

Diploma of Psychology

The Diploma of Psychology is a pathway program that leads to second year entry of the Bachelor of Psychological Science - students will complete an additional two years in the bachelor degree after finishing the diploma.

In the pathway diploma you will focus on clinical neuroscience, learn about the psychology of culture and global citizenship and human relationships.

Example Course Plans for Students

The following are example course plans for students studying in the Diploma of Psychology.

Pathways

- Bachelor of Psychological Science

*** WAM requirements (WAM is the average mark obtained across all modules, including failed modules) may apply – please refer to course plans for more details.**

Planned Module Availability - Diploma of Psychology

Core Modules – Students must complete the following modules

Subject		Trimester 1	Trimester 2	Trimester 3
PPSY1SFP	Scientific Foundations of Psychology	✓	✓	✗
PPSY1BAM	Introductory Psychology: Brain and Mind	✓	✓	✗
PPSY1PAC	Introductory Psychology: People and Culture	✗	✓	✓
PPSY1APP	Applied Psychology	✗	✓	✓

Recommended Elective Modules – Students must complete 4 elective modules from any diploma. We suggest some of the following modules

Subject		Trimester 1	Trimester 2	Trimester 3
HPHE1IDH	Individual Determinants of Health	✓	✓	✓ - not recommended in this trimester
HHLT1IPP	Introduction to Professional Practice	✓	✓	✓ - not recommended in this trimester
BBUS1SBY	Sustainability	✓	✓	✓ - not recommended in this trimester
HPHE1SDH	Social Determinants of Health	✓ - not recommended in this trimester	✓	✓
BMGT1OBE	Working with Others	✓ - not recommended in this trimester	✓	✓
MCRA1PWR	Professional Writing	✗	✓	✗
MPHI1CTO	Critical Thinking & Innovation	✗	✗	✓

Required 0 credit point unit

All students are required to take and pass LTM1AIM Academic Integrity Module in their first trimester of study.

Suggested Example Course Study Plans

You should consider your own study habits when selecting between Fast Track and Normal Track. Additional variations may be possible; please review enrolment instructions sent to you when you commence your diploma course.

Fast Track (Completing In 8 months / 2 trimesters)					
<i>Commencing Trimester 1, enter University in Semester 1 the following year</i>					
YEAR 1 (DIPLOMA)		COMPULSORY ONLINE SUBJECT (must be completed in your first trimester of study)			
		LTM1AIM			
		Academic Integrity Module			
	Trimester 1	PPSY1SFP (Core)	PPSY1BAM (Core)	Elective	Elective
		Scientific Foundations of Psychology	Introductory Psychology: Brain and Mind	[suggestion in enrolment instructions]	[suggestion in enrolment instructions]
	Trimester 2	PPSY1APP (Core)	PPSY1PAC (Core)	Elective	Elective
	Applied Psychology	Introductory Psychology: People and Culture	[suggestion in enrolment instructions]	[suggestion in enrolment instructions]	

Normal Track (Completing course in 12 months / 3 Trimesters)					
<i>Commencing Trimester 1, enter University in Semester 1 the following year</i>					
YEAR 1 (DIPLOMA)		COMPULSORY ONLINE SUBJECT (must be completed in your first trimester of study)			
		LTM1AIM			
		Academic Integrity Module			
	Trimester 1	PPSY1SFP (Core)	PPSY1BAM (Core)	Elective	
		Scientific Foundations of Psychology	Introductory Psychology: Brain and Mind	[suggestion in enrolment instructions]	
	Trimester 2	PPSY1APP (Core)	PPSY1PAC (Core)	Elective	
		Applied Psychology	Introductory Psychology: People and Culture	[suggestion in enrolment instructions]	
	Trimester 3	Elective	Elective		
		[suggestion in enrolment instructions]	[suggestion in enrolment instructions]		

Recommended Electives

Students must complete 4 additional modules from any other diploma course. Suggested modules include some of the following:

Suggested pairings with PPSY1SFP and PPSY1BAM

- HPHE1IDH Individual Determinants of Health *(planned for all trimesters)*
- HHLT1IPP Introduction to Professional Practice *(planned for all trimesters)*
- BBUS1SBY Sustainability *(planned for all trimesters)*

Suggested pairings with PPSY1PAC and PPSY1APP

- HPHE1SDH Social Determinants of Health *(planned for all trimesters)*
- BMGT1OBE Working with Others *(planned for all trimesters)*
- MCRA1PWR Professional Writing *(planned for Trimester 2 only)*
- MPHI1CTO Critical Thinking & Innovation *(planned for Trimester 3 only)*

When I transfer to La Trobe University I want to study

Bachelor of Psychological Science

Complete either of the above study plans, *AND*:

WAM requirement: 50% overall

Campus: Bundoora

Credits: 8 units

Module Descriptions

Core Modules

All of these modules must be completed to successfully complete the Diploma of Psychology.

