Psychology

Degrees:
A.A. – Psychology
AA-T – Psychology for Transfer

Psychology

Associate in Arts Degree

Program Information
This degree program is designed to serve the needs of a wide variety of Sacramento City College students who are pursuing study in the field of psychology. The primary aim of this program is to provide a clearly articulated and comprehensive curricular track for students preparing to transfer to baccalaureate programs in psychology. An additional specific aim of this program is to expose “undecided” students to the core principles and practices of the field in order to build a foundation for their future personal, academic, or vocational paths. Among the many options, this foundation would be appropriate for entry into a variety of paraprofessional careers and careers in related fields.

Upon completion of this program, the student will be able to:
• differentiate between scientifically derived knowledge and myth and conjecture about the topics of psychology and demonstrate understanding of the scientific method.
• compare and contrast the major perspectives and theories in psychology.
• demonstrate knowledge of basic psychological terminology regarding behavior, cognition, and emotion and be able to express this clearly when writing or speaking about psychology.
• integrate content knowledge, cognitive skills, and technical proficiency in completing exams, term papers, presentations, and other class assignments. These cognitive skills include: learning, memory, logical thinking, problem-solving, decision-making, and critical thinking.
• evaluate psychological data, draw reasonable conclusions, recognize the ethical implications of these conclusions, and apply these conclusions to personal, community, and scientific problems.
• apply psychological principles to the development of interpersonal, occupational, and social skills and life-long personal growth.
• recognize the complexity of social, cultural, and international diversity and the principles of equity, justice, and inclusion in his or her life.

Required Program

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<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Units</th>
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<tr>
<td>PSYC 300 General Principles (3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>or PSYC 480 Honors General Principles (3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYC 310 Biological Psychology</td>
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<tr>
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<td>A minimum of 3 units from the following:</td>
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<td>PSYC 412 The Heroic Journey (2)</td>
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Total Units Required 19

Associate in Arts Degree (A.A.)
The Associate in Arts Degree may be obtained by completion of the required program, plus general education requirements, plus sufficient electives to meet a 60-unit total. See SCC graduation requirements.
Psychology
Associate in Arts for Transfer

Program Information
This program is designed to provide a clearly articulated curricular track for Sacramento City College students preparing to transfer in Psychology while also serving the diverse needs of students interested in the breadth and depth of the field. Additionally, this program will expose students to the core principles and practices of the field in order to build a foundation for their future personal, academic, or vocational paths. In addition to transfer, this foundation would be appropriate for entry into a variety of paraprofessional careers and careers in related fields.

The Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT) student completion requirements (as stated in SB1440 law):

1. Completion of a minimum of 60 semester units or 90 quarter units that are eligible for transfer to the California State University, including both of the following:
   a. The California State University General Education-Breadth Requirements or the Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC).
   b. A minimum of 18 semester units or 27 quarter units in a major or area of emphasis, as determined by the community college district.

2. Obtainment of a minimum grade point average of 2.0.

ADTs also require that students must earn a “C” or better in all courses required for the major or area of emphasis.

Upon completion of this program, the student will be able to:
- Differentiate between scientifically derived knowledge and myth, conjecture about the topics of psychology, and demonstrate understanding of the scientific method.
- Compare and contrast the major perspectives and theories in psychology.
- Demonstrate knowledge of basic psychological terminology regarding behavior, cognition, and emotion and be able to express this clearly when writing or speaking about psychology.
- Integrate content knowledge, cognitive skills, and technical proficiency in completing exams, term papers, presentations and other class assignments. These cognitive skills include: learning, memory, logical thinking, problem-solving, decision-making, and critical thinking.
- Evaluate psychological data, draw reasonable conclusions, recognize the ethical implications of these conclusions, and apply these conclusions to personal, community, and scientific problems.
- Apply psychological principles to the development of interpersonal, occupational, and social skills and life-long personal growth.
- Recognize the complexity of social, cultural, and international diversity and the principles of equity, justice, and inclusion in their lives.

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Total Required Units: 19

Students can also select one of the following courses if not already used: PSYC 316, PSYC 320, PSYC 370, or FCS 324.

