

UMBC UGC Program Changes & Other Request: BA and BS Psychology

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Specifics (see instructions):

We currently offer **The Science and Profession of Psychology PSYC 211**, which introduces the conceptual and methodological skills necessary for success in the Psychology major, including an understanding of the scientific basis of the discipline, critical reasoning skills, information literacy, quantitative reasoning, ethical and social awareness, and basic writing skills in the discipline. In addition, PSYC 211 enhances students' understanding of careers in psychology and awareness of opportunities for research experience, service learning, and internship training. **Prerequisite/Corequisite:** Students must complete PSYC 100 and ENGL 100 with 'C' or better to register.

We also offer **PSYC 309: Psychology: Exploring the Discipline and Careers**. This is intended for newly-declared Psychology majors with 45+ credits and at least two PSYC courses beyond PSYC 100. This course develops the conceptual and methodological skills necessary for success in the Psychology major, including an understanding of the breadth and scientific basis of the discipline, critical reasoning skills, information literacy, quantitative reasoning, ethical and social awareness, and basic writing skills in the discipline. Students will learn about the generalizable skills acquired via the Psychology major and their applicability to a variety of career paths; the importance of academic planning; and availability of co-curricular experiences and support resources. Students cannot receive credit for both PSYC 211 and PSYC 309; PSYC 309 cannot be used as upper-level PSYC elective. **Prerequisite:** Students must complete PSYC 100 and ENGL 100 with 'C' or better to register.

We have reviewed the data from both courses over the last four semesters, tried to manage the two different course levels, and have decided that feedback from both students and faculty review convinces us that **only PSYC 309 should be offered**.

To that end, we would like to:

- 1) retire PSYC 211 after spring 2020,
- 2) retroactive credit for students who have taken Psyc211 prior to summer 2020, and
- 3) only offer PSYC 309 as required for the major; removing the old 45 credit prereq requirement starting summer 2020, and
- 4) add the following (prerequisites: You must complete PSYC 100 and ENGL 100 with 'C' or better to register for this course.) beginning summer2020.

Faculty agree that this course can serve as the second psychology course along with psyc100 as prereq for 300 level courses, and Psyc309 can remain a "majors only" course with individual decisions on other students taking the course, after majors are seated each semester (Current policy)

Rationale (see instructions):

Students have been confused as to which course to take, have complained that PSYC 211 is too low level, and most students are asking for PSYC 309. Faculty agree that managing the delivery of both courses has led to confusion, duplication at times, and mismatching students to a lower level course when they need a higher-level challenge. Psyc309 includes more statistics, writing in the discipline and career guidance.