

## Suggested Psychology Study Plans for CHS Cohort 2026 Onwards<sup>^</sup>

These study plans assume you are a Psychology (PL) Single Major although it will also apply to PL Second Majors. While you can read any psychology course as long as you meet the pre-requisites, the logical path is to complete the introductory content and first methods courses before you proceed to the core and second methods courses. After obtaining a broad overview of the major domains and methods of the discipline from the compulsory modules, you can move on to the electives – more specialised content and empirical courses – in your final semesters. The curriculum chart gives an overview of how the undergraduate curriculum flows from first to fourth year.

### Majoring in Psychology

- PL1101E and PL2131 should ideally be read in your first year, as shown in Table 1A. However, these courses are always in great demand, but there is no need to panic if you are not able to read both in your first year. Table 1B shows that even if you can only complete them in your fourth semester, you can still fulfil the psychology requirements comfortably.
- PL2132 and the five core courses (PL3102 – 3106) should ideally be read in your second and third years.
- The lab course and 3000-level electives should only be read in your third and fourth years.
- Your 4000-level electives should only be read in your final year.
- The above should apply even when you embark on a student exchange programme. You can map all courses except PL2132 and the lab courses.

**Table 1A.** Complete PL1101E and PL2131 in the first two semesters

| Year | Semester One               | Semester Two               |
|------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1    | Common Curriculum 1        | Common Curriculum 4        |
|      | Common Curriculum 2        | Common Curriculum 5        |
|      | Common Curriculum 3        | Common Curriculum 6        |
|      | <b>PL1101E or PL2131</b>   | <b>PL1101E or PL2131</b>   |
|      | Unrestricted Elective 1†   | Unrestricted Elective 2    |
| 2    | Common Curriculum 7        | Common Curriculum 10       |
|      | Common Curriculum 8        | Common Curriculum 11       |
|      | Common Curriculum 9        | <b>PL2132 or PL Core 1</b> |
|      | <b>PL2132 or PL Core 1</b> | Unrestricted Elective 4    |
|      | Unrestricted Elective 3    | Unrestricted Elective 5    |
| 3    | Common Curriculum 12       | Common Curriculum 13       |
|      | <b>PL Core 2</b>           | <b>PL Core 4</b>           |

<sup>^</sup> Not applicable for Concurrent Degree Programme students.

† Second majors should read the 1000-3000 level PL courses as Unrestricted Electives in Tables 1A and 1B. PL4000-level courses are not relevant for second majors.

\* Second majors cannot access the lab courses/PL3231 and will have to read a second 3000-level elective.

# Students are required to read at least one elective from each of the three groups – Capstone; Biological/Cognitive/Developmental; Abnormal/Social/Applied. The Honours Thesis (HT) will fulfill two 4000-level electives should students choose to take it.

@ Students who are doing the year-long HT will be pre-allocated the HT at the beginning of the semester that they are starting on the HT. Even though the pre-allocation takes place one semester earlier, the HT will still only count for a total of 8 units.

|          |  |   |
|----------|--|---|
|          | <b>PL Core 3</b>                         | <b>PL Core 5</b>  |
|          | <b>PL Lab/3231* or PL3000 Elective 1</b> | <b>PL Lab/3231* or PL3000 Elective 1</b>                                    |
|          | Unrestricted Elective 6                  | Unrestricted Elective 7   |
| <b>4</b> | <b>PL4000 Elective 1<sup>#</sup></b>     | <b>PL4000 Elective 4 or Honours Thesis<sup>@</sup></b>                      |
|          | <b>PL4000 Elective 2<sup>#</sup></b>     | <b>PL3000 Elective 2 or PL4000 Elective 5 or Honours Thesis<sup>@</sup></b> |
|          | <b>PL4000 Elective 3<sup>#</sup></b>     | Unrestricted Elective 10  |
|          | Unrestricted Elective 8                  | Unrestricted Elective 11  |
|          | Unrestricted Elective 9                  | Unrestricted Elective 12  |

**Table 1B.** Complete PL1101E and PL2131 by your fourth semester

| <b>Year</b> | <b>Semester One</b>                      | <b>Semester Two</b>   |
|-------------|--|---|
| <b>1</b>    | Common Curriculum 1                      | Common Curriculum 5   |
|             | Common Curriculum 2                      | Common Curriculum 6   |
|             | Common Curriculum 3                      | Common Curriculum 7   |
|             | Common Curriculum 4                      | Common Curriculum 8   |
|             | Unrestricted Elective 1                  | Unrestricted Elective 2   |
| <b>2</b>    | Common Curriculum 9                      | Common Curriculum 12  |
|             | Common Curriculum 10                     | Common Curriculum 13  |
|             | Common Curriculum 11                     | <b>PL1101E or PL2131</b>  |
|             | <b>PL1101E or PL2131</b>                 | Unrestricted Elective 4   |
|             | Unrestricted Elective 3                  | Unrestricted Elective 5   |
| <b>3</b>    | <b>PL2132 or PL Core 1</b>               | <b>PL2132 or PL Core 1</b>  |
|             | <b>PL Core 2</b>                         | <b>PL Core 4</b>  |
|             | <b>PL Core 3</b>                         | <b>PL Core 5</b>  |
|             | Unrestricted Elective 6                  | Unrestricted Elective 8   |
|             | Unrestricted Elective 7                  | Unrestricted Elective 9   |
| <b>4</b>    | <b>PL Lab/3231* or PL3000 Elective 1</b> | <b>PL Lab/3231* or PL3000 Elective 1</b>                                    |
|             | <b>PL4000 Elective 1<sup>#</sup></b>     | <b>PL4000 Elective 4 or Honours Thesis<sup>@</sup></b>                      |
|             | <b>PL4000 Elective 2<sup>#</sup></b>     | <b>PL3000 Elective 2 or PL4000 Elective 5 or Honours Thesis<sup>@</sup></b> |
|             | <b>PL4000 Elective 3<sup>#</sup></b>     | Unrestricted Elective 11  |
|             | Unrestricted Elective 10                 | Unrestricted Elective 12  |