Associate in Arts for Transfer Degree
The Associate in Arts in Psychology for Transfer (AA-T) degree may be obtained by completion of 60 transferable, semester units with a minimum 2.0 GPA, including (a) the major or area of emphasis described in the Required Program, and (b) either the Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC) or the California State University General Education-Breadth Requirements.

Psychology (PSYC)

PSYC 300 General Principles 3 Units
Prerequisite: None.
Advisory: ENGRD 110, ENGW 101, and/or LIBR 318 with a grade of “C” or better, or placement through the assessment process.
General Education: AAAS Area V(b); CSU Area D9; IGETC Area 41
Course Transferable to UC/CSU
Hours: 54 hours LEC
This course is an introduction to the scientific study of human behavior and mental processes. Students will be introduced to foundation principles and current trends in the field of psychology. Concepts that are explored include methods of psychological inquiry, the biological basis of behavior, sensation, perception, states of consciousness, learning, memory, cognition, motivation, emotion, stress and health, personality, developmental psychology, psychological disorders, psychotherapy, and social psychology. This course is designed for psychology majors, behavioral and social science majors, and other students who desire a broad overview of the field. (C-ID PSY 110)
PSYC 310 Biological Psychology 3 Units
Prerequisite: PSYC 300 with a grade of “C” or better
Advisory: Completion of ENGRD 310 with a grade of “C” or better.
General Education: AA/AS Area IV; CSU Area B2; IGETC Area 5B
Course Transferable to UC/CSU
Hours: 54 hours LEC
The primary focus of this course is on the vertebrate nervous system and how it functions to produce and affect behavior. This course provides an in-depth examination of the structure of the brain and nervous system, neural development, neural communication, interactions between the nervous and endocrine systems, and functional specializations within both systems. To supplement the study of the anatomy of the nervous system, students will utilize additional materials to identify major divisions and structures of the nervous system. Relationships between neural function and sensation, perception, movement, the biohythms of wakefulness and sleep, homeostasis, motivation, emotion, reproduction, learning, memory, language, cognition, and consciousness are examined. The neural bases of addiction, mood disorders, and schizophrenia are also addressed (C-ID PSY 150).

PSYC 311 Biological Psychology Laboratory 1 Unit
Prerequisite: PSYC 310 with grade of “C” or better or concurrent enrollment in PSYC 310.
General Education: CSU Area B3; IGETC Area 5B
Course Transferable to UC/CSU
Hours: 54 hours LAB
This course involves the applied study of the nervous system, focusing on its anatomy, physiology, biochemistry, and impact on behavioral and mental processes. This course will provide a foundation in the principles of the scientific method and practical experience in its application to the study of biological psychology. Specific topics include neuroanatomical organization of the nervous system with special emphasis on the brain; anatomy and physiology of the neuron; physiology of nerves and nerve conduction; anatomy and physiology of sensory systems; and psychophysical examination of sensorimotor processes and states of consciousness. Brain dissection procedures, interactive computer simulations, and lab experiments including EEG and EMG data collection will be utilized.

PSYC 314 Animal Behavior and Cognition 3 Units
Prerequisite: None.
Advisory: ANTH 300, BIOL 100, or PSYC 300 with a grade of “C” or better
General Education: AA/AS Area IV; CSU Area D9
Course Transferable to CSU
Hours: 54 hours LEC
This course is designed for anyone who is interested in or has ever lived with and loved animals. Those pursuing careers in psychology, biology, zoology, animal laboratory services, and veterinary technology will find this course interesting and useful. It consists of a broad survey of general topics and current research in the related fields of animal behavior, animal cognition, animal communication, interactions between human and non-human animals, and conservation biology. Topics addressed in this course include: the principles of evolution, history of the relationship between humans and non-humans, communication between humans and other animals; animals as competitors and resources, research animals and bioethics, animals as companions, animals in therapy and service, behavior of wild animals in zoos, and the future prospects for positive interactions between humans and non-human animals. The course is designed to foster a better understanding of non-human animals, nurture a respect for them, and create an ethic that emphasizes a respect for all life.

