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# Undergraduate Study Guide, Department of Psychology

## Organization and Structure of the Department

The Department of Psychology is part of the School of Social Sciences at the University of Crete. It was founded in 1984 and enrolled its first students during the 1987-1988 academic year. It is the first University-level Department of Psychology in Greece. The Department is located at the University Campus at Gallos, 4.5 Km from the center of Rethymno.

**Department Administration:** The Department is administered by the Chair and the General Assembly (GA) which is the decision-making body consisting of faculty members and representatives of undergraduate students and Special Laboratory Technical and Teaching Staff. All members of the GA also take part in the bi-monthly meetings. The Department's current Chair is Dr. Stella Giakoumaki, Associate Professor.

**Structure and function of the Department:** The Department's primary objectives are to provide a multifaceted approach in research and teaching and maintain both research outputs and teaching-learning accomplishments at an outstanding level. The Department provides foundational and advanced undergraduate courses in the main areas of the discipline: Fundamental Principles of Psychology; Statistics & Research Methods; Developmental, Educational & School Psychology; Biopsychology – Neurosciences; Social & Criminological Psychology; and Clinical, Counseling & Health Psychology. The curriculum offers a broad study program balancing theoretical, methodological and research skills. The educational and research training activities are supported by 4 Labs (*Laboratory of Experimental Psychology, Laboratory of Behavioral Neuroscience, Laboratory of Applied Psychology and Addiction Psychology Laboratory*). The research experiences, combined with the course offerings and the practicum experience (200 hours) prepare students for graduate training or other career options.

## Contact information

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**Web Page:** <http://www.psychology.uoc.gr> [2]

## **Study Programme Overview**

### **Undergraduate Studies Programme**

Undergraduate Studies Program in Psychology

### **Admission procedures**

In order to be admitted to the Department of Psychology students must complete the secondary education cycle and qualify via the Pan-Hellenic Entrance Exams as stipulated by the Greek Ministry of Education, Research & Religious Affairs (ERRA).

Additionally, each academic year, under special provisions of the Greek Ministry of ERRA, a limited number of students meeting specific criteria can be admitted to the Dept. of Psychology. These criteria include international students, candidates of Greek heritage living abroad in EU and non-EU countries, and other groups.

Note: Greek is the language of instruction for undergraduate courses. The Department offers some courses in the English language.

### **Official Duration of Programme**

The official duration of studies is four (4) academic years. Each academic year consists of two (2) semesters starting on the 1st of September and ending on the 31st of August. Courses offered are on a semester basis and each academic year is comprised of two (thirteen-week), Fall and Spring semesters.

### **Attendance**

Full-Time Attendance/ Bachelor Degree of 240 ECTS Credits (~60 ECTS/academic year or ~30 ECTS/semester)

Part-time attendance is possible under conditions, in accordance with article 33, paragraph 3 of Law 4009/2011.

### **Division - Specification**

There are no Specializations/Divisions in the undergraduate program.

## Requirements for Graduation

In principle, students must complete their studies and obtain a BSc degree in Psychology in **four (4) academic years** or **eight (8) semesters**. During this period they must complete at least **240 ECTS** credits, which are distributed as the table below shows:

<b>Courses</b>	<b>ECTS</b>
Core Mandatory Courses	120
Elective Courses	50 - 70* <sup>1</sup>
Seminars	12* <sup>2</sup>
Lab Courses	18* <sup>3</sup>
English Language	8 -16
Practicum Experience	12
Undergraduate Diploma Thesis (optional)	12

\*<sup>1</sup> At least 30 - 50 ECTS credits from the Department's courses depending on the workload accumulated in English language courses and the Undergraduate Diploma Thesis. Maximum 12 ECTS credits from other Departments within the School of Social Sciences. Maximum 8 ECTS credits from other Faculties of the University of Crete.

\*<sup>2</sup> At least one seminar corresponding to 6 ECTS from Psychology Department.

\*<sup>3</sup> At least two lab courses corresponding to 12-14 ECTS from Psychology Department.

## Course Classification

As it is outlined in the table above, the Department's curriculum is structured with core mandatory (required) courses, seminars, lab courses, and elective courses. During the eight semesters of study, students must complete 23 compulsory core courses, three seminars, two lab courses, some elective courses, as well as the practicum experience (200 hours) and English, foreign language courses. The student can choose to complete an empirical research-focused undergraduate diploma thesis.

Instruction is in the form of lectures, seminars or laboratories.

In case of failure in a mandatory course, there is no possibility of replacing it with another. Some of the mandatory core courses are prerequisites for others. The core mandatory core courses aim to introduce the student to fundamental concepts in the primary fields of psychology and to provide foundational knowledge in psychology to all the students of the Department.

The seminars and lab courses provide students with the opportunity to gain more in-depth knowledge within a specific subject area and to train students in basic research techniques. The seminar and laboratory courses require mandatory attendance. Students are required to enroll and complete 30 such ECTS (12 ECTS from Seminars and 18 ECTS from Lab courses).

