NELSON MANDELA

UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Health Sciences

Department of Psychology

"Caring for Tomorrow"

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Warm greetings and welcome to the Department of Psychology at Nelson Mandela University.

This information booklet is a short guide to some of the information that you may find useful during your studies. Even if you cannot find the information that you are looking for in here, you would at least be able to find the people that will be able to help you (contact details for all staff member of the department are provided at the end of this booklet). We will communicate with you in a variety of ways usually via email. Please check your email regularly.

Degree Structure

Nelson Mandela University offers you a few options if you are considering pursuing a career in psychology. These are briefly outlined below.
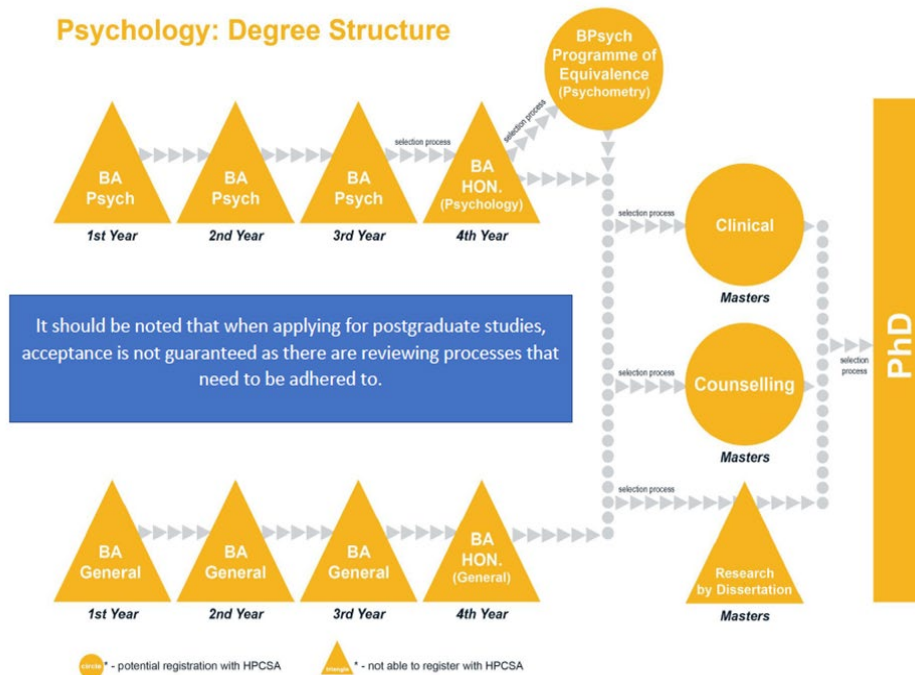
Option 1: BA Psych (Code 60014)

- Students would complete their 3 years BA Psychology degree (undergraduate degree) and would then apply to do their BA Honours degree which is their fourth year of study

- Once the BA Honours degree is completed students can then apply for selection into the Master's degree in either Clinical or Counselling psychology.

Both the honours and master's degrees accept limited numbers of students.

This same information is visually presented on the next page.

Psychology: Degree Structure

It should be noted that when applying for postgraduate studies, acceptance is not guaranteed as there are reviewing processes that need to be adhered to.

○ * - potential registration with HPCSA   ▲ * - not able to register with HPCSA

How to fill in your registration form

This may seem daunting at first but using the following instructions will make completing your registration form manageable. Follow the steps below:

Step 1: Core Modules (Psychology/Related Disciplines)

- Core modules are compulsory and as such you should simply copy them down as they appear

Step 2: Compulsory Fundamental Modules

- Computer literacy is compulsory. You will need computer literacy skills throughout your working life. The spans the first semester and is called ITVL101. Attendance of practicals and tutorials are important

- You need to take Industrial Psychology modules, which provide you with information about the working world. You need to do Introduction to Industrial psychology (EZZV101) and Introduction to Organisational Behaviour (EZZV102)

- You must register for two Philosophy Modules (SFV102 and SFV112). The Philosophy subjects that form part of the first year of the psychology programme develop one's skills at critical thinking.

