

**CC Report Addendum**  
**MOTION 3: DTE major revision**

**CC Motion 3: Approve revision of the Psychology major.**

*Major Sequence*

A minimum of 11 courses in Psychology including:

- a.) Psychology 100
- b.) Psychology 227 (recommended sophomore year)
- c.) Psychology 300 (recommended sophomore or junior year)
- d.) Two of the following: Psychology 211, 212, and 213
- e.) Two courses, numbered Psychology 251-259 (cannot take both 252 and 253 to fulfill this requirement)
- f.) One course, numbered Psychology 311-329
- g.) One course, numbered Psychology 351-369
- h.) One additional course in Psychology (this may be met with any Psychology course with the exception of Psychology 202)
- j.) One course in Psychology carrying the EXP attribute (does not need to be in addition to above)

Courses outside the department that are required:

- ~~a.) Two semesters of Biology: either Biology 101 and 102, or Biology 107 and 108~~
- a.) **One semester of foundational biological coursework, either Neuroscience 110, Biology 101, or Biology 107**
- b.) A Philosophy course approved by the advisor (or Psychology 330)

**Rationale from Prof. Themanson**

The proposed change to the Psychology major will reduce the biology coursework requirement from two semesters of biology to one semester of biology or one semester of the foundations of neuroscience course (which focuses on the biological background of neuroscience).

The proposed change is motivated by comparing the IWU Psychology major with similar programs as well as feedback received from IWU students in the Psychology major. The proposed change would reduce the major burden on psychology students and increase consistency across the course requirements outside the department. The current two-semester course requirement in Biology can be prohibitive for Psychology students in relation to pursuing their course interests, opportunities related to their desired career goals and objectives, and other signature experiences (including internships and laboratory experiences). This proposed reduction will create an opening for students to explore other curricular opportunities in pursuit of their post-graduate goals and will reduce the graduation burden on Psychology majors by one course. Additionally, this proposed reduction from two semesters of biological coursework to

one semester will enhance the consistency across non-psychology flag requirements as only one semester of Philosophy coursework is required for Psychology majors. Finally, the psychology faculty have had meetings discussing the implications of this curricular change. All faculty in the department have agreed that the content covered in the courses under the new requirement (BIOL 101, BIOL 107, NEUR 110) is sufficient in providing the requisite background education and information for students pursuing advanced neuroscientific coursework in the psychology major. Further, any students interested in pursuing advanced degrees or coursework in health related or medical-related fields (medical school, OT, PT, PA, etc.) will be advised to take BIOL 107 for their major requirement as they will need to take BIOL 108 as a prerequisite for their advanced coursework beyond IWU.

Both the director of the Neuroscience program and the chair of Biology have been consulted in the preparation of this proposal.