



University Council

February 27, 2026

UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE – 2025-2026

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Graduate School – Rodney Mauricio

Ex-Officio – Provost Benjamin Ayers

Undergraduate Student Representative – Ella Colker

Graduate Student Representative – Yaw Buabeng

Dear Colleagues:

The attached proposal from the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences to revise the AP Credit guidelines for Psychology will be an agenda item for the March 6, 2026, Full University Curriculum Committee meeting.

Sincerely,

Susan Sanchez, Chair

cc: Provost Benjamin Ayers

Dr. Marisa Anne Pagnattaro



UNIVERSITY OF  
**GEORGIA**

Old College  
Athens, Georgia 30602  
TEL 706-542-2840  
[www.franklin.uga.edu](http://www.franklin.uga.edu)

Franklin College of Arts and Sciences  
*Office of the Dean*

January 20, 2026

Fiona Liken  
Director, Curriculum Systems  
University of Georgia  
Holmes-Hunter  
UGA Athens Campus

Dear Fiona:

The Franklin College of Arts and Sciences has reviewed and approved the attached proposal from the Department of Psychology.

If you have any questions or need further information, please feel free to contact my office.

Sincerely,

Dr. Paula P. Lemons  
Senior Associate Dean, Franklin College of Arts & Sciences



UNIVERSITY OF  
**GEORGIA**

Psychology Building  
125 Baldwin Street  
Athens, Georgia 30602  
TEL 706-542-2174 | FAX 706-542-3275  
[cyterski@uga.edu](mailto:cyterski@uga.edu)  
[www.psychology.uga.edu](http://www.psychology.uga.edu)

## Franklin College of Arts and Sciences

*Department of Psychology*

January 19, 2026

Paula Lemons, Ph.D.  
Sr. Assoc. Dean, Franklin College of Arts and Sciences  
University of Georgia  
Athens, GA 30602

Dear Dr. Lemons:

The psychology department would like to formally petition for an increase in the minimum Advanced Placement (AP) Psychology exam score required to receive credit for PSYC 1101: Elementary Psychology. We propose raising the qualifying score from a 3 to a 4.

This petition is driven by our commitment to student success and rigor academically. We feel that the AP Psychology exam is less rigorous than our PSYC 1101 course and a score of 3 does not adequately prepare students with the foundational knowledge necessary for success in our upper-level psychology classes.

I served as a Visiting Fellow in Assessment for the AP Psychology course and exam in both 2021 and 2024 and therefore have detailed information on the content and rigor of both the course and the exam. I also regularly teach PSYC 1101 and therefore am in a position to make direct comparisons. Although the AP curriculum covers broad domains, the high school experience is often abbreviated and simplified. Major content areas are usually covered such as sensation and perception, motivation, cognition, social, developmental, and disorders, however, instructors may not cover significant subsets of the discipline at all. For example, topics such as personality, eating disorders, substance abuse, disorders of aging, or industrial-organizational may be omitted which is in contrast to the comprehensive syllabus we maintain at UGA.

In addition, we would like to change the current criteria of a 3 to a 4 to be more aligned with the standards of our aspirational institutions. As shown on the following page, a score of 4 or 5 is increasingly the benchmark for institutional equivalency among high-ranking research universities.



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By raising this threshold, we ensure that only the most highly qualified students bypass our PSYC 1101 course, increasing the academic preparedness of students taking more rigorous upper-level major coursework and enhancing the overall stature of our undergraduate program.

We have carefully evaluated our instructional capacity and are fully prepared to accommodate any resulting increase in PSYC 1101 enrollment with our current faculty.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and if you have any questions, please let us know.

Sincerely,

*Trina Cyterski*

Trina Cyterski, Ph.D  
Principal Lecturer and Undergraduate Coordinator

*Malissa Clark*

Malissa Clark, Ph.D.  
Professor and Head  
Department of Psychology

Supported by the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences:

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Paula Lemons  
Senior Associate Dean

## Supplemental Information to AP Psychology Request

### **Student Impact**

We estimate that approximately 200 students per semester could be affected by the proposal to raise the AP Psychology credit requirement from a score of 3 to a 4. This estimate includes students of any major who currently receive PSYC 1101 credit through AP Psychology.

More specifically, we anticipate that this change would affect approximately 24 psychology majors per semester, as PSYC 1101 is the prerequisite for required courses for the Psychology major.

Other majors that require PSYC 1101 are Criminal Justice (A.B.), Cognitive Science (A.B.), and Social Work (B.S.W.). Many other majors and pre-professional tracks list PSYC 1101 as a useful or common prerequisite, but not as a requirement.

### **Student Progression**

The BS in Psychology Four-Year Plan places PSYC 1101 in the first semester of a student's first year. Because students could simply enroll in PSYC 1101 during their first year if they do not meet the new AP threshold, increasing the AP requirement to a score of 4 would not delay progression in the major or time to graduation.

Additionally, this change would not affect a student's ability to enroll in other minors, majors, or dual-degree programs, as students would still have timely access to PSYC 1101 early in their academic career. Additionally, other majors/programs can set their own equivalency criteria for AP PSYC.

