

The Accelerated (BA to MA or BS to MA) Pathway Programs:

The programs are exactly the same as the General BA and BS programs, except that they require students to take two specific PSY graduate courses (PSY 500 and 589) in their last two semesters before earning the undergraduate degree.

After their bachelor's degree (4 years), students will complete an additional year (the +1 year) of graduate work to complete their MA degree. Completion of the BA or BS portion of the program does not mean that the student has earned the MA portion – they must be accepted to the MA program and complete 24 additional credits to earn the MA degree.

Students must complete the following sequence prior to graduation with their BA or BS degree:

- PSY 259, which must be taken before
- PSY 393, which must be taken before
- PSY 500 (offered only in fall semesters), which must be taken before
- PSY 589 (offered only in spring semesters).

Students should plan to take PSY 259 no later than the first semester of their junior year to ensure 4-year completion of the program.

Students can only enroll in the required graduate courses (PSY 500 and PSY 589) in their senior year if they have a GPA of at least 3.0. Thus, students who do not have a 3.0 or higher at the time where they are considering the accelerated program are advised against entering it.

Students who do not have the required 3.0 GPA to enroll in PSY 500 and PSY 589 in their senior year will revert to the non-accelerated version of their bachelor's degree (or can switch to the non-accelerated program of their choice, provided they meet program requirements). They are still eligible to apply to the MA in the traditional manner upon earning the undergraduate degree.

Students must earn a B or higher in PSY 500 to enroll in PSY 589. Students who do not earn this grade requirement in PSY 500 will revert to the non-accelerated version of their bachelor's degree (or can switch to the non-accelerated program of their choice, provided they meet program requirements).

Regular admission requirements (see below) for the MA in Psychology Program still apply after completion of the bachelor's portion. Acceptance to the MA program is not guaranteed, even if a student has completed the bachelor's portion of either the BA to MA or BS to MA program.

Students in the program should plan to apply for admission to the MA in Psychology during their final semester as an undergraduate student.

Notes on the MA in Psychology program:

This program is a general MA in psychology program. It is ***not*** focused on counselling/clinical psychology and is ***not*** intended to prepare students for licensure. Please note that the accelerated BA to MA and BS to MA programs offered in the Psychology Department lead only to our own Psychology MA program, and ***do not*** lead towards any other MA or MS programs offered at SCSU.

Students who are interested in a more clinical or applied focus should consider the following programs, housed in other departments at SCSU:

<https://www.southernct.edu/academics/counseling-school-psychology/faculty>

<https://www.southernct.edu/academics/marriage-family-therapy>

<https://www.southernct.edu/academics/social-work>

We have two tracks in the MA Psychology program – the comprehensive track, which is focused on coursework and which includes a final comprehensive exam, and the thesis track, where students focus on independent research under the supervision of a professor in the department. While the MA course-plan suggests students complete a thesis alongside their remaining graduate courses, they can discuss the comprehensive exam track option with the Graduate Coordinator once they have entered the MA program. Student typically finalize their choice of track after completing PSY 500 or PSY 589.

Our admission requirements for the MA in Psychology are:

- 18 hours of psychology (6 courses of at least 18 total credits; graduate or undergraduate) including at least one course in statistics and at least one course in research methods. The BA or BS you earn in the accelerated programs will ensure you meet these requirements.
- An undergraduate GPA of 3.0
- An undergraduate GPA in psychology of 3.0

The application should include:

- Two letters of references (preferably at least one from an academic reference)
- All college transcripts
- A short essay (300-500 words) on their career goals, how the program suits them, and why they feel they are a good fit for the program.