

Department of Psychological & Brain Sciences 2020 Transfer Orientation

Module Video #1 Script: Overview and Welcome

Welcome and congratulations on your acceptance to UCSB! We're the Undergraduate Advisors in the Psych and Brain Sciences Department. We are located at Psych East 1814.

You can reach us by email advising@psych.ucsb.edu. Please email us from your uemail account and include your name, perm number, current major, and if applicable, major you are switching into. When physical classes are in session, we offer walk-in advising and appointments (note we do not take appointments the first two weeks of the quarter but offer walk-in advising during that time).

Advising Services include degree audits, schedule planning, help with Change of Major (CoM) paperwork, and assistance with a range of student questions pertaining to major requirements and courses.

(Pre-orientation message)

Before orientation, please send ALL transcripts, IGETC certification, and test scores to UCSB Admissions before coming to UCSB. Students should check previously completed coursework on Assist.org to ensure transferability. Students should also start looking at major sheets and the projected course schedule on the PBS website.

We would just like to point out that PBS is not a Clinical or Counseling Therapy program. You may have heard of the minor called "Applied Psychology". It is not a minor sponsored by PBS, but we encourage you to search "UCSB Applied Psych" for more information.

The UCSB Psych Department instead offers two Bachelor of Science degrees: they are Biopsychology BS and Psychological and Brain Sciences BS. PBS does not host emphases or concentrations.

What about a bachelor's of arts in Psychology? Well, according to Assist.org and your UCSB Admissions cycle, the Psychology BA has been discontinued as of Fall 2016. Although the BA is no longer available to incoming freshmen and transfer students, we are pleased to host two competitive BS degrees in our department!

Many transfer students ask, "What is PBS at UCSB?" The Department of PBS offers Experimental Psychology BS degree programs. Faculty, Graduate Students, and Undergrads conduct research within four research areas; 1) Cognition, Perception and Cognitive

Neuroscience, 2) Developmental and Evolutionary Psychology, 3) Neuroscience and Behavior, and 4) Social Psychology.

For more information, please visit the PBS website <https://www.psych.ucsb.edu>

The website houses our major sheets, this is a kind of the “contract” for the degree you wish to pursue, with the “rules and regulations” associated with earning the degree.

You can also find information on requirements, policies, and step by step “How To” tools that assist students with tips and tricks, and items they need to be aware of in order to stay on track!

Our most successful students frequently use academic planning forms and checklists, as well as the “Course Information” tab. For example, here they can find a “projected schedule” for the academic year. Also available is a “how to use the waitlists” guide, and tutorials on how to navigate GOLD.

Students also use our Pre-Major GPA calculator to calculate their pre-major GPA. Don’t forget to turn in your request to change major when it comes time to declare full major status!

PBS offers many undergrad opportunities that allow students to maximize their time here at UCSB. These include organizations like the Society of Undergraduate Psychologists and Psi Chi. There are also opportunities for research Assistantship, Honors, and UC Education Abroad Programs. Advisors highly encourage transfer students to participate in these resume-building activities as a member of the UCSB community.

Please tune in to our next module...

Module Video #2 Script: CC to UC

Welcome back! We understand that transferring from your previous institution into UCSB presents a learning curve in translating your CC coursework to UC equivalencies. In this module, we will go over some commonly asked questions to get everyone on the same page!

First, let's talk about grades. Often transfer students ask: how do my CC grades affect my UC GPA value? By now, you're familiar with Assist.org and have been using it to confirm your own progress. *This is an example of a student that took Intro to Psych at their CC, which was titled PSY 101. Assist.org tells us that this course is accepted at UCSB as PSY 1. The student was awarded 4.5 quarter units for their 3-unit semester course. Although the student did a great job in earning an A, transfer grades are not factored into UC GPA. The same applies for "AP credits". A student will be awarded units, but not a GPA.

Most students have read up on the pre-major requirements. Let's go over them for a minute. Our pre-major is broken up into "Areas". For both Biopsych and PBS BS, Area I includes Calculus (note: this is not pre-calculus), Intro to Psychology and Intro to Statistics. These are cataloged as MATH 34A or equivalent, PSY 1, and PSTAT 5A or equivalent, respectively.

What may be new to you is UCSB's Research Methods and Statistical Methods. These courses cannot be taken at any other campus and are cataloged as PSY 10A and 10B.

Ok! Let's talk about GPA! Students must qualify to join the full major by achieving a 2.7, which is a B- average, UC GPA in Area I. It is extremely important that students understand the grades in this selection of courses will determine major eligibility especially if PSY 10A and 10B are your only qualifying courses. Just be mindful to design a schedule that allows ample study time for these important/pre-major classes.

The PBS and Biopsych BS also have Area II. This includes CHEM and BIO. At UCSB, BIO is cataloged as MCDB and EEMB. If you still need to take these courses at UCSB, you must earn at least a 2.0 GPA to declare full major. PBS and Biopsych Area I and II are both part of the pre-major qualification.

Note: All major courses must be completed on a letter-grade basis. No course with a grade lower than a C- in Area I & II. Not more than one course with a C- in Area I & II.

Finally, PBS has an Area III "Prep for the major" listing a variety of accepted pre-approved courses. Check out Assist.org and the major sheet to see what you have completed!

Students seeking to join our majors are advised to have at least completed CHEM and BIO prior to transfer. Since a transfer student typically comes in as a third year junior, this recommendation will allow students to focus on upper division PSY coursework and other UCSB opportunities sooner than if they had to take CHEM and BIO at UCSB.

