

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Title	BSc (Hons) Psychology and Criminology
Awarding Bodies	University of Suffolk
Level of Award ¹	FHEQ Level 6
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies Recognition	British Psychological Society
Credit Structure ²	360 Credits Level 4: 120 Credits Level 5: 120 Credits Level 6: 120 Credits
Mode of Attendance	Full-time
Standard Length of Course ³	3 years full-time
Intended Award	BSc (Hons) Psychology and Criminology
Named Exit Awards	BSc Psychology and Criminology DipHE Psychology and Criminology CertHE Psychology and Criminology
Entry Requirements ⁴	112 UCAS tariff points (or above), BBC (A-Level), DDM (BTEC), Merit (T-Level) or Access to HE Diploma with a minimum of 30 Level 3 credits at merit grade or above. Plus GCSE grade C/4 or above in English and Mathematics (or equivalent).
Delivering Institution	University of Suffolk
UCAS Code	CL8H

This definitive record sets out the essential features and characteristics of the BSc (Hons) Psychology and Criminology course. The information provided is accurate for students entering level 4 in the 2025-26 academic year.⁵

¹ For an explanation of the levels of higher education study, see the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies 2nd Edition \(2024\)](#)

² All academic credit awarded as a result of study at the University adheres to the [Higher education credit framework for England \(2021\)](#).

³ Where the course is delivered both full-time and part-time, the standard length of course is provided for the full-time mode of attendance only. The length of the part-time course is variable and dependent upon the intensity of study. Further information about mode of study and maximum registration periods can be found in the [Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards \(2023\)](#).

⁴ Details of standard entry requirements can be found in the [Admissions Policy \(2023\)](#) and further details about Disclosure and Barring Checks (DBS) can be found on the [University's DBS webpage](#).

⁵ The University reserves the right to make changes to course content, structure, teaching and assessment as outlined in the [Admissions Policy \(2023\)](#).

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Course Summary

The BSc (Hons) Psychology and Criminology course offers students a joint honours route degree. The course covers a range of psychological perspectives including biological, cognitive, developmental, and social. The course is underpinned by a thorough review of a range of research methods, both qualitative and quantitative, and exploration of the scientific method. Delivery of teaching will include face-to-face and online lectures, discussion and seminar groups and practical workshop sessions in dedicated laboratories. In the third year of study students will undertake their own independent research project under supervision. Graduates from the programme who achieve a minimum of a 2:2 overall will be eligible for the Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership of the British Psychological Society.

Course Aims

1. To produce a scientific understanding of the mind, brain, behaviour and experience, and how they interact with the complex environments in which they exist
2. To include knowledge and the acquisition of a range of research skills and methods for investigating experience and behaviour, culminating in an ability to conduct research independently
3. To develop an understanding of the role of empirical evidence in the creation and constraint of theory, and also in how theory guides the collection and interpretation of empirical data
4. To present multiple perspectives in a way that fosters critical evaluation and reflection
5. To develop knowledge, leading to an appreciation of theory and research findings, including relevant ethical and sociocultural issues
6. To lead to an understanding of real-life applications of theory to the full range of experience and behaviour and the application of psychological understanding to realworld questions.

Course Learning Outcomes

The following statements define what students graduating from the BSc (Hons) Psychology and Criminology course will have been judged to have demonstrated in order to achieve the award. These statements, known as learning outcomes, have been formally approved as aligned with the generic qualification descriptor for level 6 awards as set out by the UK Quality Assurance Agency (QAA)^{6,7}.

⁶ As set out in the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies 2nd Edition \(2024\)](#)
⁷ and the [QAA Subject Benchmark for Psychology \(2023\)](#)

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Psychology

Subject knowledge and understanding

- i. To understand the scientific underpinnings of psychology as a discipline, its historical origins, development and limitations.
- ii. To recognise the inherent variability and diversity of psychological functioning and its significance.
- iii. To demonstrate systematic knowledge and critical understanding of a range of influences on psychological functioning, how they are conceptualised and how they interrelate.
- iv. To demonstrate detailed knowledge of several specialised areas and/or applications, some of which are at the cutting edge of research in the discipline.
- v. To demonstrate a systematic knowledge of a range of research paradigms, research methods and measurement techniques, including statistics and probability, and be aware of their limitations.

