



CONCORDIA
UNIVERSITY
OF EDMONTON

4-YEAR BACHELOR OF ARTS PSYCHOLOGY (APPLIED EMPHASIS)

2018-19 Planning Guide

APPLICATION DEADLINE: May 1, 2018

REQUIREMENTS are in Section 3.3 of the Academic Calendar.

To apply, please visit our website at www.concordia.ab.ca and click Apply Now.

STEPS FOR APPLYING are on **PAGE 6.**

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INTRODUCTION

WHEN DO I APPLY?

APPLICATION DEADLINE: May 1 for the following September.

If you are considering applying for admission to the 4-Yr BA in Psychology (Applied Emphasis), you should begin now. When you are eligible to apply, you will need to submit an application, even if you are currently enrolled at Concordia. This is necessary because you are now applying to be considered for a competitive program. The schedule for applying to the 4-Yr BA is as follows:

- Students in their **FIRST YEAR** of a psychology degree cannot apply for the 4-Yr program yet. However, they can plan their course sequence. They should take PSY 211 in the Fall of the second year.
- Students in their **SECOND YEAR** can apply while they are completing required courses, for example, in the FALL SEMESTER of the second year. The application is online.
- Students in their **THIRD YEAR** of a psychology degree can apply while they are completing required courses. They can also apply after they have finished course requirements. The application is online.
- Students who are completing the 3-Yr BA in Psychology or who have already completed the 3-Yr BA in Psychology can **apply for this program ANYTIME**. The application is online.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS are in Section 3.3 of the Academic Calendar.

See the end of this Guide for a SAMPLE PROGRAM.

OVERVIEW OF THE 4-YR BA IN PSYCHOLOGY (APPLIED EMPHASIS)

Four-year degree - Applied Emphasis – One Field Placement

(Basic Program, Psy 486, Field Placement I)

The focus of this degree program is on applying psychological theory to help solve real-world problems. If you are accepted into this program, you will take at least one full year field placement or practicum. A practicum gives you an opportunity to gain experience by working in a community agency or organization where you can apply psychological knowledge to real life situations.

Four-year degree - Applied Emphasis – Two Field Placements

(Enhanced Program; Psy 486 & Psy 496, Field Placement I & II)

If you were successful in your first field placement, and want to enhance your skills, you can take a second full year placement (Psy 496). The Enhanced program also requires an additional 6 credits in psychology, along with the requirements for the Basic program. Students usually decide whether to do a second placement after they have completed the first one.



ADVANTAGES OF THE APPLIED EMPHASIS

This program can give you a chance to see what it's like to use psychology in a practical setting. You might give a person an IQ test, help a parole officer at a half-way house, lead a discussion with teens who have schizophrenia, or teach a preschooler how to ask for a cookie without yelling.

Most undergraduate psychology programs offer only the academic component of this subject area. In this program, you have an opportunity to explore the practical side of psychology. The skills you learn can be a foundation for later training to become a psychologist - a profession that requires a minimum of a Master's degree. Our graduates have gone on to do Masters and PhD programs at universities across Canada. This program also helps you to develop the skills needed to enter the human services field with your BA. Our graduates have found jobs such as youth worker, addictions educator, psychometrist (administering IQ tests) and behavioral specialist for autistic children, among other occupations.

Our graduates tell us that the "package" of courses plus field placement gave them valuable contacts in the work place and prepared them for graduate school. The 4-Yr BA in Psychology (Applied Emphasis) can give you a head start in acquiring the practical skills needed for the human services field.

FORENSIC COURSES AND FORENSIC STUDIES MINOR

Forensic Studies Courses

Psy 350 Corrections and Forensics: Criminal Behavior

Open to ALL students who have completed both Psy 104 and Psy 105 OR Soc 100. The course gives an overview of the criminal justice system, corrections and criminal behavior, and aspects of psychological assessment and treatment of criminal offenders.

Psy 452 Forensic Psychological Assessment

Open only to students in the 4-yr BA in Psychology (Applied Emphasis). This course covers present practices in forensic psychological assessment and treatment, including how to read a warrant and the Criminal Code of Canada, prepare hospital file summaries, administer a complete fitness for trial evaluation, as well as teach the basics of risk and criminal responsibility assessment.

Forensic Studies Minor

Open ONLY to students in the 4-yr BA in Psychology (Applied Emphasis). Students in this minor will learn about forensic assessment, criminal behavior, and the corrections system in Canada. Psy 350 and Psy 452 (above) are required for this minor. Details about the Forensic Minor and a Sample Program are included at the end of this Guide.



EXAMPLES OF FIELD PLACEMENTS

Note: Students are assigned to field placements based on volunteer experience, work experience and availability outside of course commitments.

