



**SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS  
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS FORMS**

**Substantive Program Modification Form**

Use this form to request substantive changes in existing programs (majors, minors, certificates, or specializations).

<b>UNIVERSITY:</b>	NSU
<b>CURRENT PROGRAM TITLE:</b>	Psychology (BS)
<b>CIP CODE:</b>	
<b>UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT:</b>	Psychology & Counseling
<b>BANNER DEPARTMENT CODE:</b>	NPCE
<b>UNIVERSITY DIVISION:</b>	College of Professional Studies/School of Education
<b>BANNER DIVISION CODE:</b>	5E

**University Approval**

*To the Board of Regents and the Executive Director: I certify that I have read this proposal, that I believe it to be accurate, and that it has been evaluated and approved as provided by university policy.*



Vice President of Academic Affairs or  
President of the University

4/28/2021

Date

**1. This modification addresses a change in (place an "X" in the appropriate box):**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Total credits required within the discipline | <input type="checkbox"/> Total credits of supportive course work |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Total credits of elective course work                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Total credits required for program      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Program name  | <input type="checkbox"/> Existing specialization                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CIP Code  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (explain below)                   |

**2. Effective date of change: 8/1/2021**

**3. Program Degree Level (place an "X" in the appropriate box):**

Associate ☐ Bachelor's ☒ Master's ☐ Doctoral ☐

**4. Category (place an "X" in the appropriate box):**

Certificate ☐ Specialization ☐ Minor ☐ Major ☒

**5. If a name change is proposed, the change will occur (place an “X” in the appropriate box):**

- ☐ On the effective date for all students
- ☐ On the effective date for students new to the program (enrolled students will graduate from existing program)

**Proposed new name:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Reminder: Name changes may require updating related articulation agreements, site approvals, etc.*

**6. Primary Aspects of the Modification (add lines or adjust cell size as needed):**

<i>Existing Curriculum</i>				<i>Proposed Curriculum (highlight changes)</i>			
Pref.	Num.	Title	Cr.	Pref.	Num.	Title	Cr.
IDL	190	Freshman Seminar	2	IDL	190	Freshman Seminar	2
PSYC	101	General Psychology	3	PSYC	101	General Psychology	3
PSYC	300	Intro Scientific Psych	3				
PSYC	373	Psych Research Methods	3	PSYC	373	Psych Research Methods	3
PSYC	489	Capstone	3	PSYC	489	Capstone	3
				PSYC	221	Lifespan & Development	3
				PSYC	304	History of Psyc Ethics	3
		<b>Experimental Psychology Courses</b>	9			<b>Experimental Psychology Courses</b>	9
PSYC	303	Cognition & Learning (3 cr)		PSYC	303	Cognition & Learning (3 cr.)	
PSYC	313	Biological Psychology (3 cr)		PSYC	313	Biological Psychology (3 cr.)	
PSYC	371	Statistics in Psych Research (3 cr)		PSYC	371	Statistics in Psych Research (3 cr.)	
PSYC	477	Testing/Measurement (3 cr)		PSYC	477	Testing/Measurement (3 cr.)	
		<b>Social Psychology Courses</b>	6			<b>Social Psychology Courses</b>	6
PSYC	430	Organizational Psych (3 cr.)					
PSYC	441	Social Psychology (3 cr.)		PSYC	441	Social Psychology (3 cr.)	
PSYC	451	Abnormal Psychology (3 cr.)		PSYC	451	Abnormal Psychology (3 cr.)	
PSYC	461	Theories of Personality (3 cr.)		PSYC	461	Theories of Personality (3 cr.)	
				PSYC	323	Social Psych of Media (3 cr.)	
		<b>Developmental Courses</b>	6			<b>Developmental courses</b>	6
PSYC	221	Lifespan & Development (3 cr.)					
PSYC	325	Child/Adolescent Psych (3 cr.)		PSYC	325	Child/Adolescent Psych (3 cr.)	
PSYC	328	Adulthood/Aging (2 cr.)		PSYC	328	Adulthood/Aging (3 cr.)	
PSYC	422	Psych of Adolescence (2 cr.)					
				PSYC	211	Psyc of Sex & Gender (3 cr.)	
				PSYC	311	Creativity in Cognition (3 cr.)	
		<b>Plus 1 Elective from any area</b>	3			<b>Plus 1 Elective from any area</b>	3
Total Hours Required			38	Total Hours Required			41

