

**This handout is only a brief guide to the Psychology BA and BS degree programs.  
Students should meet with a psychology major advisor to develop a degree plan that best fit their needs.**

Dimension	Bachelor of Arts (BA)	Bachelor of Science (BS)
<b>Goals of the Degree</b>	Both the Psychology BA and the BS degrees provide students with the opportunity to develop: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• useful and marketable skills which go beyond basic knowledge of the content of psychological facts and theories.</li> <li>• good research and technical writing skills; high-level skills for analyzing, synthesizing and evaluating information; problem solving skills; and people skills.</li> </ul>	
	The Psychology BA degree is an appropriate broad liberal arts major for many students who will directly enter the workforce or who will seek advanced graduate training.	The Psychology BS degree is a regimented degree plan for students who wish to develop a focused set of skills in pre-selected areas so they can apply these skills in a technical setting or seek advanced graduate training.
<b>Emphasis of the Degree Program</b>	Both the Psychology BA and the BS degrees broadly expose students to content and research methodologies within psychology.	
	<b>Flexibility.</b> The BA degree program has more course elective opportunities than the BS, which allows students to develop a degree plan tailored to their specific needs and interests. For example, students can take additional coursework in a concentrated area of interest (e.g., clinical, developmental) or fulfill course requirements for a minor in another discipline.	<b>Focus.</b> The BS degree program has more course requirements than the BA (i.e., fewer electives). The regimented degree plan emphasizes research focused scientific and methodological training, as well as breadth in pre-selected areas of psychology and other fields (biology, chemistry, philosophy).
<b>Basic Requirements</b>	48 units (9 psychology elective units)	67 units (6 psychology elective units)
<b>Sample Professional, Careers &amp; Advanced Education Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Entry-level positions in a variety of careers (i.e., the SJSU Career Center has a list of sample positions)</li> <li>• Professional degree programs (e.g., law, social work, counseling)</li> <li>• Advanced education for a variety of disciplines in the social sciences (e.g., psychology, sociology)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research focused careers (e.g., research scientist in an academic setting)</li> <li>• Advanced education for specialized fields in the natural sciences or other technical settings (e.g., medical school)</li> </ul>