LTM1AIM Academic Integrity Module

** LTM1AIM does not count towards your study load and is a wholly online module. Student must select this module in their first trimester. Completion (prior to week 4 in your first trimester) is a requirement to pass your diploma; this module is expected to take about 1-2 hours to complete.

Online, zero credit point module, all students must complete this unit in their first trimester. This module introduces students to the principals of academic integrity in the context of La Trobe University's values and policy. Students learn what their responsibilities are in relation to maintaining ethical standards in all aspects of academic work and the potential ramifications for academic misconduct according to the Academic Integrity Policy. Activities and quizzes are provided which are designed to develop and understanding of the concepts of cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Topics include an explaining of how the text-matching tool 'Turnitin' is used at La Trobe, and where to get help and where to go to develop referencing skills.

Assessment: Final Quiz (must achieve 8/10 to pass), Statement of Student responsibility (must achieve 10/10 to pass)

Students are strongly encouraged to undertake PPSY1SFP and PPSY1BAM together; 1-2 elective modules may also be undertaken, unless otherwise indicated.

PPSY1SFP Scientific Foundations of Psychology

In this subject you will be introduced to the philosophical, historical, and methodological foundations of the discipline of psychology. You will critically examine how theories are developed and used in psychological science and examine how they are operationalised in experimental contexts. As part of a team, you will propose your own research question in an applied area of psychology and present this enquiry to your class, and as an individual you will analyse, present, and discuss the results in a written report

Assessment: Group discussion and display poster oral presentation (15%), 1500-word Laboratory essay (35%), 4x Online Quizzes (2x mid-trimester, 2x end of trimester; 50% total)

PPSY1BAM Introductory Psychology: Brain and Mind

In this subject you will discover how your brain works in creating your behaviour, how your brain and behaviour change across the lifespan, how, why and in what way you are different from other

people. You will learn about how you sense the world and how you process and understand the information that arises from your senses.

Assessment: Group Oral Presentation (15%), 1500-word Critical Essay (35%), Exam (50%)

Students are strongly encouraged to undertake PPSY1PAC and PPSY1APP together; 1-2 elective modules may also be undertaken, unless otherwise indicated.

PPSY1PAC Introductory Psychology: People and Culture

In this subject you will be introduced to key areas of psychology with a socio-cultural perspective. People share knowledge with others in society. The shared knowledge (i.e., culture) gives meanings to people's lives as well as influencing their everyday behaviour, the sense of who they are, their personal relationships and psychological wellbeing. We will discuss psychology of individuals in diverse contexts to understand how personal experiences, including emotions, motivation, intimacy with others and health behaviours are shaped by cultural understanding and social expectations in those contexts.

Assessment: Reflective Video Oral Presentation (15%), 1200-word Critical Essay (35%), 3x Online Topic Quizzes (50% total)

PPSY1APP Applied Psychology

In this subject you will learn about how the discipline and practice of psychology can be applied in different ways (e.g., to promote mental health, physical health, social participation, and inclusion), and in different areas including individual and public health, sports, forensic, and community-based psychology. You will consider how psychological theories and evidence can be applied to a range of psychology and health-related fields and be introduced to key practical skills relevant to these fields. You will create a personal development plan, which will involve self-reflection and evaluation of existing skills, skills to be developed, and strategies to developing self-efficacy, self-confidence, and self-esteem, with a view to your future career goals.

Assessment: Group oral presentation (20%), Personal development plan and portfolio (40%), Online quizzes (40%)

Suggested Elective Modules

Four available modules from any other diploma offered at LTCA must be completed to successfully complete the Diploma of Psychology. The recommended modules are below.

1-2 of the following elective modules are recommended to be undertaken in conjunction with PPSY1SFP and PPSY1BAM unless otherwise indicated.

HPHE1IDH Individual Determinants of Health

In this subject students will develop the foundation knowledge for working with individuals in health and human services settings. Students will learn how particular characteristics and actions of an individual impact on health and welfare outcomes. Students will be:

- (i) presented with frameworks, including a developmental perspective, for understanding how the characteristics and actions of individuals impact on health outcomes;
- (ii) provided with foundation knowledge for understanding how individuals present in, and progress through, health settings; and
- (iii) reviewing theoretical approaches to producing individual change in health and wellbeing settings.

Assessment: Group Presentation (20%), Individual Poster Presentation (20%), Reflective assignment (15%), Exam (45%).

HHLT1IPP Introduction to Professional Practice

Introduction to Professional Practice is a subject which will introduce you to the health care system; as a consumer participants, as a health and human services practitioner and as part of a health care team.

This subject also offers you the opportunity to reflect on your own experiences within the health care system, and to use this to analyse and develop your understanding of health and human services. Group work is an essential component of university studies, and you will explore the nature of group work and team-based assessment, as used across all subjects. Concurrent with HHLT1IPP is HHLT1LHS Learning in Health Sciences, which covers academic skills such as referencing, academic writing and presentations, critical analysis, and academic integrity.

