

Planning Your Psychology Degree

When planning your degree you need to consider two important things. The first is the requirements of the degree itself, the second is the requirements of the Australian Psychological Society (APS) and State Registration Boards.

Degree Requirements

Each degree has its own regulations and you should ensure you consult all material distributed by your Faculty and the Student Centre setting out these regulations. In addition to the general regulations, the **BA degree** requires you include a “Major” in your degree. The **BA Major in Psychology** consists of the APAC three-year accredited sequence described below.

The following list refers to "units" that are worth six credit-points in weight. A six credit-point unit at UNE is one quarter of a full-time load for one semester. We refer to the number of "Credits", "Distinctions" and "Passes" required. The grading system at UNE is:

Pass:	50% - 64%	Distinction:	75% - 84%
Credit:	65% - 74%	High Distinction:	85% - 100%

The **BPsych(Hons)** degree has progression requirements which students must satisfy in order to stay in the degree. Provided these are met, entry into the fourth year is guaranteed. The progression requirements relate to the level of pass that students obtain in their units. The present requirements apply to all students who **commenced their degree at UNE in or after 2005**, either as a transfer from another degree or as a commencing student at 100 level. These requirements are:

- Credit in PSYC101 or PSYC102 and a Pass in the other.
- Credit in PSYC202, plus two Distinctions and one Credit in PSYC units at the 200 level.
- Four Distinctions and two Credits in PSYC units at the 300 level, including PSYC 302.

For students who commenced their BPsych(hons) **prior to 2005** the progression requirements are:

- Credit in PSYC101 or PSYC102 and a Pass in the other.
- Credit in PSYC202, plus two Credits and one Pass in PSYC units at the 200 level.
- Six Credits in PSYC units at the 300 level, including PSYC302.

APAC and Registration Requirements

The Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (APAC) and the State Psychologists' Registration Boards require an “**accredited sequence**” of Psychology in order for you to qualify to work as a psychologist. Similarly, many employers who seek people who have training in Psychology (jobs “using” psychology) expect an accredited sequence.

The **APAC accredited three-year sequence** consists of:

- PSYC101 and PSYC102.
- Three PSYC units at 200 level plus PSYC 202. For students starting their degree from 2009 onwards, these units will be PSYC200, PSYC202, PSYC206, PSYC213.
- Four PSYC units at 300 level, including PSYC 302. For students starting their degree from 2009 onwards, these units will be PSYC301, PSYC302, PSYC366, and an additional 6 credit points in psychology at 300-level.

To gain work as a “Psychologist” you need to complete the accredited sequence with specific grades, then proceed to a fourth year after which you are eligible to undertake the required two-year supervised training in practice. The fourth year can be taken at UNE either as an honours year or a Postgraduate Diploma in Psychology. The difference is that honours will qualify students for further postgraduate study (for example, Masters in Clinical Psychology), whereas the Postgraduate Diploma in Psychology will not. Higher grades are needed to get into honours. Details of the requirements for fourth year entry can be found at <http://www.une.edu.au/psychology/programs/4thyr.html>. If you wish to work in areas that use your psychology education but do not require you to be a registered psychologist, you simply need to complete the accredited sequence, although the better your grades, the more attractive you are to an employer.