<sup>^</sup> Not applicable for Concurrent Degree Programme students.

<sup>†</sup> Second majors should read the 1000-3000 level PL courses as Unrestricted Electives in Tables 1A and 1B. PL4000-level courses are not relevant for second majors.

\* Second majors cannot access the lab courses/PL3231 and will have to read a second 3000-level elective.

<sup>#</sup> Students are required to read at least one elective from each of the three groups – Capstone; Biological/Cognitive/Developmental; Abnormal/Social/Applied. The Honours Thesis (HT) will fulfill two 4000-level electives should students choose to take it.

<sup>@</sup> Students who are doing the year-long HT will be pre-allocated the HT at the beginning of the semester that they are starting on the HT. Even though the pre-allocation takes place one semester earlier, the HT will still only count for a total of 8 units.

### **Minoring in Psychology**

The CourseReg system prioritises majors, so you may have difficulty getting into the core courses. The recommended approach is to read one course per semester, as shown in Table 2A, but if you cannot get in, it is still possible to complete the minor if you read two per semester from your fifth semester onwards, as shown in Table 2B.

**Table 2A.** Read one course per semester

| Year | Semester One        | Semester Two        |
|------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1    | PL1101E             | PL Core 1 or PL2131 |
| 2    | PL Core 2 or PL2131 | PL Core 3 or PL2131 |
| 3    | PL Core 4 or PL2131 |                     |

**Table 2B.** Read two courses per semester from your fifth semester

| Year | Semester One        | Semester Two        |
|------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 3    | PL1101E             | PL Core 1 or PL2131 |
|      |                     | PL Core 2 or PL2131 |
| 4    | PL Core 3 or PL2131 |                     |
|      | PL Core 4 or PL2131 |                     |

^ Not applicable for Concurrent Degree Programme students.

† Second majors should read the 1000-3000 level PL courses as Unrestricted Electives in Tables 1A and 1B. PL4000-level courses are not relevant for second majors.

\* Second majors cannot access the lab courses/PL3231 and will have to read a second 3000-level elective.

# Students are required to read at least one elective from each of the three groups – Capstone; Biological/Cognitive/Developmental; Abnormal/Social/Applied. The Honours Thesis (HT) will fulfill two 4000-level electives should students choose to take it.

@ Students who are doing the year-long HT will be pre-allocated the HT at the beginning of the semester that they are starting on the HT. Even though the pre-allocation takes place one semester earlier, the HT will still only count for a total of 8 units.

***Undecided on What Subject to Major in?***

Suppose you are torn between majoring in A, B, and C. What can you do to help in your decision without wasting any course space? The answer is to take courses that will lead to a minor in those three subjects you are considering. From Table 1A, you can see that in your first four semesters, you actually have nine degrees-of-freedom after factoring in the 11 common curriculum courses. If you distribute that across courses that are part of the minor in A, B, and C, you can then get a feel of those subjects to see if you want to commit to them as a major. You will not be able to triple major so you eventually have to drop one or two. However, having already taken two to three courses that would count towards a minor, you can complete one or two minors easily if you decide to go for a single major; or go for a double major and the courses you have read for the third subject can be used to complete your unrestricted electives course slate. We cannot speak for other subjects, but the Psychology minor is a subset of the major, so completing the minor courses first will not be wasted if you eventually decide to do it as a major.

One other important consideration is whether you do well in PL1101E and PL2131, our gateway courses to a major in Psychology. If you attain middling-to-poor grades in both courses, you may want to seriously reconsider reading Psychology as a major. It may be that Psychology is simply not your cup of tea, and continuing with a major that you may not do well in will impact your final degree classification.

<sup>^</sup> Not applicable for Concurrent Degree Programme students.

<sup>†</sup> Second majors should read the 1000-3000 level PL courses as Unrestricted Electives in Tables 1A and 1B. PL4000-level courses are not relevant for second majors.

<sup>\*</sup> Second majors cannot access the lab courses/PL3231 and will have to read a second 3000-level elective.

<sup>#</sup> Students are required to read at least one elective from each of the three groups – Capstone; Biological/Cognitive/Developmental; Abnormal/Social/Applied. The Honours Thesis (HT) will fulfill two 4000-level electives should students choose to take it.

<sup>@</sup> Students who are doing the year-long HT will be pre-allocated the HT at the beginning of the semester that they are starting on the HT. Even though the pre-allocation takes place one semester earlier, the HT will still only count for a total of 8 units.