  They help with our understanding of how to construct (and deconstruct) good arguments, and ultimately develop our expertise to think scientifically

- The Introduction to Social Work practice module (SOWP102) also forms part of the first year of the psychology programme. Many of the helping professions, social work and psychology included, share some basic values and motives for entering the helping profession. This module explores these shared characteristics, and introduces one to the fundamental skills of helping, that these professions both use. These skills are focused predominantly on communication and basic counselling.

Core Modules (Psychology)

Introduction to Psychology: SPVV101

CREDITS: 10

To describe and graphically represent the history and evolution of psychology as a field of study; to describe how biological processes form the basis of behaviour; to explain how psychologists relate sensation and perception to cognition; to identify and explain different states of consciousness; to reflect and comment on theories used to conceptualise personality and to define community mental health and explain relevant issues therein.

Lifespan Development: SPVV102

CREDITS: 10

This module focuses on theories of lifespan development pertaining to social, cognitive, physical, and emotional development from infancy to late adulthood; the nature-nurture debate; how cognitive abilities arise and change from infancy to late adulthood; major theoretical perspectives in development psychology; key aspects of the process of personality development throughout the lifespan and notable research findings within the field of lifespan development.

Ethics and Practice: SPVV111

CREDITS: 10

Registration categories and scope of practice of various health professionals registered with the HPCSA; the relationship between the various health professions registered with the HPCSA; the roles of legislative bodies; code of professional ethics and legal considerations; career pathing and professional training, qualification and career development.

Cross- Cultural Perspectives in Psychology: SPVV112

CREDITS: 10

This module aims to introduce the importance of socio-cultural contexts for the understanding of human behavior and experience. It will also aim to focus on the importance of and implications of culture as applied to psychological principles; the methodological challenges of cross-cultural psychology; the role of interactions of the self in relation to the group; the principles of cross-cultural psychology to the South African context and the development of empathy and understanding towards cultural differences and expressions.

Psychological Coping: SPVV122

CREDITS: 10

Theoretical knowledge and practical understanding of coping with various challenges throughout the lifespan relevant to the international and South African context; the concept of coping; theoretical underpinnings of coping with life challenges; the potential impact of stress on mental and physical health; strategies to deal with the loss of loved ones; how stress

differs from person to person and situation to situation; conflict from a social psychological perspective and different types of conflict management strategies available.

Core Fundamental Modules (Other Disciplines)

Computer Literacy: ITVL101   **CREDITS:** 6

An introduction to computers including basic functions of word processing, spreadsheets etc.

Introduction to Philosophical Ideas II: SFV102

CREDITS: 10

The module aims to introduce the rich and diverse traditions of modern and contemporary philosophical ideas that concern the meaning of being human. Among the Moderns, the following will be considered; how Descartes' cogito ("I think therefore I am") reflects the modernist idea that "man is the measure of all things"; how Kant applies this idea to ethics through the concept of "autonomy"; Hegel's explanation of human being as essentially the desire for power; : Mbembe's concept of "necropower" (the power of death); Marx's "historical materialism"; Nietzsche's übermensch; Biko's "black consciousness"; Freud's "split subject"; Heidegger's Dasein; Sartre's "existentialism"; Foucault's "panopticon", Kristeva's "abject"; Derrida's "aporias"; Fang Dongmei's "creative harmony" and Maya Angelou's "life as autobiography".

Introduction to Philosophical Arguments: SFV112

CREDITS: 10

The purpose of the module is to introduce the idea of philosophy as a practice. The initial focus is based on understanding precisely what an argument is and to consider how to identify the different kinds of arguments made by various thinkers. The module also focuses on the development of the ability to explain why philosophical ideas, concepts, metaphors, and figures either are or are not applicable to contemporary life. For this reason, course material will draw as far as possible from texts and events related to local cultural, ethical, and political issues.

Professional Relationship and Communication Skills: SOWP102

CREDITS: 10

This module aims to provide students with the opportunity to gain self-knowledge, as well as knowledge and understanding of the context of the professional helping relationship and appropriate interpersonal and interviewing skills that facilitate the management of the helping process.

Introduction to Organisational Psychology: EZZV101
CREDITS: 12

Covers the field of industrial and organisational psychology, professional association and registration, research methodology, organisational psychology, ergonomics, consumer psychology, human resources, employee selection, performance appraisal, training and development, characteristics of the workplace and labour relations.

