Rationale for Changes to Psychology BA and Psychology BS in 2022/2024 Catalog and Financial Impact of the Changes.

Rationale

The Psychology Curriculum Committee desired to bring both the Psychology BA and Psychology BS majors into exact agreement, therefore, regardless if a student were doing BA or BS they would have comparable pedagogical experience. The difference between the two therefore lie with the fact that the Psychology BS must take prescribed major level Natural Sciences courses and Calculus which partially fulfill Pre-Health Profession perquisites. Psychology BS also must complete foreign language/culture requirements to the second-semester-level proficiency. The Psychology BA may use the Plan I non-science majors list of courses to fulfill the University Core natural science requirement additionally foreign language must be complete to the intermediate level.

The reason for changes to the major are as follows:
The additional requirement of PSY 317L, *Introduction to Data Analysis for Behavioral Science*, is to give all students the basic fundamentals of statistics. This course emphasizes learning how to use the statistical programming language R to manage, analyze, visualize, and communicate data. This course is a prerequisite for the required PSY 420M, *Advanced Data Analysis Methods for Behavioral Science*, which will cover advanced topics in statistics, data visualization, and analysis. Students will learn to manipulate and plot data using R with RStudio. Since knowledge of R is needed for PSY 420M, those students who transfer in a psychology statistics course will be required to take PSY 120R, a course which covers R programming language.

It will now be required that students in both the Psychology BA and Psychology BS will take at least 3hrs (one course) in each of the major domains of psychology. Area I introduces clinical, social, and developmental psychology. Area II includes cognition, language, neuroscience, and perception. Area III presents multicultural, diversity, and inclusion topics in psychology and the behavioral sciences.

Additional change to the Psychology BS Science:
A Computer Science Sequence will no longer be one of the Psychology BS natural science options. This is due to a change in Computer Science Department policy, which no longer allows students to take upper division Computer Science courses unless they have been admitted and are pursuing the Elements of Computing Certificate.

Financial Impact Statement

The Psychology Curriculum Committee foresees no increase in financial obligation with the implementation of these changes to either the Department or the College.