Assessment: Class Tests (20%), Case Study (20%), Essay (30%), Exam (30%)

BBUS1SBY Sustainability

This subject introduces you to the concept of sustainability, and a systems approach to understanding the complex interactions between the environmental, economic and social dimensions of sustainability. The subject attracts students from a range of fields, bringing a multidisciplinary team perspective to the researching, analysis and problem-solving aspects of creating positive change for sustainability. In teams, you are required to critique, design and present an action plan aimed at resolving a sustainability issue that impacts current and future generations.

This subject provides you with the opportunity to enhance, demonstrate and document work-ready skills appropriate to your chosen career path.

Assessment: Online quizzes (20%), Individual Case study Analysis (40%), Exam (40%)

1-2 of the following elective modules are recommended to be undertaken in conjunction with PPSY1PAC and PPSY1APP unless otherwise indicated.

HPHE1SDH Social Determinants of Health

HPHE1SDH is a blended subject. In this subject, students will examine the ways health, well-being and illness are experienced, understood, and responded to by people as social beings who participate in various groups, organisations, communities, and societies. Critical factors such as education, social class, gender, and ethnicity will be explored to examine how social practices, positions, and processes influence access to and use of resources supportive of health and wellbeing. Theories and frameworks will be examined and assessed so that students can develop an ability to become aware of and interpret various life concerns both personally and professionally and gain a more nuanced awareness of the dynamics operating between the personal and public domains.

Assessment: Team presentation (20%), Report (35%), Individual speaking task (15%), Exam (30%)

BMGT1OBE Working with Others

Teams are the core of any successful business venture. Advancements in technology which has made the world a much smaller place facilitating cross country collaborations on various projects, where teams from multiple countries work together remotely to achieve the desired goals by collectively solving complex problems which require innovative solutions.

In this subject, you will learn how to form teams, set effective goals, develop interpersonal skills, focus on advanced communication techniques, and attain the necessary skills needed for leading your teams towards organisational success, you will apply and evaluate the organisational behavioural theory to businesses plagued with issues like motivation, group decision-making, teamwork, and cultural diversity.

Acquiring these skills will make you a more effective employee/manager.

Assessment: Online quizzes (20%), Group Assignment (20%), Individual Assignments (20%), Exam (40%)

MPHI1CTO Critical Thinking and Innovation

Thinking and reasoning are essential components of human life. But much of our thinking and reasoning is biased, distorted, and uninformed. This subject trains you to reason well, to think clearly and independently, and also to engage fairly with others in discussions and debates. You will develop useful skills in presenting, analysing and evaluating different types of arguments. You will learn to apply these skills to real cases from popular culture, current affairs, and philosophy. You will

also learn to use diagrams and symbols to assist higher and more abstract levels of logical reasoning and systematic thinking. Because the ability to think and to argue clearly and fairly is central not just to philosophy but to university studies in general, many students find the experience gained in this subject immensely valuable, both within the university and later in employment whatever their subsequent areas of specialization.

MCRA1PWR Professional Writing

Learning to write well brings benefits within and beyond university. This interdisciplinary unit offers you the opportunity to strengthen your professional, creative and academic writing skills. We develop a conceptual framework for analysing the writing of others and editing your own work effectively, as well as improving your skills in the generation of ideas, elements of style and identification with the audience. These areas of writing will be explored through modules with theoretical and practical components:

- Academic writing, including essay writing, essay structure, avoiding plagiarism, editing and proof-reading.
- Non-fiction writing across a number of genres, particularly writing for popular media, reviews of the arts and writing for the web.
- Creative writing, which can include fiction, poetry and scriptwriting.

This subject addresses La Trobe's Innovation and Entrepreneurship Essential. Innovation and Entrepreneurship entails developing the ability to tackle problems creatively, generating new ideas, taking calculated risks and creating change to achieve ambitions – now and in the future.

A note on subject equivalencies between 2022 and pre-2022 Diploma of Psychology courses

In 2022, trimester 1, the Diploma of Psychology at La Trobe College Australia realigned the modules offered. Subject/module equivalencies in core subjects are as follows:

Pre-2022		2022 onwards
<i>If you have successfully completed this module...</i>		<i>... you receive credit for and <u>do not</u> need to do this module.</i>
History, Philosophy and Methodology of Psychological Science	=	Scientific Foundations of Psychology
Experimental Foundations of Psychology	=	Introductory Psychology: Brain and Mind
Clinical Foundations of Psychology	=	Introductory Psychology: People and Culture
Statistics for Psychology	=	Applied Psychology

Any four available modules from any offered diploma at La Trobe College Australia may be undertaken as electives in this diploma. The suggested recommended elective modules are based on complementing course work to core modules and those that offer additional skills and knowledge beneficial to further studies at a Bachelor level. Students need complete only 4 elective modules.