Subject knowledge and understanding

- i. To reason scientifically, understand the role of evidence and make critical judgements about arguments in psychology.
- ii. To adopt multiple perspectives and systematically analyse the relationships between them.
- iii. To detect meaningful patterns in behaviour and evaluate their significance.
- iv. To recognise the subjective and variable nature of individual experience.
- v. To pose, operationalise and critique research questions.
- vi. To demonstrate substantial competence in research skills through practical activities
- vii. To reason analytically and demonstrate competence in a range of quantitative and qualitative methods.
- viii. To competently initiate, design, conduct and report on an empirically-based research project under appropriate supervision, and recognise its theoretical, practical and methodological implications and limitations.
- ix. To be aware of ethical principles and approval procedures and demonstrate these in relation to personal study, particularly with regard to the research project, and be aware of the ethical context of psychology as a discipline.

Generic Skills

- i. To communicate effectively. Effective communication involves developing a cogent argument supported by relevant evidence and being sensitive to the needs and expectations of an audience. This is accomplished through specific demands to write

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both essays and scientific reports, and through experience in making oral presentations to groups.

- ii. To demonstrate numerical reasoning skills.
- iii. To be computer literate, displaying at the very least skill in the use of word processing, databases and analytic software packages.
- iv. To retrieve and organise information effectively. Psychology graduates are familiar with collecting and organising stored information found in library books and journal collections, and online, critically evaluating primary and secondary sources.
- v. To recognise what is required for effective teamwork and articulate their own strengths and weaknesses in this regard. The complexity of the factors that shape behaviour and social interaction will be familiar to psychology graduates and will make them more aware of the basis of successful and problematic interpersonal relationships.
- vi. To take responsibility for their own learning and skill development; this will include effective personal planning, self-reflection and project management skills, so they become more independent and pragmatic as learners.

Criminology

Level 6

1. Show coherent and detailed knowledge of key aspects of Criminology at least some of which is at, or informed by, the forefront of defined aspects of Criminology.
2. Accurately deploy established techniques of analysis and enquiry relevant to Criminology.
3. Outline a conceptual understanding that enables you:
 - a. To devise and sustain arguments, and/or to solve problems, using ideas and techniques, some of which are at the forefront of Criminology
 - b. To describe and comment upon aspects of current research, or equivalent advanced scholarship, in Criminology
4. Manage your own learning, and to make use of scholarly reviews and primary sources for example, refereed research articles and/or original materials appropriate to Criminology
5. Apply the relevant methods and techniques to review, consolidate, extend and apply knowledge and understanding, and to initiate and carry out projects
6. Critically evaluate arguments, assumptions, abstract concepts and data (that may be incomplete), to make judgements, and to frame appropriate questions to achieve a solution - or identify a range of solutions - to a problem
7. Communicate information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialist and nonspecialist audiences.
8. Demonstrate the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring:

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- a. The exercise of initiative and personal responsibility
- b. Decision-making in complex and unpredictable contexts
- c. The learning ability needed to undertake appropriate further training of a professional or equivalent nature.

Course Design

The design of this course has been guided by the following QAA Benchmarks / Professional Standards:

- Subject Benchmark for Psychology (2023)
- British Psychological Society Standards for the accreditation of undergraduate, conversion and integrated Masters programmes in Psychology (2019)

Course Structure

The BSc (Hons) Psychology and Criminology course comprises modules at levels 4, 5 and 6.

Module Specifications for each of these modules is included within the course handbook, available to students on-line at the beginning of each academic year.

