

Recommendations for Undergraduates Wishing to Pursue Careers or Graduate School related to Cognitive Psychology

In addition to the required curriculum for psychology majors (e.g., PSY 101, 200, 210, etc.):

1. Take Cognitive Courses:

PSY 305 – Foundations of Perception
PSY 316 – Foundations of Cognitive Psychology
PSY 406 – Intermediate Statistics
PSY 417 – Psycholinguistics
PSY 423 – Language Development
PSY 432 – Human Memory
PSY 425 – Cognitive Neuroscience
PSY 496/498 – Independent Study /Research

2. Get Involved with Cognitive Research:

Laboratory work with a faculty member who specializes in cognitive psychology (e.g., memory, perception, decision-making, or problem solving, such as math cognition) starting in sophomore or junior year. Ideally, students should have completed or at least be enrolled in PSY 210 (statistics) and PSY 240 (research methods). Students can earn credit for lab work (e.g., PSY 496/498). Quality time in 1 or 2 labs for a longer period of time is valued more than working in multiple labs for shorter periods of time.

3. Take Advantage of Psychology Organizations at UNLV:

Get involved in Psi Chi (the international honor society for psychology), the McNair Scholar program, and/or the UNLV Honors College (all of those have requirements for joining).

4. Other Recommendations:

Get advice from faculty mentors about deciding on career options or graduate school. If you are thinking about graduate school, review graduate program information provided for students by the American Psychological Association (Washington, D.C.) such as the book, *Graduate Study in Psychology*. Also, talk to faculty members and/or graduate students to determine which graduate schools best fit your interests, and tailor your application toward a specific faculty member or two at that school who would best match your interests. Improve your writing skills and knowledge of statistics. Also, if possible, present a research poster at a psychology conference (e.g., Psi Chi, APS, WPA, RMPA, etc.). Prepare for the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) and take it the summer before your senior year. Get advice about creating a curriculum vitae (CV) and writing a letter of intent. Ask questions and get as much information as possible!