**Psychology Major Requirements**

**(Revised, February 2017)**

**Department of Psychology, Tutt Science 304, The Colorado College**

**719-389-6593, psychology@coloradocollege.edu**

**DEPARTMENT MISSION STATEMENT**

Consistent with the liberal arts tradition, the psychology department at Colorado College is dedicated to providing an academic program that helps students develop the necessary skills and knowledge for achieving an intellectually enriched life, preparing them for both graduate studies and professional work. The psychology department provides broad coverage of academic psychology, emphasizing empirical research literature and a scientific understanding of human and non-human animal behavior. Psychology majors are expected to obtain methodological competence in a variety of research techniques, which are introduced in Research Design and elaborated in the upper-level courses. Ethical responsibility is inherent in psychology, both in the treatment of research participants (human and non-human) and in the preparation of academic and professional work, and psychology majors are trained to uphold this responsibility. Psychology majors acquire a knowledge base in core areas of psychology, with an expectation for depth of inquiry in advanced study. Majors are expected to demonstrate effective oral and written communication and to show critical evaluation of assumptions and evidence regarding psychological phenomena.

**GRADING REQUIREMENTS**

A grade of C–minus or better is required for all courses used to fulfill the Major requirements. If a lower grade is received for a required course the course must be repeated. Grades of D, D+, or CR will count toward graduation requirements but NOT toward Major requirements.

**REQUIRED COURSES**

A minimum of 12 courses and 13 blocks are required to complete the major – Ten (10) courses from within the Psychology Department and two (2) courses from outside the department. These courses are listed below.

1) **ONE** Intro to Psych Course: PY100 Intro to Psych: Bases of Behavior, OR

PY101 Intro to Psych: Enduring Ideas & Present Principles (2 blocks), OR

PY111 Intro to Psych: General Laws & Individual Differences (2 blocks).

2) **ONE** Methods/Statistics Course: PY202 Research Design (2 blocks)

3) **FIVE** “Core” Psychology Courses, one from each Domain, plus one:

A) PY297 Neuroscience I\*

B) PY362 Abnormal Psychology OR PY281 Personality\*

C) PY374 Lifespan Developmental Psychology OR PY309 Social Psychology

D) PY332 Learning & Adaptive Behavior OR PY344 Cognition. OR PY321 Perception

+1 Core (from those listed here or PY298 Neuroscience II\*\*)

\* PY202 is a prerequisite for all Core courses except PY297, PY298, and PY281.

\*\* PY297 Neuroscience I is a prerequisite for PY298 Neuroscience II.

4) **TWO** 400-Level Seminar courses:

Final Project courses (PY451, PY452, PY453) are not seminar courses and do not satisfy this requirement.

5) **ONE** unit (at least) of a Research Experience: PY251 Psychological Investigations or PY451 Final Project

(Students are limited to a maximum of three (3) Research Experience courses overall.)

6) **ONE** Mathematical Competency course: MA126 (Calc.) OR CP115 (Comp. Think.) OR CP122 (CompSci I)

7) **ONE** Science Competency course: Any Non-Psychology Natural Sciences Division Course