BSc (Hons) Psychology and Criminology

Module Title	Credits	Module Type ⁸
Level 4		
Foundations of Biological and Cognitive Psychology	20	Mandatory
Foundations of Social and Developmental Psychology	20	Mandatory
Psychological Research Methods and Skills	20	Mandatory
Introduction to Criminology	20	Mandatory
Sociological Imagination	20	Requisite
Policy and Politics	20	Requisite
Level 5		
Biological and Cognitive Psychology	20	Mandatory
Qualitative Research Methods	20	Mandatory

⁸ Modules are designated as either mandatory (M), requisite (R) or optional (O). For definitions, see the [Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards \(2023\)](#)

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Quantitative Data Analysis	20	Mandatory
Social and Developmental Psychology	20	Mandatory
Criminological Theory	20	Mandatory
Contemporary Issues in Criminology	20	Optional
Crime and the Environment	20	Optional
Criminal Justice	20	Optional
Policing	20	Optional
Psychology and Crime	20	Optional
Youth, Crime and Justice	20	Optional
Level 6		
Abnormal Psychology	20	Mandatory
Individual Differences	20	Mandatory
Psychology Project	40	Mandatory
Crime Prevention and Community Safety	20	Optional
Crimes of the Powerful	20	Optional
Drugs, Crime and Society	20	Optional
Forensic Psychology	20	Optional
Penology	20	Optional
Rehabilitation of Offenders	20	Optional
Victimology	20	Optional

Optional modules available in any year will be communicated to you prior to your enrolment to facilitate module choice. Some optional modules may not run in every year of study, and the availability of optional modules depends on the level of student demand, the availability of specialist staff and timetabling constraints.

In addition, we regularly review our curriculum to ensure it is up-to-date, relevant, draws on the latest research and addresses contemporary issues. As a result, the modules we offer may change over the course of your degree.

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Awards

On successful completion of the course, students will be awarded a BSc (Hons) Psychology and Criminology. Students who leave the course early may be eligible for a BSc Psychology and Criminology on successful completion of 300 credits at Level 4 or above (including at least 180 credits at Level 5 or above and at least 60 credits at Level 6), a DipHE in Psychology and Criminology on successful completion of 240 credits including all mandatory modules at levels 4 and 5 and a CertHE Psychology and Criminology on successful completion of 120 credits including all mandatory modules at levels 4.

Course Delivery

The course is delivered at Ipswich. Students studying full-time on the BSc (Hons) Psychology and Criminology course are likely to have approximately 12 hours per week tutor-structured learning for level 4, 9 hours per week tutor-structured learning for level 5, and 6 hours per week tutor-structured learning for level 6. Tutor-structured learning will be a mix of lectures, seminars, workshops, tutorials and guided learning activities which take place on campus and through our online learning environment. Students will normally be expected to undertake 25 hours of independent study in an average week but should be prepared for this to vary based on assignment deadlines and class exercises.

Course Assessment

A variety of assessments will be used on the course to enable students to experience and adapt to different assessment styles. The assessment methods used will be appropriate to assess each module's intended learning outcomes. Assessment on the course overall will be mostly coursework (including essays, reports, presentations, group work, reflective learning journals and research projects) with some examinations (dependent on module choice).

Special Features

Graduates who have passed the empirical psychology project and gained a minimum of a 2:2 overall are eligible to apply for the Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (GBC) of the British Psychological Society (BPS).

Course Team

The academic staff delivering this course are drawn from a team that includes teaching specialists and current practitioners. All staff are qualified in their subjects with their own specialist knowledge to contribute and are all registered with the appropriate professional body (i.e. BPS).

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Course Costs

Students undertaking BSc (Hons) Psychology and Criminology course will be charged tuition fees as detailed below:

Student Group	Tuition Fees
Full-time UK	£9,250 per year
Part-time UK	Not applicable
Full-time EU/International	£15,090 per year
Part-time EU/International	Not applicable

Payment of tuition fees is due at the time of enrolment and is managed in accordance with the Tuition Fee Policy.

Academic Framework and Regulations

This course is delivered according to the Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards and other academic policies and procedures of the University and published on the [website](#).