PSYC 315 Psychopharmacology 3 Units
Prerequisite: None.
Advisory: BIOL 100, PSYC 300, and PSYC 310 with grades of “C” or better.
General Education: AA/AS Area IV
Course Transferable to CSU
Hours: 54 hours LEC
In this course students will explore the native biochemistry of the mammalian brain and the effects of internal and external chemical influences. Historical and contemporary perspectives on the biochemical modification of cognition and behavior will be examined. Core areas of study will include the basic principles of pharmacodynamics, chemical signaling, and neurobehavioral pharmacology. These principles will be applied to understand the psychopharmacology of various aspects of cognition and behavior, psychological disorders and their treatment, recreational drug use, drug abuse and addiction, learning and memory, and brain disease.

PSYC 316 Cognitive Psychology 3 Units
Prerequisite: PSYC 300 with a grade of “C” or better
Advisory: BIOL 100 with a grade of “C” or better
General Education: AA/AS Area IV; CSU Area D9; IGETC Area 4I
Course Transferable to UC/CSU
Hours: 54 hours LEC
The course will present an historical retrospective into the development of the philosophy of science, the scientific method, and early psychology, and on early perspectives on learning, memory, and the structure of mind. The course will explore contemporary areas of neuroscience, sensation, perception, learning, short-term and long-term memory, linguistics, cognitive development, problem solving, judgment, and creativity. Current controversies related to the proposed structure of thought in both humans and nonhumans will be addressed. Upon completion of this course, students will possess an improved appreciation for the complexity of the brains of humans and nonhumans and the emergent properties of cognition and consciousness.

PSYC 320 Social Psychology 3 Units
Prerequisite: None.
Advisory: ENWR 101 or ENGRD 310 with a grade of “C” or better
General Education: AA/AS Area V(b); CSU Area D9; IGETC Area 4I
Course Transferable to UC/CSU
Hours: 54 hours LEC
This course provides students with an introduction to the scientific study of how people think about, influence, and relate to one another. Students become familiar with the major domains of social psychology and the relevance of social psychology to daily life. Topics covered include the history and perspectives of social psychology, foundational studies and current research, research methods utilized in social psychology, social cognition and perception, the power of the situation, sociocultural and biological influences on social behaviors and cognition, group processes, the effects of mass communication on social behaviors and cognition, aggression, prejudice, stereotyping and discrimination, love and attraction, and altruism. (C-ID PSY 170)
PSYC 335 Research Methods in Psychology 3 Units
Prerequisite: PSYC 300 and STAT 300 with grades of “C” or better; or PSYC 300 with a grade of “C” or better and concurrent enrollment in STAT 300.
Advisory: ENGRD 101 and LIBR 318 with grades of “C” or better
General Education: AA/AS Area II(b); CSU Area D9; IGETC Area 4I
Course Transferable to UC/CSU
Hours: 36 hours LEC; 54 hours LAB
This course introduces students to the methods and ethics of doing research in the behavioral sciences, specifically psychology, from theoretical and practical perspectives. The course covers design and implementation issues of both experimental and non-experimental research, descriptive and inferential statistical analysis, hypothesis testing, and the use of APA writing style. The laboratory projects provide opportunities to research various behavioral science topics and experience “hands-on” data collection, data analysis, results interpretation, and report writing. (C-ID PSY 200)

PSYC 340 Abnormal Behavior 3 Units
Prerequisite: PSYC 300 with a grade of “C” or better
Advisory: ENGRD 110 and/or ENGRW 101 with a grade of “C” or better; or placement through the assessment process.
General Education: AA/AS Area V(b); CSU Area D5; CSU Area E1; IGETC Area 4I
Course Transferable to UC/CSU
Hours: 54 hours LEC
In this course, students will explore the broad questions of normality and abnormality, and investigate specific mental, emotional, and behavioral difficulties. They will learn current approaches to psychological intervention including present community mental health practices. Students will consider the contribution of social, biological, psychological, and cultural factors to the development and persistence of behavior disorders. (C-ID PSY 120)

