



4 - YEAR BACHELOR OF ARTS
Psychology (Applied Emphasis)

2020-21 Planning Guide

APPLICATION DEADLINE: May 1, 2020

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 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 Applied Emphasis 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)

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 a one full year (eight months) 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.

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.

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 Masters 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 family support worker, probation officer, youth worker, addictions counselor, psychometrist (administering IQ tests) and behavioral specialist for autistic children, among other occupations.

This Planning Guide is a resource manual only. Check the Academic Calendar and/or contact the Admissions Office at 780-479-9220 for requirements.

Our graduates tell us that the "package" of courses plus the 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 you need 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.

This 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, course timetable and scheduling commitments.

Community agency: transitional housing/support for teens

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

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

Community agency: residential addictions treatment

Community agency: preschool intervention for children who have learning delays

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

Alberta Government: research related to mental health issues or population health issues (e.g., opioid dependence)

Corrections: assist parole officer in residential program for parolees

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

Psychologist, private practice: administer and score intellectual assessments

Community agency: assist workers in residential addictions treatment program

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

Field Placement I (Psy 486)

Field Placement I (PSY 486) is a full year university course (Sept to April) worth 6 credits. It 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 a Suicide Awareness workshop on a Saturday in the Fall and another Saturday workshop in January. The topic for the January workshop varies.

PRACTICUM GRADE – 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 Saturday 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.

Note: Effective January 23, 2019, users will **no longer be able to use their former SIAMS** credentials to access ApplyAlberta, Student Finance or other government applications. Instead, students will need to sign in using MyAlbertaDigital ID (MADI) credentials.

When users access ApplyAlberta using the URL <https://www.applyalberta.ca/> and click either *Apply Now* or *Login to Resume Application*,

they will be **REDIRECTED TO THE NEW MyAlbertaDigital ID** (MADI) Login screen

where they can either

- create a MyAlberta Digital ID Basic Account (new user) **OR**
- login to MADI (if the user has an existing account).

Anyone who has accessed and created a SIAMS account in the past **will first need to create a MyAlberta Digital ID account** and then transfer the existing SIAMS account to MyAlberta Digital ID.

Please follow all system prompts to create or transfer an existing account.

IF YOU HAVE ANY DIFFICULTIES WITH THE ONLINE APPLICATION PROCESS, PLEASE CONTACT THE ADMISSIONS OFFICE AT 780.479.9220.

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 of your work experience, especially if you have had positions of responsibility such as shift manager at a restaurant or experience as a lifeguard.

Example:

Place of Employment/ Volunteer Experience	Position Held	Time Commitment	Period of Employment	Paid (Yes or No)
<i>Superdeedooper Bistro</i>	<i>Shift Manager</i>	<i>30 hours/wk</i>	<i>Summers 2022 & 2023</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 (a professor **outside the Psychology Department** or a teacher from your high school)
 - *Note: Unfortunately, instructors in the Psychology Department **cannot** provide a reference. This ensures fairness for all students. If a student had a reference from a psychology instructor who was also making decisions about who was or was not accepted into the Applied Emphasis program, that student would have an unfair advantage.*

Choose people who know something about your work ethic and your character, and/or someone who can comment on your abilities as a worker, such as

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

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.

Current Clear Vulnerable Sector Police Information Check (Criminal Records Check)

Students who are offered admission must provide evidence that they have a current clear Vulnerable Sector Police Information Check. They must complete a criminal records check, which authorizes the police to search their database and provides written confirmation that the applicant does not have a criminal record. Instructions for completing the Vulnerable Sector Police Information Check form will be given at the time of the offer of admission.

*Note: Applicants with a **CRIMINAL RECORD ARE INELIGIBLE** for the 4Yr BA in Psychology (Applied Emphasis) program unless they have obtained a pardon. The process of obtaining a pardon takes several years.*

Plan Your Timetable

Plan your schedule so that you have large blocks of free time (half days and/or full days) available each week during business hours 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.*

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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 Elective Psy 496	Psy 452* Soc 377 Psy 434 Elective Psy 496

*indicates core course for minor