The elective courses complete the curriculum and provide the student with the ability to structure his / her program based on his / her wishes and preferences in various areas of psychological knowledge and / in other scientific fields. In order to complete degree requirements, each student may choose elective courses corresponding to at least 50 ECTS and a maximum of 70 ECTS credits.

### **Foreign language**

English is currently the only foreign language offered in the Department of Psychology. A placement test is required to determine each incoming student's level of English. There are a total of five courses; two in English as a Foreign Language (EFL) and three in English for Specific Purposes (ESP). All Courses focus on specific areas of study within Psychology and correspond to 4 ECTS credits. Also, an optional course in Advanced English is also offered. Students can take courses in French, German or Italian offered by other Departments within the University.

### **Undergraduate diploma thesis**

Students register for an empirical research-focused undergraduate diploma thesis during the 4th year of study. The diploma thesis is optional for students admitted during the 2013-2014 academic year and afterward. The undergraduate diploma thesis corresponds to 12 ECTS. Students who do not register for or do not complete the diploma thesis have to enroll and complete 12 credits in elective courses.

### **Educational, research and professional goals**

The Department's mission:

- The mission of the Psychology Department is to cultivate and promote Psychology through teaching and research. It does so by emphasizing sound academic teaching based on a scientific approach to skill development. Teaching and learning activities promote student participation and, cooperation between teacher and learner in an environment that fosters academic excellence instills an academic ethos and facilitates life-long learning. Moreover, students are encouraged to participate in research endeavors, particularly during the 4th year in their studies when they can engage in an empirical research project in their diploma thesis adhering to ethical guidelines and standards. Students have an opportunity to conduct research in diverse subject areas and to apply a variety of methods.
- Upon completion of their studies, students will have acquired a rigorous understanding of human behavior, mental processes, and analytic skills that they can use in different vocations. The Department's graduates have successfully pursued post-graduate degrees and careers in clinical, counseling, school psychology, business, teaching, and the arts. The academic profile of our graduates is also enhanced through the practicum experience they engage in and by Erasmus Placement.

The Department aims to provide graduates with opportunities to access the second cycle of studies (post-graduate specialization) or the third cycle of studies (Doctoral Studies) in Greek or international universities.

## **Student Coursework Evaluation**

Students' achievement and performance are assessed in a variety of ways, including short essays, quizzes, midterm exams, presentations, and comprehensive final exams. The method of assessment is determined by the instructor and is announced at the beginning of the semester. Information regarding course work can be obtained from the syllabi available for each course on the Department's website. In order to sit for an exam, a student has to show his or her student identity card.

Final exams are held twice a year, at the end of each semester (in January and June). An additional examination period is scheduled at the beginning of each academic year, in September.

Re-assessment: Students who attain a low grade for a compulsory course are given the option to re-sit the exam (this is allowed for up to 4 compulsory courses) in order to achieve a higher grade. If they do not accomplish this, the new grade attained applies.

## **Grading system and requirements for students' graduation**

Grades follow a 10-point scale. Five (5) being the lowest passing grade and ten (10) the highest grade.

The grading system includes the following:

Excellent: 8.50 - 10

Very Good: 6.50 - 8.49

Good: 5 - 6.49

Failed: 0 - 4.99

## **Degrees**

Bachelor in Psychology

## **Professional certificate**

License to practice Psychology

## **License to Practice**

Upon receiving the Bachelor of Science degree (BSc) in Psychology, graduates are licensed by the Greek state to practice as psychologists (without specialization) and consequently have the rights deriving from such licensure, in accordance with Greek law. Graduates acquire all the required qualifications to continue their studies at the postgraduate level with the aim of gaining specialization in Psychology. Furthermore, our students have satisfactory training in research methods in various fields of psychology (e.g., Cognitive Psychology, Social Psychology) through their obligatory seminar and lab courses and their undergraduate diploma thesis, providing them with the necessary skills for further study in academic or applied fields (e.g., Clinical, School, Counseling, Organizational or Health Psychology). Finally, graduates can apply the skills and knowledge gained in fields, such as

education, special education, human resources, marketing, administration, and other areas after appropriate training.

## Access to further studies

Graduates of the Psychology Department are qualified to pursue/continue with postgraduate studies in the Psychology, either in a specific professional domain or in an academically-oriented direction/field.