PSYC 352 Psychology of Peace and Conflict 3 Units
Prerequisite: None.
Advisory: ENGRD 110 and ENGRW 51 with grades of “C” or better; or ESLW 310 and ESLR 310 with grades of “C” or better
General Education: AA/AS Area V(b); CSU Area D9; IGETC Area 4I
Course Transferable to UC/CSU
Hours: 54 hours LEC
This course will include the psychological dynamics that promote peaceful, collaborative actions among people as opposed to conflicted states that support aggressive acts of violence among people. Materials will span from acts of aggression intragroup to the larger escalation of wars between cultures. Also included will be consideration of the apparent aggressive behaviors manifested against the physical environment ranging from defacing public property to the near-destruction of the earth’s ecological systems.

PSYC 355 Love and Intimacy 2 Units
Prerequisite: None.
Course Transferable to UC/CSU
Hours: 36 hours LEC
This course is an investigation of the human desire for affiliation and affection. Emphasis will be placed on types of love, levels of bonding, differences between love and relationship addiction, and ways in which individuals frustrate their desire for intimacy and/or exit from potentially intimate encounters in life.

PSYC 356 Human Sexuality 3 Units
Prerequisite: None.
Advisory: ENGRD 310 or ENGRW 101 with a grade of “C” or better, or placement through the assessment process.
General Education: AA/AS Area V(b); AA/AS Area III(b); CSU Area D9; CSU Area E1; IGETC Area 4I
Course Transferable to UC/CSU
Hours: 54 hours LEC
This course provides a balanced scientific understanding of sexual literacy from a cultural, physiological, sociological, and psychological perspective. Students will be provided with a solid base of information about sex and their own sexuality enabling them to make healthy and responsible choices and decisions throughout their lives. Course topics include: sexual research, sexual contents (culture, history, religion), social media impact, anatomy and physiology, arousal and response, sexual infections, contraception, reproduction, gender identity, sexual orientation, child/adolescent sexual development, adult and aging sexual well-being, love and communication, coercion and treatment. (C-ID PSY 130)

PSYC 358 Principles of Interpersonal Relations 3 Units
Prerequisite: None.
Advisory: ENGRD 310 and ENGRW 101 with grades of “C” or better.
General Education: AA/AS Area V(b); AA/AS Area III(b); CSU Area E1
Course Transferable to CSU
Hours: 54 hours LEC
This course examines the principles involved in healthy and effective interpersonal relationships. Topics include interpersonal feedback, self-disclosure, the role of emotions in relationships, the art of listening, and common stresses/strains on relationships. The focus of the course will be on concepts useful to the students in their face-to-face relationships at home, school, and work.

PSYC 360 Psychology of Women 3 Units
Prerequisite: None.
Advisory: ENGRD 310 or ENGRW 101 with a grade of “C” or better, or placement through the assessment process.
General Education: AA/AS Area V(b); CSU Area D; CSU Area E1; IGETC Area 4I
Course Transferable to UC/CSU
Hours: 54 hours LEC
In this course, students will study the impact of sex and gender on women’s lives. An emphasis is placed on the interplay between gender and race, ethnicity, class, age, sexual orientation, and physical and mental ability. The course addresses a variety of topics including gender stereotypes and their connections to sexism, gender roles and expectations, biological bases of sex, gender throughout the lifespan, the physical and mental health of women, women and work, and violence against women. The course also emphasizes the importance of critically evaluating theory and research on sex and gender.
PSYC 364  Psychology of Sexual Orientation  3 Units  
Prerequisite: None.  
Advisory: ENGRD 310 and ENGRD 310 with grades of “C” or better, or placement through the assessment process.  
General Education: AA/AS Area V(b); CSU Area D; IGETC Area 4  
Course Transferable to UC/CSU  
Hours: 54 hours LEC  
In this course, students will examine topics and research related to lesbian, gay, and bisexual, transgender, queer, and intersex (LGBTQI) individuals. Topics will include causes of sexual orientation, causes of intersex conditions and transgender identities, theories of identity development, coming out, prejudice and discrimination against LGBTQI individuals, sexual orientation and gender identity across the lifespan, LGBTQI relationships, sexuality, religion and spirituality, and physical and mental health issues. In this course, students will also examine the intersection of gender identity and sexual orientation with other identity characteristics, such as race, ethnicity, age, ability status, and culture. This course will draw from a variety of political, cultural, sociological, philosophical, and psychological perspectives in order to fully understand the influence of sexual orientation and gender identity on our lives.