Introduction to Organisational Behaviour: EZZV102

CREDITS: 12

Covers the study of contemporary theories, principles and practices of Organisational Behaviour that may lead to improved functioning of the organisation at all levels; employee attitudes and actions; techniques, tools and methods used by Industrial Psychologists for purposes of organisational analysis; challenges organisations face related to the behaviour of individuals; power relations in the workplace; relationship between job satisfaction and performance and job satisfaction and customer satisfaction; ergonomics; individual differences; varying perceptions of organisational justice on the well-being and behaviour of employees as well as the success of the organisation

Professional Communication (ENG L1): LEBV102   **CREDITS:** 12

1. *Introduction to Communication*

    The communication model (sender, receiver, message, encoding, decoding, channel, medium, noise, feedback, etc.), barriers to effective communication (and how to overcome these barriers). Group communication strategies. Contexts (advertising, cross-cultural issues, etc.).

2. *Oral Communication*

    Applications in: Methods of Interviews, negotiations, consultations, presentations, telephone communication. Listening skills. Meetings (procedures, preparation for, and conduct of, meetings).

3. *Written Communication*

    Reading skills, the improvement of writing (for business purposes), the writing of notes and abstracts, memoranda, business letters (letter of complaint, letter of demand, letter of application, etc.), Curriculum

Vitae (contents and format), the writing of reports, Electronic Mail and Internet Strategies, the writing of notices of meetings, agendas and minutes, the writing of staff newsletters.

4. *Non-verbal Communication*

    Graphic communication (tables, pie charts, bar charts, etc.), Kinesics (body language), paralanguage, proxemics, etc., the use of audio-visual aids.

How to find way and what the rules are

The following guidelines are there to ensure that you get the most out of your degree. Following these will not only ensure that your academic life runs smoothly but will facilitate your own academic and personal growth.

Serious stuff in other words.

Building Codes:

1. On your timetable printout there will be building codes (e.g., 350005). The 35 means that the lecture is in building 35, the 00 means that it is on the ground floor and the 05 is the room number in which the lecture will take place. 350101 therefore means 35 = building 35, 01= first floor, 01= room 1. Some buildings have floors lower than ground level– these are usually marked as -01 (minus zero one)

Duly Performed Certificates

1. Lectures will be attended on online platforms such as Microsoft Teams. These online class links will be emailed to students. The lecturing staff will also give students access to the module content via these online platforms. It should be noted that the lecturing staff will communicate relevant information for their modules before lectures commence.

2. As most modules are 14 weeks in duration, you must be registered within two weeks of the start of the module.

3. Please also note that it is a basic requirement that students complete all assessments. This includes tests, assignments or attendance of classes that would count towards a mark for a course. Failure to complete all evaluations will also constitute not having duly performed a course.

Assignments

1. Students would be required to upload their assignments on Moodle or according to lecturers' instructions for their respective modules. If assignments are not submitted on time, this is considered a late submission. Failure to comply will result in **5% per day** being deducted from the mark obtained by the student. Assignments

submitted in more than one week after the due date will not be accepted and the student will obtain a mark of 0% for that part of the final mark. Please note that if an assignment is not handed in, or later than the stipulated one week, this would constitute not having performed a course duly.

   a   Moodle is an online learning platform. Online tests and assignment submissions are predominantly done via Moodle. Lecturers also post lecture slides, source material and links to previous lectures on Moodle. Students should contact ICT if they have any issues accessing Moodle, one can find Moodle on their student portal.

   b   Microsoft Teams is used for meetings and online lectures. Your lecturer will send you a link to your online Microsoft Teams lecture before the class begins. Students are reminded to have their cameras turned off and their microphones muted during online lectures unless advised otherwise.

2. All assignments **must be typed** and in **APA format**. You can also

   download the APA guidelines from
   www.icahdq.org/publications/apacrib.pdf

3. It is of utmost importance that student follow instructions given by the lecturing staff regarding module content, tests, and assignment submission

4. Students **MUST** keep an extra copy of all assignments handed in for each module. Should the department require such a copy of the assignment and it is not available; the relevant mark will be changed to 0%.