Community agency: transitional housing/support for teens

Alberta Gov't: social/recreational programs for those with schizophrenia or bi-polar disorder

Community agency: work with a psychologist who does animal-assisted therapy

Community agency: after-school groups for elementary school children, e.g., anger management, dealing with divorce, dealing with bullying

Psychologist: assist with research team under the direction of a neuropsychologist

Psychologist, private practice: administer and score intellectual assessments

Community agency: support for people in contact with the legal system

Private Agency: assist family worker help children with developmental delays

Community agency: in-home teaching of parenting skills and self-advocacy for families

Community agency: preschool for children who are new Canadians and/or who have learning delays

Community agency: give presentations to junior high classes about healthy relationships and how to recognize physical/emotional abuse

Corrections: assist parole officer in residential program for parolees



STRUCTURE of the 4-Yr BA in Psychology (Applied Emphasis)

FIELD PLACEMENT I (PSY 486) AND FIELD PLACEMENT II (PSY 496)

Field Placement I and II (PSY 486 and 496) are full year university courses worth 6 credits each. All students take Psy 486, Field Placement I, which is a requirement for the Basic program in the 4-Yr BA in Psychology (Applied Emphasis). Each field placement course involves both field work and a weekly seminar.

FIELD WORK - The placement is 160 hours (8 hours per week) from September to April. Students are placed at an agency or organization that provides experience in the human services field. An agency Field Supervisor is assigned to each student.

A WEEKLY SEMINAR – is led by the instructor in charge of the course. The activities typically involve practicum-related assignments, discussion groups, student presentations, and guest speakers.

WORKSHOPS - There is typically a Suicide Awareness workshop on a weekend in the Fall and another weekend workshop in January. The topic for the January workshop varies.

PASS/FAIL – Grades for the practicum course are “Credit” or “No Credit”. All components of the course (practicum work, Field Supervisor evaluations, weekly seminar attendance, participation in discussion, seminar assignments) need to be completed satisfactorily to receive Credit in the course.

THREE CONCURRENT REQUIRED COURSES IN FALL SEMESTER OF FIRST FIELD PLACEMENT

You will take all three required courses (below) at the same time during the Fall semester:

- **PSY 486 (Field Placement I)**
 - field work - 8 hours per week at an agency
 - weekly seminar class
 - one weekend workshop in the Fall term and another one in Winter term
- **PSY 305 (Ethical Issues in Professional Psychology)**
- **PSY 332 (Communication and Counseling Skills)**

RECOMMENDED COURSES: PSY 433, PSY 434, AND PSY 435

PSY 433 (Personality Assessment) and **PSY 434** (Intellectual Assessment) give students the skills to administer psychological tests and work as psychological assistants. **PSY 435** (Clinical and Counseling Psychology) is a key course for the program and it is an opportunity to consolidate your learning.



APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

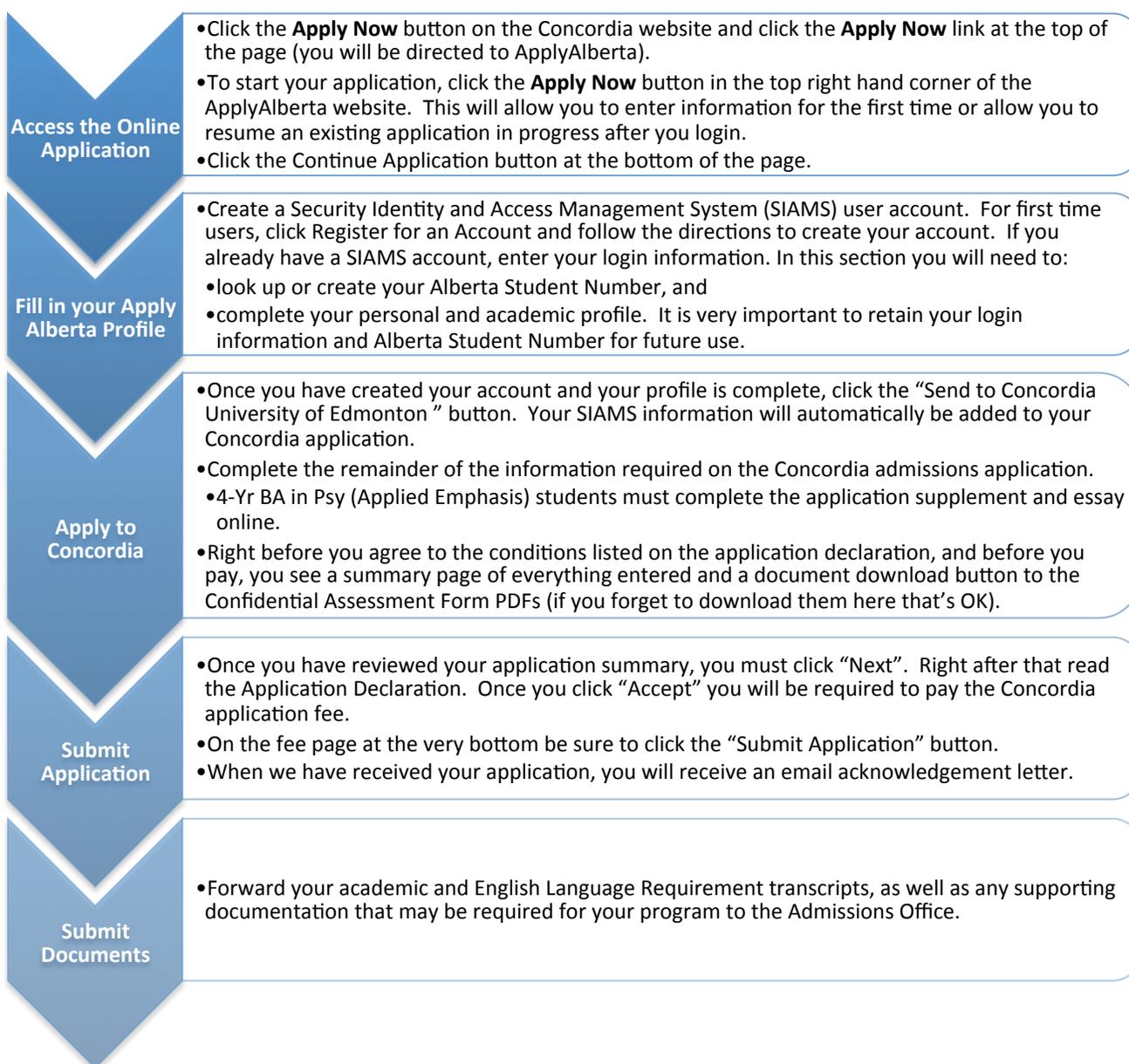
APPLICATION DEADLINE: May 1 for the following September.

HOW TO APPLY

To apply, please visit our website at www.concordia.ab.ca and click Apply Now.

Helpful tips:

1. You can save a partially completed application and return to it later before submitting.
2. The Admissions office can assist you with the application process if you have any questions.
3. Assessment of applications commences in early October, so applicants are encouraged to apply early.



TIPS FOR MAKING A GREAT APPLICATION

VOLUNTEER/WORK EXPERIENCE RECORD AND ADDITIONAL TRAINING RECORD

Remember that you can save a partially completed application and return to it later before submitting.

Your volunteer experience can include activities such as working at a summer camp or coaching soccer. Include all your work experience, especially if you have had positions of responsibility such as shift manager at a restaurant or lifeguard.

Example:

Place of Employment/ Volunteer Experience	Position Held	Time Commitment	Period of Employment	Paid (Yes or No)
<i>Superdeedoooper Bistro</i>	<i>Shift Manager</i>	<i>30 hours/wk</i>	<i>Summers 2012 & 2013</i>	<i>Yes</i>

SUGGESTIONS FOR STATEMENT OF INTENT – CANNOT EXCEED 500 WORDS

Remember that you can save a partially completed essay and return to it later before submitting.

Your Statement of Intent is a very important element of your application. You will need to write several drafts. It is always a good idea to ask someone who is a skilled writer to give you feedback on your essay. A Statement of Intent that contains grammatical and spelling errors will weaken your application.

When you apply online, you will receive the following instructions:

Outline your reasons for wanting to enter the program so that your readers have a good understanding of your intentions. Describe the strengths and experience you have that make you a good candidate for the program. Describe what you expect to gain from the training in your course work and field placement. Describe your understanding of the knowledge base and personal qualities required to be a worker in a helping profession. Identify the key elements of professionalism. Give reasons why you think you would be an effective helper in the human-services field.

End the Statement of Intent by thanking the recipients for their time in considering your application.

REFERENCES

- TWO general referees and
- ONE academic referee (teacher/professor at a school or university you attended).
 - *Note: Instructors in the Psychology Department **cannot** give you a reference.*



Choose people who know something about your work ethic and your character, such as

- work supervisor (e.g., restaurant, retail, construction)
- pastor
- supervisor at a place where you volunteer
- summer camp director

DO NOT choose a classmate, co-worker or family friend because this will make your application less competitive. It is a good idea to call each person and ask if he or she would be willing to give you a positive reference. Do not assume that a reference will be positive. Send each person the appropriate Confidential Assessment Form (General or Academic), a stamped envelope addressed to the Admissions Office, and a note or card thanking them for their time.

Each referee must mail his or her Confidential Assessment Form directly to the Admissions Office. The Confidential Assessment Forms are available during the online application process.

