

Department of Psychological & Brain Sciences 2022 Transfer Orientation

Module Video #1 Script: Overview and Welcome

Welcome and congratulations on your acceptance to UCSB! (next slide)

PBS Undergraduate Advisors

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 at 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. During the quarter, we offer walk-in advising and appointments (note we do not take appointments the first two weeks of the quarter or during pass one but offer walk-in advising during that time).

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

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. (next slide)

Pre (Majors) Offered

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 housed in the PBS department, 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 majors do not have 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! (next slide)

Experimental vs. Clinical

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. (next slide)

PBS Website

For more information, please visit the PBS website.

The website houses our major sheets, which is like the "contract" for the degree you wish to pursue, with the "rules and regulations" associated with earning the degree.

Under the "Undergraduate Overview" tab, you can also find information on campus resources, PBS policies, and how to book appointment with an Advisor.

Our most successful students frequently visit our "Course Information" and "Academic Planning" tab to find our projected schedule for the academic year, schedule planning worksheets, and other step by step "How To" tools that assist students with things like waitlisting for courses, running major progress checks on GOLD, and requesting major credit for courses taken elsewhere.

If students have questions, we recommend they visit our Frequently Asked Questions tab where we cover a variety of advising questions in video module form. We ask that students first check out these modules before emailing us!

PBS offers many undergrad opportunities that allow students to maximize their time here at UCSB. These include organizations like the Society of Undergraduate Psychologists, Psi Chi, and Access Grads. 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...(DONE)

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 the Biopsych and PBS majors, 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 UC GPA in Area I, which is a B- average. It is extremely important that students understand that the grades in this combination 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 majors 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 the full major, which is a C average. PBS and Biopsych Areas 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. Also, no 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. Some students have already completed Calculus, Intro to Psych, Statistics, Chemistry and Biology. In this situation, Biopsychology students are encouraged to take Organic Chemistry and Physics, whereas PBS students might want to work on their Area III requirement. For the pre-major, the student would only need to take PSY 10A and 10B at UCSB. Please note: the prerequisites for PSY 10A includes all Area I courses and Area II Chemistry to "unlock" the course.

Quickly, we want to go over what a partial series is. 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 includes 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: PSY Course Registration Pointers

Welcome to our third module, “PSY Course Registration Pointers”. The most common questions we get from transfer students are “What Classes Can I Take?” and “What major credits will I have upon transfer?” (next slide)

We already went over the four areas of research which this department specializes in. Students in our majors will eventually take courses focused on these areas, but first, they will need to ensure that they meet any prerequisites. Prerequisites are courses that need to be completed in order to take other classes. For example, to take PSY 10A, Research Methods in Psychological & Brain Sciences, students must complete PSY 1, MATH 34A, PSTAT 5A, CHEM 1A, and CHEM 1B (or their respective equivalents). These listed courses are all prerequisites to PSY 10A, and therefore must be taken prior to enrolling in 10A. (next slide)

All right, so how do you determine what major credits you have already completed as a transfer? This is a very common question, and we will briefly explain our answer in this module. Regardless, we strongly encourage our incoming transfer students to send in their unofficial transcripts to us so that we can check this for them.

Let’s start first with students coming from a community college. As you can see on the screen, if you are coming from a CA community college, make sure to use assist.org to verify your transfer credits. If a CC course is not listed there, then it will most likely not count as an equivalent to a UCSB course. For students coming from out-of-state community colleges, you will want to submit course evaluations to determine UCSB equivalency. Instructions on how to submit a course evaluation can be found on our website. Lastly, all community college courses are considered lower division. Therefore, these courses cannot substitute or count for upper division credit. For example, let’s say a student took a CC “Social Psychology” class. As you can see, CC Social Psychology cannot substitute for UCSB PSY 102—an upper division course. Although both courses have the same name, and may cover a lot of the same topics, since CC Social Psychology is a lower division course, the student will need to take UCSB PSY 102. However, even though the student will not be given major credit for this particular course, the units will still count towards the student’s overall unit count, which will help satisfy the 180 UCSB unit degree requirement, so not all is lost. (next slide).

For students coming from a four-year institution, they will need to submit course evaluations to verify whether they have completed potential UCSB PSY major requirements. Instructions on how to submit course evaluations can be found on our website. In addition, courses may transfer over as lower or upper division units—this is going to be determined by UCSB

Admissions. Note that for UCs specifically, any 100+ course will transfer over as upper division credit since the same system is used throughout all UCs. For example, if a student took UCSD Intro to Biopsychology, this may count as an equivalent to UCSB PSY 106, but it has to be an upper division course and has to be evaluated by our department. If it is determined to be equivalent, then this particular class can count as a substitute for PSY 106 major credit. As we mentioned in the previous slide, all of our incoming transfer students are strongly encouraged to send in their unofficial transcripts so that we can check for major credits.

We know this can be a lot of information, but that is why we are here to help! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us. We will also be in communication with our students via email and through Transfer Orientation.

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

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 to prepare, and what to bring. [Slide 1]

So, what happens during transfer orientation? 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 also discuss the reality of coming in without having taken chem—but please do not stress, it is OKAY to have a different academic path than your peers. We are here to help! [Slide 2]

During our department’s transfer orientation, we will NOT be repeating information found in the orientation modules, which is what you are reviewing currently. Rather, orientation will serve as an opportunity for students to ask questions to the 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 as 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. [Slide 2]

“How should I prepare for orientation?” Well, please fill out your major sheet. It’s available on our website, and you just need to select your appropriate major. Please note that if coming from a California community college you may use assist.org to complete this form with your previous coursework. Transfer students should review the current “Projected Course Offerings” for the upcoming academic year and create a fall schedule. Look at what courses interest you. Remember you do have pre-reqs but some 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 previous institution. Circle or highlight the PBS pre-major equivalencies. Again, if you are coming from a California Community College, you may use assist.org to find this information. Advisors need this to clear you in our system so that when you go to enroll, you have internal credits for the courses you’ve taken at your community college that may be prerequisites to other courses. Admissions will also do this, but it may take them until October (or longer) to do so, so this paperwork is essential. [Slide 3]

“What should I bring to orientation?” Please bring something to write with 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 sheet, fall schedule plan, and copy of your unofficial transcripts. Academic

planning tools can be found on our website.

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! [Slide 4]