## Indicative Curriculum

### DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY COURSES

1st SEMESTER	2nd SEMESTER
History of Psychology (Ψ-1101, 5 ECTS)	Personality Theories (Ψ-1103, 6 ECTS)
Research Methodology for Social Sciences I (Ψ-1201, 5 ECTS)	Statistics I (Ψ-1202, 8 ECTS)
Introduction to Neurobiology - Genetics (Ψ-1401, 6 ECTS)	Developmental Psychology I: Infancy & Early Childhood (Ψ-1301, 6 ECTS)
Social Psychology I: Introduction to Social Psychology (Ψ-1501, 5 ECTS)	Educational Psychology (Ψ-1302, 5 ECTS)
English language (4 ECTS)	English language (4 ECTS)
Elective course (4 ECTS)	Elective course (4 ECTS)
<b>3rd SEMESTER</b>	<b>4th SEMESTER</b>
Memory, Language, Thinking, Problem Solving (Ψ-1102, 5 ECTS)	Perception, Attention, Categorization, Representations (Ψ-2102, 5 ECTS)
Statistics II (Ψ-2201, 5 ECTS)	Ethics in Psychology (Ψ-2103)
Developmental Psychology II: Adolescence to Late Adulthood (Ψ-2301, 6 ECTS)	Psychometrics I: Psychometric Principles for Developing Psychological Measures (Ψ-2202, 5 ECTS)
Physiological Psychology I: Basic Principles & Sensory Systems (Ψ-2401, 6 ECTS)	Introduction to School Psychology (Ψ-2302, 5 ECTS)
Social Psychology II: Social Experimental Psychology (Ψ-2501, 5 ECTS)	Physiological Psychology II: Motor & Regulatory Systems (Ψ-2402, 6 ECTS)
English language (4 ECTS)	English language (4 ECTS)
Elective course (4 ECTS)	Elective course (4 ECTS)
<b>5th SEMESTER</b>	<b>6th SEMESTER</b>
Health Psychology (Ψ-3601, 5 ECTS)	Neuropsychology (Ψ-3401, 5 ECTS)
Adult Psychopathology (Ψ-3602, 5 ECTS)	Psychopathology of Childhood & Adolescence (Ψ-3614, 6 ECTS)
Seminar (6 ECTS)	Counseling Psychology (Ψ-3615, 5 ECTS)
Lab course (6 or 7 ECTS)	Seminar (6 ECTS)
Elective course (4 ECTS)	Lab course (6 or 7 ECTS)
	Elective course (4 ECTS)
<b>7th SEMESTER</b>	<b>8th SEMESTER</b>
Undergraduate diploma thesis (6 ECTS)	Undergraduate diploma thesis (6 ECTS)
Practical training (12 ECTS)*	[Practical training (12 ECTS)]*
Seminar (6 ECTS)	Seminar (6 ECTS)
Lab course (6 or 7 ECTS)	Lab course (6 or 7 ECTS)
Elective course (4 ECTS)	Elective course (4 ECTS)

\* Practicum experience takes place in the 7th or 8th semester.

This program has a specific time sequence, adhering to it will contribute significantly to each student's knowledge development as well as their performance.

## **Student mobility**

**Erasmus+:** Students studying in the Department of Psychology may apply to study at Universities in other countries for a particular amount of time, where they can attend courses or complete their practicum training. For more information visit

<http://www.uoc.gr/intrel/en/students-en/erasmus-and-exchange-students> [3].

The official language is Greek. However, the Department of Psychology provides courses in English for Erasmus students. Erasmus students are advised to visit the Department website in order to access to the complete curriculum.

For additional information, please contact Erasmus Office of U.o.C. or Erasmus coordinators of Psychology Department.

- Elias Economou, Assistant Professor, e-mail: [eliaseconomou@uoc.gr](mailto:eliaseconomou@uoc.gr) [4]
- Alexis Arvanitis, Assistant Professor, e-mail: [a.arvanitis@uoc.gr](mailto:a.arvanitis@uoc.gr) [5]

## **Internships**

Students must complete a 200 hour supervised practicum experience in hospitals, mental health centers and other services and facilities in Greece or abroad (Erasmus placement), in order to complete their studies.

The main objectives of this practicum are:

- To acquire an understanding of the role and work of psychologists employed in different settings,
- To gain basic knowledge of how psychological knowledge and skills are applied in different settings.

The Practicum experience takes place after the completion of the 6th semester. Upon finishing the Practicum, the student presents a "progress report" which is evaluated by the Practicum Training Committee in order for the student to attain the corresponding ECTS units, a prerequisite for his/her graduation.

The Practicum Committee evaluates each student's performance based on their attendance record, supervisor's evaluation, and the student's progress report.

## **Financing and other opportunities for Undergraduate students**

State and private scholarships are occasionally available.

The State Scholarship Foundation (IKY) awards students whose performance on entrance examinations or in each academic year is considered outstanding.

The Alexander Karavitis's Scholarship awards every three years students of the School of Social Science with outstanding performance in his / her studies.

For more details see at <http://www.psychology.uoc.gr/awards-scholarships/vraviaypotrofies.html> [6]; <http://www.dasta.uoc.gr/career> [7] and <http://www.uoc.gr/studies-at-uni/scolar-intro/gen-scholarships.html> [8]

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[2] <http://www.psychology.uoc.gr>

[3] <http://www.uoc.gr/intrel/en/students-en/erasmus-and-exchange-students>

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[5] <mailto:a.arvanitis@uoc.gr>

[6] <http://www.psychology.uoc.gr/awards-scholarships/vraviaypotrofies.html>

[7] <http://www.dasta.uoc.gr/career>

[8] <http://www.uoc.gr/studies-at-uni/scolar-intro/gen-scholarships.html>