### **Enrollment in PSYC 1101**

	<i>Enrollment</i>
Fall 2023	4 sections – 856 students
Spring 2024	2 sections – 391 students
Summer 2024	3 sections – 97 students
Fall 2024	3 sections – 828 students
Spring 2025	2 sections – 433 students
Summer 2025	3 sections – 115 students
Fall 2025	3 sections – 734 students

<b>Institution Type</b>	<b>Institution</b>	<b>Course Credit Awarded (Course Equivalent to PSYC 1101)</b>	<b>Minimum Score Required</b>
USG Institution	Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College	PSYC 1101 - Introduction to General Psychology	3
USG Institution	Albany State University	PSYC 1101 - General Psychology	3
USG Institution	Atlanta Metropolitan State College	PSYC 1101 - Introduction to General Psychology	3
USG Institution	Augusta University	PSYC 1101 - Introduction to General Psychology	3
USG Institution	Clayton State University	PSYC 1101 - Introduction to General Psychology	3
USG Institution	Coastal College of Georgia	PSYC 1101 - Introduction to Psychology	3
USG Institution	Columbus State University	PSYC 1101 - Introduction to General Psychology	3
USG Institution	Dalton State University	PSYC 1101 - Introduction to Psychology	3
USG Institution	East Georgia State College	PSYC 1101 - General Psychology	3
USG Institution	Georgia College & State University	PSYC 1101 - Introduction to General Psychology	3
USG Institution	Georgia Highlands College	PSYC 1101 - Introduction to General Psychology	4
USG Institution	Georgia Institute of Technology	PSYC 1101 - General Psychology	4
USG Institution	Georgia Southern University	PSYC 1101 - Introduction to Psychology	3
USG Institution	Georgia Southwestern State University	PSYC 1101 - Introduction to Psychology	3
USG Institution	Georgia State University	PSYC 1101 - Introduction to General Psychology	3
USG Institution	Gordon State College	PSYC 1101 - Introduction to Psychology	3
USG Institution	Kennesaw State University	PSYC 1101 - Introduction to General Psychology	3
USG Institution	LaGrange College	PSYC 1101 - Introduction to Psychology	4
USG Institution	Middle Georgia State University	PSYC 1101 - Introduction to Psychology	3
USG Institution	Piedmont University	PSYC 1101 - General Psychology	3
USG Institution	Savannah State University	PSYC 1101 - Introduction to General Psychology	3
USG Institution	South Georgia State College	PSYC 1101 - Introduction to General Psychology	3
USG Institution	University of North Georgia	PSYC 1101 - Introduction to Psychology	3
USG Institution	University of West Georgia	PSYC 1101 - Introduction to General Psychology	3
USG Institution	Valdosta State University	PSYC 1101 - Introduction to General Psychology	3
Comparator Peer	Indiana University - Bloomington	PSY 101 - Introductory Psychology I	4
Comparator Peer	Iowa State University	PSYCH 1010 - Introduction to Psychology	4
Comparator Peer	Michigan State University	PSY 101 - Introductory Psychology	4
Comparator Peer	North Carolina State University at Raleigh	PSY 200 - Introduction to Psychology	3
Comparator Peer	Ohio State University	PSYCH 1100 - Introduction to Psychology	3
Comparator Peer	Purdue University	PSY 12000 - Introduction to Psychology	4

Comparator Peer	Stony Brook University	PSY 103 - Introduction to Psychology	4
Comparator Peer	University of Arizona	PSY 101 - Introduction to Psychology	4
Comparator Peer	University of California - Davis	PSC 001 - General Psychology	5
Comparator Peer	University of Florida	PSY 2012 - General Psychology	4
Comparator Peer	University of Iowa	PSY 1001 - Elementary Psychology	4
Comparator Peer	University of Kentucky	PSY 100 - Introduction to Psychology	3
Comparator Peer	University of Maryland - College Park	PSYC 100 - Introduction to Psychology	4
Comparator Peer	University of Missouri - Columbia	PSYCH 1000 - General Psychology	3
Comparator Peer	Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University	PSYC 1004 - Introductory Psychology	4
Aspirational Peer	Pennsylvania State University	PSYCH 100 - Introductory Psychology	5
Aspirational Peer	University of Texas at Austin	PSY 301 - Introduction to Psychology	3
Aspirational Peer	University of California- Berkeley	Earns 2.7 units towards breadth requirement	3
Aspirational Peer	University of California- Los Angeles	PSYCH 10 - Introductory Psychology	4
Aspirational Peer	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	PSY-P 101 - Introductory Psychology	4
Aspirational Peer	University of Michigan – Ann Arbor	PSYCH 111 - Introduction to Psychology	4
Aspirational Peer	University of Minnesota – Twin Cities	PSY 1001 - Introduction to Psychology	4
Aspirational Peer	University of Virginia – Main Campus	PSYC 1010 - Introductory Psychology	3
Aspirational Peer	University of Wisconsin – Madison	PSYCH 202 - Introduction to Psychology	4