

**To: Current Psychology Majors**

**From: John Murray, Chair of Psychology**

**Re: Curriculum Change for the Undergraduate Psychology Major**

**Date: March 6, 2009**

As you may have heard, the Psychology Department has changed the curriculum required for an undergraduate Psychology degree. This new curriculum will take effect at the beginning of the Fall 2009. Only students declaring Psychology as their major in the Fall (freshmen; transfer students) must follow the new curriculum. Because you are already a psychology major, YOU will follow the curriculum that was in place at the time they declared their major as psychology. We will not be disbanding the current BS and BA programs-of-study until students currently enrolled in those programs have graduated. In other words, we will still offer the “old” curricula while we are phasing in the new curriculum for students starting the major in the fall.

Bottom Line: You will follow your current program-of-study through to your graduation. However, all students who declare psychology as their major at Georgia Southern in the fall (and thereafter) must follow the NEW curriculum.

### **What is the new curriculum?**

There are two major changes that make up the new curriculum: the first is that we will offer only a BS degree in Psychology. We will no longer offer a BA degree. The second change is that we will allow students to focus their courses in a specific “area of concentration.”

The NEW BS degree requires the following *Psychology* courses :

1. \*Introductory Psychology (1101)
2. Careers in Psychology (2210)
3. \*Psychological Statistics (2231)
4. \*Research Methods (3141)
5. One course from “Group 1” (See existing list. Examples are Abnormal or Social)
6. One course from “Group 2” (Examples are Cognitive, Physiological)
7. One course from “Group 3” (Examples are Psychology of Religion, Human Sexuality)
8. \*Four courses making up a ‘concentration’ (12 hours)
9. \*One concentration-related capstone course

An asterisk (\*) indicates that you must earn a minimum grade of C in this course

The following areas of concentrations are being offered:

General Psychology; Biopsychology; Cognitive Psychology; Counseling/Clinical Psychology; Developmental Psychology; Health Psychology/Wellness; Social Psychology

So, to summarize:

1. The undergraduate major in psychology is changing.
2. The “new” (BS-only) curriculum will apply only to new majors as of Fall 2009
3. If you are a psychology major now, your current (BA or BS) curriculum will be offered to you until you graduate (i.e., you do not have to switch to the new curriculum).
4. You have the OPTION to switch to the new curriculum, if you wish. To investigate whether this is a good idea for you, please see your academic advisor in the middle of the Fall 2009 semester. If you decide to switch to the new curriculum you must accept the catalogue completely (that is, all requirements for the BS degree listed in the 2009-10 catalogue).

If you have questions about this memo, please don't hesitate to contact me at [JMurray@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:JMurray@georgiasouthern.edu)