PSYC 367  Psychology of Minorities  3 Units  
Prerequisite: None.  
Advisory: ENGRD 310 with grades of “C” or better, or placement through the assessment process.  
General Education: AA/AS Area V(b); AA/AS Area VI; CSU Area D; IGETC Area 4  
Course Transferable to UC/CSU  
Hours: 54 hours LEC  
Students will study the individual and collective impact of minority group status in the United States on an individual’s and group’s behaviors and mental processes. The psychological issues, concerns, needs, and values of minority individuals in the United States are also studied. In this course, the study of minority individuals includes those who are diverse by race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic class, weight, religion, age, and physical, cognitive, emotional, or developmental ability. The cognitive and emotional aspects of prejudice as they relate to institutional and individual discrimination are also explored. This course is useful for students majoring in psychology, sociology, education, ethnic studies, and the helping/allied professions.

PSYC 370  Human Development: A Life Span  3 Units  
Same As: FCS 324  
Prerequisite: None.  
Advisory: ENGRD 110 and ENGRD 310 with grades of “C” or better.  
General Education: AA/AS Area V(b); AA/AS Area III(b); CSU Area D9; CSU Area E1; IGETC Area 4  
Course Transferable to UC/CSU  
Hours: 54 hours LEC  
Students will study the physical, cognitive, social, and emotional development of humans from conception through the life span. Emphasis will be placed on the theoretical and practical application of developmental principles including atypical aspects of development. Major developmental theories concerning life span development will be studied. Topics from conception to death will be presented including: conception, prenatal development, including prenatal developmental complications, physical, cognitive, social, emotional developmental, and developmental issues. Included in these broad developmental areas are learning, brain development, personality, morality, and societal influences on development. Atypical development and challenges to optimal development will be included. The course also examines end of life issues and bereavement. This is a foundational course for careers in the educational, social, psychological, and medical fields. Students may receive credit for FCS 324 or PSYC 370, but not both. (C-ID PSY 180)

PSYC 374  Psychology of Aging: Adult Development and Aging  3 Units  
Same As: GERON 302  
Prerequisite: None.  
Advisory: ENGRD 110 and ENGRD 310, or ESLR 340 and ESLW 340 and ESL 314, and FCS 324/PSYC 370, and LIBR 318 with grades of “C” or better  
General Education: AA/AS Area III(b); CSU Area D9; CSU Area E1; IGETC Area I; IGETC Area 4  
Course Transferable to UC/CSU  
Hours: 54 hours LEC  
This course examines the physical, psychological, social, and emotional aspects of the aging process including the interactions between the elderly and the rest of society. Topics include an analysis of stereotypes, social connections, environmental influences, sexuality, physical health, mental health, death, and bereavement. Credit may be earned for either PSYC 374 or GERON 302, but not for both.

PSYC 390  Psychology of Death and Dying  3 Units  
Prerequisite: None.  
Advisory: ENGRD 110 and ENGRD 310 with grades of “C” or better, or ENGRD 310 with grades of “C” or better  
General Education: AA/AS Area V(b); AA/AS Area III(b); CSU Area D9; CSU Area E1; IGETC Area 4  
Course Transferable to UC/CSU  
Hours: 54 hours LEC  
This course is an investigation of beliefs, attitudes, anxieties, and behaviors associated with dying and death. Included will be materials relevant to suicide, life-threatening illnesses, bereavement, euthanasia, and various philosophical views on the phenomenon of death. One field trip to visit a cemetery, attend a funeral/memorial, or tour a funeral home is required.

