

Department of Psychological & Brain Sciences 2025

Transfer Modules Script

Module Video #1 Script: Overview and Welcome

Welcome and congratulations on your acceptance to UCSB!

PBS Undergraduate Advisors

We're the Undergraduate Advisors in the Psych and Brain Sciences Department. We are located at Psych East 1814, and our advising team is excited to welcome you and work alongside you!

How to Contact Advisors in PBS

You can reach us by email at advising@psych.ucsb.edu. Please email us from your UCSB account and include your name, perm number, and current major. Our advising team is available during drop-in advising hours, as well, which are held on Mondays-Fridays from 9:00 am-11:45 am and 1:00 pm-3:45 pm in Psychology East 1814. Currently, we are not available via appointments, but our advising team is always more than happy to meet with you during walk-in hours regarding any questions or concerns that you might have about your major, goals, navigating UCSB, etc.!

Advising Services include major progress checks, schedule planning, help with Change of Major 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.

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 of Arts in Psychology? As of Fall 2016, the Psychology BA has been discontinued. 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!

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
- 4) Social Psychology.

PBS Website

For more information, please visit the PBS website.

The website houses our major sheets, which is like the “contract” for your degree, with the “rules and regulations” associated with earning the degree.

Under the “Undergraduate Overview” tab, you can also find information on campus resources and department policies.

Our most successful students frequently visit our “Course Information” and “Academic Planning” tabs 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 and running major progress checks on GOLD.

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 Assistance, 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 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?”

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.

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, it is required that all incoming transfer students complete our Incoming Transfer Form linked below to verify their pre-major credits that may be prerequisites for courses they need to take at UCSB.

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, it is especially important to fill out the Incoming Transfer Form in order to determine UCSB equivalents for your CC courses since assist.org cannot determine this for you. 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 still 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.

For students coming from a four-year institution, it is also especially important to fill out the Incoming Transfer Form to verify whether you have completed potential UCSB PSY major requirements. In addition, courses may transfer over as lower or upper division credit, but 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 at UCSB. As we have now mentioned a few times, all of our incoming transfer students are required to fill out our Incoming Transfer Form *regardless* if they are coming from a California CC, an out-of-state CC, or a four-year university. We will discuss this in more detail in the next module.

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 you via your UCSB email.

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.

What to expect?

So, what happens during transfer orientation? We will give an overview of our department and classes, major requirements and policies, various tips for success, and info regarding other departmental opportunities. 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!

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.

How should I prepare for orientation?

Make sure to fill out our Incoming Transfer Google Form by Friday July 11th, 2025 so that department advisors can evaluate your transfer coursework for pre-major credit and provide prerequisite clearance for Fall course registration. Please regularly check your UCSB email for our evaluation, which will also include an example schedule for Fall quarter and other relevant info regarding orientation. If you don’t check your UCSB email, you could miss important info, so please keep a regular eye on it!

The course offerings during Fall 2025 already can be found on GOLD. Please log into GOLD to review course offerings before attending transfer orientation by selecting “Find Courses” and using that drop down menu: select Fall 2025 Quarter and, for example, “PSY” for Subject Area.

Students are also highly encouraged to visit our website prior to orientation to develop an understanding of our current majors, policies, tools, and opportunities.

What should I bring to orientation?

Please come prepared with questions and perhaps a schedule plan based on the example schedule we provide or using the planning tools on our website. Again, it is required for

incoming transfers to fill out our Incoming Transfer Form before coming to orientation to check primarily for pre-major credits and to obtain prerequisite clearances, which are necessary to enroll in Fall classes. Your official transcripts may not be uploaded until October, so advisors need to clear prerequisites manually by referring to the unofficial transcripts you provide via this form.

Don't forget, planning ahead is key. We are so very excited to meet you and look forward to seeing all of your smiling faces in August. Have a good day, and as always, please reach out to your advising team in PBS with any questions!