**7. Explanation of the Change:**

The curriculum changes align Northern’s BS in Psychology with the American Psychological Association’s (APA) guidelines for undergraduate programs. The APA guidelines include five learning outcomes and goals to produce competent psychology students. Those five goals are: Knowledge base, Scientific inquiry and critical thinking, Ethical & social responsibility in a diverse world, Communication, and Professional development. For each of these goals,

specific learning criteria are delineated. The new courses will add to our ability to meet these learning objective criteria. For example, Goal 3.1a states: 3.1a Describe key regulations in the APA Ethics Code for protection of human or nonhuman research participants. Its corresponding student indicator is: 3.1A Evaluate psychological research from the standpoint of adherence to the APA Ethics Code in psychological research involving human or nonhuman research participants. PSYC 304 fills in this gap of knowledge students were missing from the standards due to NSU not offering any ethics specific course. While ethics has always been a part of every course, examining ethics in-depth is necessary for higher-level courses to assure ethical research, ethical employment practices, etc. For that reason, it will be a required course for all PSYC students. PSYC 323 fulfills APA standards on social media and electronic communications. APA guidance on standard 2.0 includes gender and sexuality, and these content guidelines are mapped to PSYC 211. PSYC 311 includes APA guidelines on helping students improve their creative problem-solving skills and their ability to adapt to complex work environments.

The new courses are being managed via a change in course rotation that does not impact faculty loads. Most courses will now be offered every other year, rather than every year to manage faculty course loads, offer classes close to capacity, and meet the needs of students. Advisors will provide students with clear 2-year course rotations, outlining clear plans of study for all psychology majors.

The courses in white on the left are the current required courses for the program, totaling 15 credits. Within the required courses in the new rotation, PSYC 221 will become a newly required course where it was optional previously. PSYC 304 – History of Psychological Ethics will replace PSYC 300 – Introduction to Scientific Psychology. This will bring the total of required courses to 17 credits. The reason for the changes is because Lifespan & Development is a crucial course for all psychology majors as well as a requirement for a wide variety of other programs, such as Pre-Med, Pre-Physical Therapy, Pre-Nursing. It is difficult to provide psychological services without a basic understanding of human development so it makes sense to add this as a required course. Introduction to Scientific Psychology has not been being taught per the course catalogue description for numerous years. Faculty felt an ethics course would best meet the needs of the students instead as with a Bachelor's degree students are still able to work in the field of psychology in a variety of roles. Having no ethical foundation could be a detriment to those students working in the field as ethics is a core foundation of psychological practice.

The courses in the Experimental Psychology electives have no changes as these courses best represent the necessary knowledge most psychology students will need in the real world.

In the Social Psychology electives, Organizational Psychology has not had any enrollment in over a decade so will no longer be offered to students. In its place, a new course, Social Psychology of Media will be offered instead. With the increasing role of media, especially social media, in our lives, a course on how media impacts psychological concepts and how psychological concepts influence media is an increasing need worldwide. Organizational Psychology, because it is a common course, will remain as an option at a future time should there be a need for the course so it will remain in the BOR system listing.

In the Developmental Psychology electives, Psychology of Adolescence will no longer be offered as it is duplicated within Child and Adolescent Psychology, freeing a Developmental elective slot. There is no reason to duplicate this material in a separate course. Psychology of Adolescence, will remain on the overall list of courses will not be a course NSU specifically offers on a regular basis. With Lifespan & Development moving to a required course, this left an additional slot for another elective within the Developmental options. NSU is the only BOR institution not offering a psychology of sexuality or gender course of some kind. To be in line with standards for psychology majors, Northern needs to add this course focused on the research in psychology of gender and sexuality. Creativity in Cognition will benefit NSU psychology majors as well as NSU students interested in public relations, marketing, art therapy, and music therapy. This course will provide a solid foundational knowledge of creativity in cognition, including the developmental theories related to creativity for those interested in pursuing advanced degrees related to Art Therapy or Music Therapy. Adulthood and Aging will become 3 credits instead of 2 credits to fall in line with other courses in the program.

Faculty wanted to keep a minimum of four electives in each domain to provide a broader choice of options for students to better suit their interests and career plans. Students will still choose from the three major psychological areas, taking a minimum of 3 from the experimental track (9 credits), two from the developmental track (6 credits), and two from the sociological track (6 credits), for a minimum of an additional 21 credits, with an additional 3 credits from any of the three areas. The program will change from 38 credits to 41 credits.