PSYC 392  Loss and Grief  2 Units  
Prerequisite: None.  
General Education: AA/AS Area III(b); CSU Area D9; CSU Area E1  
Course Transferable to CSU  
Hours: 36 hours LEC  
This course will explore the causes of grief reactions and the dynamics of bereavement. Expressions of normal grief will be compared with pathological reactions, and suggested interventions for resolving grief reactions will be addressed. Techniques for the resolution of loss and coping strategies will be presented.

PSYC 405  Substance Abuse: Effects on Body and Behavior  3 Units  
Same As: ADMJ 303  
Prerequisite: None.  
Advisory: ENGRD 101 and ENGRD 310 with grades of “C” or better  
General Education: AA/AS Area III(b)  
Course Transferable to UC/CSU  
Hours: 54 hours LEC  
This course will educate students in drug identification, signs and symptomatology, methods of use, duration of effect, behaviors, addiction, and treatment options. The course examines historical and contemporary perspectives of substance abuse issues, epidemiologic data used to establish the prevalence, incidence, and identity of at risk groups, and trends of substances of abuse and approaches to treatment. This course is especially advised for people who are seeking or working in careers in health, law enforcement, counseling, psychology, business, social services, or teaching. Credit may be earned for either PSYC 405 or ADMJ 303, but not for both.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 410</td>
<td>Psychology of Creativity,</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>This course is designed to define and encourage the creative process and how it relates to personal success and expression, problem solving, and intuition. It will feature writing, art, music, movement, creative visualization, and stress management in a supportive group atmosphere.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 412</td>
<td>The Heroic Journey</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Using ideas from Lao Tzu, Campbell, Jung, Pearson, Bolen, et al., the course will promote an understanding of the heroic journey of everyday people. The functions, processes, and totems of archetypal stations of the Tao of life such as juggler, jester, altruist, warrior, wanderer, etc. will be shared. The heroic journey will be viewed as metaphor for psychological wounding and healing, fragmentation and individuation, and joining with other sentient beings in the processes of becoming whole.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 480</td>
<td>Honors General Principles</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>This course is an introduction to the major areas in the field of psychology. Topics to be covered include physiological processes, learning, cognition, development, personality, psychological disorders, therapy, social psychology, and research methodologies in psychology. These topics will be discussed from a variety of classical and contemporary psychological perspectives. Critical thinking and application of concepts will be an integral part of the course. There will be oral and written assignments as well as experiential activities in the course. This honors course uses an intensive pedagogical approach designed to allow motivated students to develop critical thinking skills, skills of oral and written expression, proficiency in library and Internet-based research, and creativity. Pedagogical strategies used in this course include student-led group discussion, oral and written presentations, extensive reading, exposure to theory and research in the field, and various activities and demonstrations. (C-ID PSY 110)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 489</td>
<td>Topics in Psychology –</td>
<td>.5-4</td>
<td>This honors course uses an intensive instructional methodology designed to challenge motivated students. UC transfer credit will be awarded only after the course has been evaluated by the enrolling UC campus. The units completed for this course cannot be counted towards the minimum 60 units required for admissions.</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYC 494</td>
<td>Topics in Psychology</td>
<td>.5-4</td>
<td>This course is designed to examine current issues or specific topics concerning psychology. Particular subjects to be covered each semester will be determined by the psychology staff. UC transfer credit will be awarded only after the course has been evaluated by the enrolling UC campus. The units completed for this course cannot be counted towards the minimum 60 units required for admissions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 495</td>
<td>Independent Studies in</td>
<td>1-3</td>
<td>This course involves an individual student or small groups of students in study, research, or activities beyond the scope of regular offered courses, pursuant to agreement among college, faculty members, and students. Independent studies in psychology offers students a chance to do research that is more typical of theoretical and applied psychology. UC transfer credit will be awarded only after the course has been evaluated by the enrolling UC campus. The units completed for this course cannot be counted towards the minimum 60 units required for admissions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 499</td>
<td>Experimental Offering in</td>
<td>.5-4</td>
<td>See Experimental Offering. UC transfer credit will be awarded only after the course has been evaluated by the enrolling UC campus. The units completed for this course cannot be counted towards the minimum 60 units required for admissions.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>