

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 Psychology Society (BPS)
Credit Structure ²	360 Credits Level 4: 120 Credits Level 5: 120 Credits Level 6: 120 Credits
Mode of Attendance	Full-time and part-time
Standard Length of Course ³	3 years full-time
Intended Award	BSc (Hons) Psychology and Criminology
Named Exit Awards	DipHE Psychology and Criminology
Entry Requirements ⁴	Typical Offer: 112 UCAS tariff points (or equivalent) GCSE Maths / English at grade C or above (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 2019-20 academic year.⁵

Course Summary

Psychology

Originating from Biological and Philosophical disciplines contemporary psychology is an empirical science that seeks to comprehend how and why humans and non-humans experience and behave the way that they do. Students have the opportunity to attain a holistic approach to psychology as they are provided with a foundation of the main psychology approaches identified by the BPS as being ‘core’, as well as the importance of understanding the complex interaction between these approaches. The emphasis is on theoretical underpinnings with progression to practical applications, as students’ development through the course sees them engage with the different theories at work in everyday life whilst critically evaluating the contributions made by these multiple perspective approaches. This focus on applied knowledge is reflected in our emphasis on students developing as empirical researchers through their course, as they come to understand the relationship between theory and empirical data. Our modules not only provide an underpinning in research methods and

¹ For an explanation of the levels of higher education study, see the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2014\)](#)

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

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](#).

⁴ Details of standard entry requirements can be found in the [Admissions Policy](#)

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

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data analysis, but also provide students invaluable practical application by designing, conducting, analysing and reporting data, and eventually becoming independent researchers in their own right. Through studying psychology students will not only acquire a scientific understanding of the mind, brain, behaviour and experience, but will attain knowledge allowing them to recognise and critically evaluate theory, research and the implications of a scientific study.

Criminology

Criminology at the University of Suffolk draws on Sociology, Psychology, Law, Social Policy and Philosophy in order to expose students to a range of classical and contemporary theoretical and empirical debates concerning crime and responses to criminal behaviour. Students are actively encouraged to develop good analytical and reasoning skills as they engage with academic literature and evaluate research and evidence.

Criminology students will be able to critically engage with national and international dimensions of crime and criminal justice policy, and develop well-informed views on contested public issues. There is a strong emphasis on challenging “common-sense” notions of criminal and deviant behaviours by critically examining academic research and making informed decisions based on available evidence. To this end, students will be introduced to a variety of research methods and ethical considerations, so that they can challenge and understand the limitations and ambiguities of empirical research, whilst assessing its value. This will provide an excellent theoretical and practical platform for the completion of a third year dissertation in an area of personal or career interest.

Course Aims

- To develop students’ knowledge, critical understanding and skills in psychology and criminology
- To cultivate a questioning and critical approach to the understanding of human behaviour and society.
- To encourage cognitive development and autonomous learning.
- To develop subject specific, cognitive and key transferable skills of value in employment, further study and personal development.
- To provide opportunities that facilitate widening participation by local/non-standard entrants to study psychology and criminology

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 4/5/6 awards as set out by the UK Quality Assurance Agency (QAA).⁶

Knowledge and understanding

1. Demonstrate a depth of knowledge and critical understanding of a range of approaches, theories, concepts, research findings and applications in the relevant field of study
2. Understand the scientific underpinnings of psychology as a discipline
3. Recognise the inherent variability and diversity of psychological functioning

⁶ As set out in the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2014\)](#)

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4. Demonstrate a good knowledge and critical understanding of a range of influences on psychological functioning, and how they are conceptualised across biological, cognitive, developmental, and social psychology and individual differences
5. Demonstrate knowledge of a range of research paradigms, research methods and measurement techniques, including statistical analysis
6. Critically analyse a range of key concepts and theoretical approaches in criminology
7. Critically evaluate the values, practices and processes that underpin criminal justice
8. Critically evaluate the relationship between political ideology and social problems within criminology

