*

- **Is it possible for transfer classes to fulfill any of the 300-level breadth classes?**

*Yes! If you have taken topical psychology classes that require Introduction to Psychology as a prerequisite at your prior institution, you may be able to have one or more of the four courses in the 300-level breadth requirement waived, in consultation with a psychology faculty member. Decisions to waive any of the 300-level breadth requirements will consider both course content (e.g., syllabi, course materials) as well as course credit value (e.g., whether the class transfers as 3 or 4 semester hours at Willamette). In general, the department will waive one of the courses in the 300-level breadth requirement if an approved course transfers as 3 or 4 semester hours, but in order for two courses in the 300-level breadth category to be waived, the approved courses must equal at least 8 semester hours (i.e., we will allow 3 semester hours to waive a 4 semester hour requirement for one course, but not 6 semester hours to waive an 8 semester hour requirement for two courses). Note that courses will only be considered for the breadth requirement if they were courses at the prior institution that required Introduction to Psychology as a prerequisite (which typically excludes 100-level psychology courses).*