

Combining Psychology with your Bachelor of Criminal Justice (BCJ) degree

Psychology is a scientific discipline and profession that contributes in diverse and significant ways to understanding criminal behaviour and to the management and operation of modern correctional systems. Psychological theories inform us about the origins and trajectories of criminal offending. Psychological research evaluates the causes of crime, the impact of different sentences and treatment programmes and investigates potential methods of preventing crime. Professional psychologists provide rehabilitation and treatment services for offenders.

If you are interested in enriching your BCJ with as much Psychology as possible, the following describes passing them opens up progression into all other 200 and 300 PSYC courses.

BCJ Elective courses:

@ 200-level: PSYC 206 (Research Design & Statistics); PSYC 208 (Cognition); PSYC 211(Personality). These are all 15 pts = 45pts in PSYC in total. Note: It is likely that this list will change in 2019 with the addition of PSYC213 Social Psychology replacing PSYC208.

@300-level: PSYC336 (Abnormal Psychology); PSYC 336 (Industrial & Organizational Psychology). PSYC335 = 30pts and PSYC 336 = 15 pts, total = 45pts.

BCJ residual course:

You have a balance of 15pts in the BCJ you can use to take any course at 100, 200 or 300 level from the BA or BSc schedule. You should consult an advisor in Psychology about how best to use up these 15 points. You could take another 200-level course such as PSYC 207 (Developmental Psychology), or you might take another 300-level course. Depending on what you want to do after you graduate you might need to take PSYC 344 (Research Methods) to ensure that you are eligible to take postgraduate courses in Psychology.

Benefits of taking PSYC courses:

What do you get from taking these 200 and 300-level courses that will enhance your interest in crime/criminal justice? PSYC 206 Research Design & Statistics is a prerequisite for almost all other 300-level PSYC courses, so passing this makes it possible to advance to 300-level PSYC without difficulty. It is a course that gives you a basic introduction to how quantitative research is conducted

in Psychology and how the data produced by such research is analysed statistically. These principles of research design and statistical procedures are relevant to any kind of quantitative social science