Intellectual skills

9. Show good critical thinking skills and a notable ability to critically evaluate and interpret a range of information, theories and evidence
10. Demonstrate an appreciation of the uncertainty, ambiguity and limits of knowledge
11. Reason scientifically and demonstrate the relationship between theory and evidence
12. Adopt multiple perspectives
13. Detect meaningful patterns in behaviour and experience
14. Pose and operationalise research questions
15. Critically analyse competing interpretations of crime and responses to it
16. Identify and critique the philosophical, political and ethical values that inform criminology
17. Identify and critique a range of criminological research and evidence

Practical skills

18. Manage their own learning effectively, and recognise, find and make good use of academic literature
19. Undertake and critically evaluate a research project
20. Demonstrate competence in research skills through practical activities
21. Initiate, design, conduct and report an empirically-based research project under appropriate supervision
22. Exhibit awareness of ethical principles and approval procedures and demonstrate these
23. Demonstrate a high level of evaluative and analytical skills through summarising and analysing arguments, reports, documents and other written and verbal data
24. Autonomous learning using appropriate primary and secondary sources

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25. Undertake and critically evaluate a research project

Key skills

26. Communicate relevant subject knowledge and evidence accurately and reliably with structured and coherent arguments

27. Show development of key transferable skills

28. Clearly communicate ideas and research findings by written, oral and visual means

Interpret and use numerical, statistical and other forms of data

Course Design

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

- Criminology (2014)
- British Psychological Society Graduate Basis for Chartered membership of the Society (GBC)

Course Structure

The BSc (Hons) Psychology and Criminology 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.

	Module	Credits	Module Type ⁷
Level 4			
	Social Science Research Skills	20	M
	Introduction to Criminology	20	M
	Foundations of Biological and Cognitive Psychology	20	M
	Foundations of Social and Developmental Psychology	20	M
	Plus two from:		
	Law for Criminologists	20	O
	Politics, Crime and Policy	20	O
	Media, Crime and Deviance	20	O
	Introduction to Sociology	20	O
Level 5			
	Questionnaire Design and Analysis	10	M
	Qualitative Research Design and Analysis	10	M
	Experimental Design and Analysis	10	M
	Advanced Qualitative Research Design and Analysis	10	M
	Criminological Theory	20	M

⁷ Modules are designated as either mandatory (M), requisite (R) or optional (O). For definitions, see the [Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards](#)

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	Biological and Cognitive Psychology	20	M
	Social and Developmental Psychology	20	M
	Plus one from:		
	Youth Crime and Justice	20	O
	Policing	20	O
	Criminal Justice	20	O
	Child Law*	20	O
	Psychology and Crime*	20	O
Level 6			
	Level 6 Psychology Project	40	M
	Abnormal Psychology	20	M
	Individual Difference	20	M
	Plus two from:		
	Penology	20	O
	Victimology	20	O
	Contemporary Issues in Criminology	20	O
	Drugs, Crime and Society	20	O
	Human Rights*	20	O
	Forensic Psychology*	20	O

*subject to the availability of specialist staff otherwise modules will be offered on an annual basis

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 DipHE Psychology and Criminology on successful completion of 240 credits including all mandatory modules at levels 4 and 5.

Course Delivery

The course is delivered at Ipswich. Students studying full-time on the BSc (Hons) Psychology and Criminology are likely to have approximately 12 hours per week (288 hours per year) contact hours for level 4, 12 hours per week (288 hours per year) contact hours for level 5 and 8.5 hours per week (204 hours per year) contact hours for level 6. The contact hours will be a mix of lectures, seminars, practical activities, tutorials and workshops. Students will normally be expected to undertake 38 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 approximately 80% coursework (including essays, reports, presentations, group work, reflective learning journals and research projects) and 20% examinations.

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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.

Course Costs

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

Student Group	Tuition Fees
Full-time UK/EU	£9,250 per year
Part-time UK/EU	£1,454 per 20 credit module
Full-time International	£11,790 per year
Part-time International	£1,965 per 20 credit module

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

Students are likely to incur other costs for essential reading materials amounting to approximately £240 per year.

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](#).