

Bachelor of science (B.Sc.) in psychology

Preface - what is psychology?

Psychology is a science concerned with:

- *human experience*; for example, how do people experience the world? What are mechanisms of perception, reasoning and other inner processes? How do people learn and communicate? How does the memory work? And what are reasons for motivations and emotions to arise?
- *human's individual behavior*; for example, how do people with different personality traits react in response to the same stimulus? What are the bases of interpersonal communication, and how do people behave within groups?

Psychology is a science based on empirically well-founded approaches. Psychology applies theoretical knowledge and findings from diverse disciplines such as social, human, and natural sciences. Research in psychology is also focusing on:

- topics in general psychology and individual differences
- adaptive and „deviant“ human behaviors during the lifecourse
- psycho-educational and social-psychological themes

It is the aim of all psychological sub-disciplines (e.g. educational, organizational, and clinical psychology) to provide models and techniques for promoting psychological well-being and people's capabilities to behave as individuals and as group members. The B.Sc. in psychology offers a vocational qualification including courses in psychological methodology as well as in basic and applied psychology.

Courses in methodology

- Courses in methodology offer a basic but also a comprehensive introduction to psychology and its diverse methods,
- they communicate knowledge about the philosophy of psychological science,
- and methodological competencies for doing empirical research as well as working outside the laboratory.

Basic courses

Basic courses provide fundamental knowledge about human experience and behavior concerning:

- cognitive and biological functioning (general psychology and biological psychology)
- foundations of intra- and interpersonal processes (developmental and social psychology, individual differences)

Applied courses

- Organizational psychology investigates the interplay between human feelings and behaviors and conditions in the work environment. The goal of organizational psychology is to optimize the fit between individuals' needs and working conditions.
- Clinical psychology is concerned with the development, diagnosis, and therapy of mental disorders. Students will acquire the basic principles, methods, systems, and theoretical foundations for diagnostics and classifications. They will also learn those methods necessary for prevention, therapy, and rehabilitation.
- Educational psychology studies processes involved in learning and teaching based on scientific models. The goal of educational psychology is to provide meaningful interventions that can be applied in learning and teaching practices.

B. Sc. program

- In the B. Sc. program students learn about the basic methods, questions, and applied fields in psychology. They can attain a vocational qualification in psychology and a solid background for the master program in psychology.
- Based on the scientific tradition of Ulm University, the new B.Sc. in psychology is not only related to the professional practice, but also has a clear orientation towards scientific research. This orientation reflects the goal to convey those skills to graduate students that enable them to do innovative research with a problem-oriented and creative mindset.
- Students complete different work experiences (i.e. „Praktika“) in order to get in touch with the methods and practice of various practical disciplines in psychology. They will broaden their skills in that they study a subsidiary subject (i.e. „Nebenfach“) and receive training in some additional key qualifications.
- Students also profit from a small-group mentoring program which is intended to help them with a host of issues. Students will find support, for example, in organizing their studies, managing their daily learning routines and presentation techniques. They also have the opportunity to exchange own experiences with other students.
- Admission to the B. Sc. in psychology is restricted. Admission depends on the following criteria: School exam results (i.e., „Abiturnote“), standby time (i.e., „Wartezeit“), and completed apprenticeship (i.e., abgeschlossene Berufsausbildung“).

B. Sc. psychologists in occupations

The B.Sc. in psychology qualifies students to work in psychological routine jobs which are usually under supervision of individuals with a diploma or a master of science degree in psychology. This is true because the full occupational qualification can only be attained with a master degree in psychology. At present, Ulm University is planning a Master of Science program in psychology that will be installed in the near future. B.Sc. graduates certainly have the opportunity to start an own company as an alternative professional option.

Psychological jobs for B. Sc. graduates are manifold:

- Occupational psychology: for example, personell testing, assessment, selection, and development, job analysis and design, conflict management, management counseling and development in order to improve the work place conditions.
- Clinical Psychology: for example, clinical-psychological diagnosis, counseling, therapy, and rehabilitation of individuals with mental disorders, health management designed to support health promotion and illness prevention.
- Educational psychology: for example, diagnosis and therapy of people with learning difficulties, educational-psychological analysis and design of educational processes in schools and kindergardens, educational counseling, interventions regarding the communication of psychological knowledge and skills in adult education.

For some jobs (e.g. psychotherapy) there are legal regulations with respect to advanced vocational trainings. For others further qualifications seem to be highly recommended.

Curriculum B. Sc. in psychology

<i>courses and credits</i>	<i>modules</i>	<i>credits</i>	<i>modules and terms (recom.)</i>
introduction, methods, diagnostics (49 credits)	introduction to psychology and scientific methods	8	1
	statistics (1 and 2)	6+6	1,2
	testing theory/test planning and computer-based data analysis	10	2
	empirical training (1 and 2)	5+5	3,4
	diagnostics (1 and 2)	4+5	3,4
basic psychological disciplines (48 credits)	general psychology 1	8	1
	general psychology 2	8	3,4
	biological psychology	8	2
	individual differences	8	3,4
	developmental psychology	8	1,2
	social psychology	8	1,2
applied psychology (44 credits)	organizational psychology (1 and 2)	8+4	3,4,5
	clinical psychology (1 and 2)	8+4	3,4,5
	educational psychology	8+4	3,4,5
	*mandatory course (i.e. „Wahlpflichtfach“)	4+4	5
other courses (39 credits)	work experience (i.e. „Berufspraktikum“)	12	4
	mandatory participation in experiments (i.e. „Versuchspersonenstunden“)	1	
	additive key qualifications	6	
	subsidiary course (i.e. „Nebenfach“)	6	4
	Bachelor theses and colloquium	12+2	5

*) Note: Students have to choose two courses out of the following three: organizational psychology 3, clinical psychology 3, and educational psychology 3.

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- Start: winter term 2010/11
- Regular course duration: 6 terms
- restricted admission
- closing date for application: 15.07.
- online application: www.uni-ulm.de/index.php?id=11570
- tuition fees according to legal regulations of the federal state Baden-Württemberg

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