5. An official medical certificate must be handed in within 72 hours after the due date of an assignment for a student to be excused from handing in late due to a medical reason. The use of fraudulent medical certificates will be viewed in a very serious light.

6. If any situation other than a medical reason would constitute a valid excuse for a late hand in, the relevant lecturer should be approached with such a request in writing **before** the hand in date.

Tests and Exams.

1. Exams' office will provide official notification of the assessment timetable for final assessments through the student's University email address as well as on the Student Portal.
2. For more information on Exams, Students are required to familiarised themselves with the General Prospectus 2024 especially the following rules:
   G1.6 - Timetabling: Assessments and Final Assessments - page 218
   G1.10 - Assessment 221
   G1.11 Final Assessments (Examinable Modules) - 222

Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty

Integrity is a core value of Nelson Mandela University and extends to academic integrity, which is fundamental to the way a university generates, assesses, and disseminates knowledge. Our core value of responsibility

requires us to acknowledge responsibility for our actions and the consequences thereof.

To give expression to our value of excellence, the University is committed to preserve and promote a culture of professionalism characterised by the highest standards of personal honesty and the integrity of academic work. Since the advent of the internet, the opportunity for and actual incidence of plagiarism have increased, and accordingly it has become necessary to promote the development of good academic behaviour, including ethical writing practices, and to put measures in place to assist in the prevention of plagiarism.

Academic dishonesty in general and plagiarism constitute a disregard of our values and could seriously undermine the academic standing of the Nelson Mandela University and its qualifications.

1. Plagiarism and any instance of academic dishonesty will be dealt with in terms of the Student Disciplinary Code.

2. Students are referred to the ***Policy on Academic Integrity and Prevention of Plagiarism*** available on the student portal.

3. Please familiarise yourself with policy. This policy can be accessed via this link:

http://my.mandela.ac.za/irc/305.04.docx

4. Students may utilise TURNITIN for plagiarism checks. This can be accessed via the Moodle site.

Supplementary/ Special Assessment Evaluations

1. Special assessment evaluations (second chances) are granted completely at the lecturer's discretion. A lecturer may decide to provide special evaluations in certain ranges (often 45% to 49% is used as a guideline), but a special evaluation **does not get awarded automatically** if a mark is within the abovementioned range.

2. It is **the responsibility of the student** to find out whether they are required to undergo a special evaluation before a given date and to communicate with the lecturing and administrative staff regarding this.

General Guidelines

1. Students are urged to adhere to the timeslots/timeframes of lectures and tests as scheduled by the lecturing staff and according to the timetable.

2. If you wish to make an appointment with a lecturer, please consult the lecturer yourself (via email). Please note the best time to speak to a lecturer regarding tests or assignments is before or after the lecture period. If there is a problem, we ask that you first discuss this with your lecturer before requesting to see the Head of Department. If necessary, the HOD will assist you wherever she can. If you need further assistance the HOD will gladly take the problem to the Director of the School on your behalf.

3. **Please note that NO marks will be released, as the department adheres to the POPIA Act. Students can see their marks once completing their assessment online if this option is presented by the lecturer.**

Lecturer's Notes

1. Some lecturers place their notes/lecture content on Moodle or Microsoft teams.

Who should you address if you have a problem? Following the following steps

Administrative issue:
Admin Assistants ->Lecturer -> Coordinator -> HoD -> Faculty Officer

Assignment query:
Lecturer -> Admin Assistants -> Coordinator -> HoD

Content of Course:
Lecturer-> Admin Assistants-> Coordinator ->HoD

Problems with Staff:
Staff member -> Coordinator -> HoD

Parent Queries:
Admin Assistants -> Lecturer-> Coordinator ->HoD - >Director of Schools -> Dean -> VC

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I better my chances of selection into the Honours and master's Degrees?

The following considerations are important in the selection of candidates for the Honours and master's Degrees:

1. **Academic ability:** An acceptable average is a basic minimum requirement for selection into the psychology degrees.

2. **Suitability:** Your personal characteristics as a person and helper are also important for degrees.

3. **Experience:** General life experience and experience in a counselling situation is also an important facet and beneficial for selection purposes.

Many students volunteer at different organizations to gain counselling experience. The following are a few examples of organizations where students have volunteered previously.