SELECTION PROCESS AND INTERVIEW

Your application will be evaluated based on your grade point average, Volunteer/Work Experience Record, Statement of Intent, and Confidential Assessment Forms. Following the initial review of applications, qualified applicants will be invited for an interview. This **30-minute** interview will assess your non-academic qualifications, such as motivation, ability to communicate, and overall suitability.

SECURITY CLEARANCE CHECK (CRIMINAL RECORDS CHECK)

Students who are offered admission must complete a Security Clearance Check. It authorizes the police to search their database and provides written confirmation that you do not have a criminal record. Instructions for completing the Security Clearance Check form will be given at the time of the offer of admission.

Applicants with a CRIMINAL RECORD ARE INELIGIBLE for a Psychology degree with Applied Emphasis unless they have obtained a pardon. The process of obtaining a pardon takes several years.

PLAN YOUR TIMETABLE

Schedule large blocks of free time to have half days and/or full days available each week for your practicum. This will allow you to have a greater choice of field placements.



PLANNING YOUR DEGREE

SAMPLE PROGRAM: 4-YR BA IN PSYCHOLOGY (APPLIED EMPHASIS)

Below is an example of a recommended course sequence for the 4-Yr BA in Psychology. Other courses that fulfill program requirements are acceptable.

YEAR ONE - Fall	Winter
Psy 104 (Basic Psy Processes)	Psy 105 (Indiv & Social)
YEAR TWO - Fall	Winter
PSY 211 (STATISTICS)*	Psy 319 (Research Design)
Psy 338 (Personality)	Psy 339 (Abnormal Psy)
Psy 275 (Brain & Behavior)	
Psy 281 (Behavior Change)	Psy 385 (Applications of Learning)
YEAR THREE - Fall	Winter
Psy 305 (Ethics)	
Psy 332 (Communication Skills)	
Psy 486 (Placement I - full year)	Psy 486 (Placement I - full year)
Psy 431 (Psychometrics)	Psy 433 (Personality Assess) or Psy 434 (Intellectual Assess)
Psy 311 (Intermediate Stats)	Psy 333 (Group Counselling)
YEAR FOUR - Fall	Winter
Psy 496 (Placement II - full year)	Psy 496 (Placement II - full year)
Psy 433 or Psy 434	Psy 435 (Clinical Psychology) Psy 321 (Qualitative Research)

The Psychology Department **strongly recommends that students take Psy 211 (Statistics) rather than an equivalent course. If at all possible, you should take Psy 211 during the Fall term of your second year. Many students find this course challenging. A grade of C- is required for admission to the 4-Yr BA in Psychology (Applied Emphasis). Registering in the Fall term allows you to repeat the course in the Winter term if this is necessary to achieve a satisfactory mark. Psy 211 is not always offered in Spring/Summer Session.*



FORENSIC STUDIES MINOR: REQUIREMENTS

Note: The Academic Calendar (available online) takes precedence regarding course requirements.

Course	Title	Credits	Pre-requisite	Co-requisite
Required Courses 18-24 credits required, to include:				
Psy 433	Personality Assessment	3	Psy 339 & Psy 431	NA
Psy 350	Corrections and Forensics: Criminal Behavior	3	Psy 104 & Psy 105 OR Soc 100	NA
Psy 452	Forensic Psychological Assessment	3	Psy 350	Psy 433
Soc 225	Criminology	3	Soc 100	NA
Soc 327	Criminal Justice Administration in Canada	3	Soc 225	NA
One of:				
Soc 224	Sociology of Deviance & Conformity	3	Soc 100	NA
Soc 321	Youth, Crime, & Society	3	Soc 100 & Soc 225	NA
Soc 377	Sociology of Youth	3	Soc 100	NA



FORENSIC STUDIES MINOR: SAMPLE PROGRAM

This minor is available ONLY to 4-Yr BA Psychology (Applied Emphasis) students. This is just a sample program and there are variations in electives that would fulfill the requirements.

	Fall Semester	Winter Semester
Year 1	Eng-100 level Rel-100 Psy 104 Science LOE	Eng-100 level Soc 100 Psy 105 Science LOE
Year 2	Fine arts-100 or senior level Psy 211 Psy 338 Soc 224 Rel 100 or 200 level	Phil-100 or senior level Psy 319 Psy 339 Psy 275 Soc 225*
Year 3 (Applied Emphasis)	Psy 305 Psy 332 Psy 431 Psy 311 Psy 486	Psy 350* Psy 333 Psy 433* Psy 435 Psy 486
Year 4	Soc 327* Psy 321 Psy 377 Rel-senior level Psy 496	Psy 452* Soc 377 Psy 434 Writing 300 Psy 496

*indicates core course for minor