For more information on junior/senior planning, please visit our website.

Let's continue to talk about your CC work. Likely, students have already completed Calculus, Intro to Psych, Statistics, Chemistry and Biology. Biopsychology BS students were encouraged to take Organic Chemistry and Physics, whereas PBS BS students might have been working on their Area III list. This leaves PSY 10A and 10B at UCSB. Please note: the pre-requisite for PSY 10A includes all Area I courses and Area II Chemistry to "unlock" PSY 10A.

Quickly, we want to go over the partial series. Here is an example of a CC series taken at a semester school. It includes Fall and Spring, which identifies Part 1 and 2, broken up by 50% each part. Below is the UCSB series taken in a quarter system. It included Fall, Winter and Spring, which identifies Part 1, 2 and 3, broken up by 33% each part.

Say for example a student completes Part 1 Chemistry at their CC, and does not get the chance to complete Part 2. They will be awarded Part 1 credit at UCSB. As you may have guessed, they will not be awarded credit for Part 3. But what about Part 2?! Well, sadly, since one semester does not cover the material of 2 quarters, credit cannot be awarded. Therefore, a student with only Part 1 semester credit will still have to take UCSB quarter Part 2 and 3 once they get here, and they'll have to wait until Winter to move forward in the series. If at all possible, we highly encourage students to take summer school at their CC by taking that last class to wrap up Part 2 of the series. At the end of summer, UCSB can credit you 100% for the entire series! What a deal!

Wow, we know this is a long module but thanks for staying with us. Tune in to the next module, we promise they get shorter from here on out!

Module Video #3 Script: How to Enroll in Classes

Welcome to our third module, “How to Enroll in Classes”. The most common questions we get from transfer students are “What Classes Can I Take?” and “How Do I Check CC vs. UCSB Credit?”

We already went over that UCSB PBS offers four areas of research. Students may select courses in any or all of these areas, as long as they have met the pre-requirements to the next course. Say for example you are interested in Neuroscience and Behavioral Psychology courses. In order to take the advanced version, say PSY 111: Fundamentals of Behavioral Neuroscience, students must first take the prerequisite, the foundation course, PSY 106: Introduction to Biopsychology. Again, you must first take the foundation course, PSY 106, in order to unlock the advanced course, PSY 111.

All right, next we have students ask a lot about the prerequisites they took at the Community College versus UCSB prerequisites. If it does not appear on assist.org, it does not have a UCSB equivalent. For example, CC’s “Social Psychology” is not equal to UCSB’s “Social Psychology”. CC “Social Psychology” is a lower division course. Some might consider it a “sophomore” version course; it has no major credit at UCSB. UCSB’s “Social Psych” is an upper division course, maybe a “junior” level course so it would apply to your major credit. These two courses, although they have the same name, are not equal. However, if you have taken the CC version of “Social Psych”, you are actually eligible to take the UCSB version. So take advantage of the opportunity to get a good grade in our class. Some common CC courses that are similar to UCSB’s courses are Social, Developmental (Life-Span), Abnormal, Personality, Cognition, etc. They are not awarded major credit but they will earn transfer units and will set you up for success in our upper division courses.

Please tune into the next module, “How to Prepare for Orientation Day”. Thank you!

Module Video #4 Script: How to Prepare for Orientation Day

Welcome to our final module, “How to Prepare for Orientation Day”. This module will cover what to expect, what to do before to prepare, and what to bring.

So what happens during transfer orientation? This year will be a bit different considering social distancing regulations. Advisors will host separate zoom meetings for PBS and Biopsych students, and breakout rooms will be used to field small group discussions and questions. We will give an overview of our department and classes, major requirements and policies, and the academic planning tools we offer. Advisors will ask students if they have taken chem and bio. Advisors will discuss the reality of coming in “behind” as a junior- this typically means those students who have not taken chem. But please don’t stress, it is OKAY to have a different academic path than your peers - we’re here to help!

During transfer orientation, we will NOT be repeating information found in the orientation modules (what you are reviewing currently). Rather orientation will serve as an opportunity for students to ask questions with Advisors. We expect students to review these modules and the website before orientation so you can jot down any questions/items you would like clarification on during orientation. Consider orientation your first UCSB lecture. Just as you would prepare for a lecture by reading the assigned chapter before class, advisors highly recommend familiarizing yourself with this material for best results.

“How should I prepare for orientation?” Well, please fill out your major checklist. It’s available on our website, and you just need to select your appropriate major. Use assist.org to complete this form with your previous coursework. Review the “Projected Course Offerings AY 20-21” and select a fall, and even better, winter schedule. Take a look at what courses interest you. Remember you do have pre-reqs but most courses are open to you. The advisors will review and edit your choices if you email this to us at advising@psych.ucsb.edu, before you go off to enroll on GOLD. Most importantly, you will want to **email us your unofficial transcripts** from your community college. Circle or highlight the PBS pre-major equivalencies. Please use assist.org to find this information. Advisors need these to clear you in our system so that when you go to enroll, you have clearances for the courses you’ve taken at your community college. Admissions will do this, but it may take up until October, so this paperwork is essential.

“What should I bring to orientation?” Please bring a writing utensil, and any questions you have. It would be helpful to have these forms on you and filled out to the best of your ability: major checklists, fall and winter schedule plan, and copy of your unofficial transcripts.

Don't forget, planning ahead is key. We are excited to meet you and look forward to seeing you in August. Have a good day!