- Eastern Province Child and Youth Care Centre

- Revive

- SANCA

- FAMSA

- NICRO

- PE Rape Crises Centre

There is also a very active Student Psychology Society which you may like to join.

It is also important to plan your curriculum carefully to meet the subject requirements for selection into post graduate degrees.

The BA Psychology degree (60014)

Details of this degree can also be accessed on the university website.
https://psychology.mandela.ac.za/Undergrad-Programmes/BA-Psych

	BA Psychology Degree
Duration of study:	3 years (full time)
Training:	Theoretical and applied skills training for working with people in general.
Registration:	Does not lead to professional registration with the HPCSA.

Who should apply?	• Anyone who sees themselves working with people. The discipline of Psychology has found application in various settings and is a valuable tool wherever people interact. Someone who would use the theory and applied skills provided by Psychology within an organisation or community, without wanting to practice professionally organisations and communities. The ability to facilitate and develop effective functioning and a sense of well-being in individuals or groups through structured preventative and developmental interventions. • The ability to observe, describe, assess, and predict human functioning by using appropriate measures, procedures, and theories. Examples of directions that would benefit from a BA (Psychology) degree would be pastoral settings, community settings, corporate settings, and education and training settings would benefit from the BA (Psychology) programme.

	The programme provides the following outcomes which are often required by employers: • An advanced knowledge and understanding of human behaviour. • The ability to communicate effectively in culturally diverse interpersonal situations. • The ability to develop and maintain constructive working relationships with individuals, groups, multidisciplinary teams,

Psychology Department Staff Members

Head of Department	Prof Magnolia Ngcobo-Sithole	041-504-4594	Magnolia.Ngcobo-Sithole@mandela.ac.za
Departmental Secretary	Ms Ebonga Maraule	041-504-2354	Ebonga.Maraule@mandela.ac.za
Lecturers	Dr Konesh Navsaria *(Honours Programme Coordinator)*	014-504-4027	Konesh.Navsaria@mandela.ac.za
	Dr Zimkhitha Sibam Twalo	041-504-1652	Zimkhitha.Sibam-Twalo@mandela.ac.za
	Mr Johan Cronje *(Masters Research Programme coordinator*	041-504-2334	Johan.Cronje@mandela.ac.za

	Mrs Lisa Currin *(Counselling Master's Coordinator)*	041-504-4056	Lisa.Currin@mandela.ac.za
	Ms Ulricha De Klerk *(Bpsych programme coordinator)*	041-504-2977	Ulricha.DeKlerk@mandela.ac.za
	Dr Tania Lambert	041-504-2230	Tania.Lambert@mandela.ac.za
	Mr Ashwin Navsaria *(Clinical Master's Coordinator)*	041-504-4595	Ashwin.Navsaria@mandela.ac.za

	Dr Tatenda Nyabvudzi	041-504-1148	Tatenda.Nyabvudzi@mandela.ac.za
	Dr Alida Sandison	041-504-4522	Alida.Sandison@mandela.ac.za
	Mr Is-Haaq Lekganya	+27415042698	Is-Haaq.Lekganya@mandela.ac.za
	Dr Thabisa Mabusela	041 504 1333	Thabisa.Mabusela@mandela.ac.za
	Professor Louise Stroud	27 41 504 2682/2569	Louise.Stroud@mandela.ac.za

The following are the admin assistants to contact for further inquiries regarding the the program

Administrative Staff

Luthando Lwana
Position: Honours Administrator
Department: Psychology
Room: Room 011, Ground Floor , Building 7
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Phone: 041 504 2780
Email: luthando.lwana@mandela.ac.za
Qualifications: BA Psychology(NMU) & BA Psychology Honours (NMU)

Izandry Mabotja
Position: Undergraduate and BPsych Programme Administrator
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Ms Ebonga Maraule
Position: Departmental Secretary
Department: Psychology
Room: 070020
Location: South Campus
Phone: 041 504 2354
Email: Ebonga.Maraule@mandela.ac.za
Qualifications: NDip Public Relations Management (NMU)

Ms Desiree Baloyi
Position: Undergraduate Programme Administrator
Department: Psychology
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Ms Juleika Kolanda
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