



## School of Humanities and Social Sciences



# IIE Bachelor of Arts Honours in Psychology (Contact : Full-time)

SAQA ID: 105032  
NQF Level 8 (minimum 120 credits)



### INTRODUCTION

The IIE Bachelor of Arts Honours in Psychology is designed to develop high-level skills in the field of applied psychology. These skills include measurement skills (e.g. how to operationalize the measurement of complex processes); environmental awareness (e.g. habit formation and social appropriateness); interpersonal awareness (e.g. the mechanisms of social communication and potential sources of interpersonal conflict); problem-solving skills (e.g. the ability to tackle a range of different types of problems and to employ a range of approaches to understanding problems); critical evaluation (e.g. to identify the shortcomings and pitfalls of a particular action); perspectives (e.g. the ability to explore issues from multiple points of view); higher-order analysis (e.g. identifying recurrent patterns in human activity); and, pragmatism (e.g. a pragmatic approach to work and problem-solving). All of these skills are scarce and promote employability.

Since the IIE Bachelor of Arts Honours in Psychology programme is registered as an academic honours, which generally does not cover a practicum, one would not yet be positioned to register as a Psychologist, Counsellor or Psychometrist with the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) upon completion of this honours programme. This honours programme will, however, position graduates for admission into a professional Master's degree training programme such as Clinical Psychology, Counselling Psychology and Research Psychology at another institution, after which, registration with the HPCSA is possible.

### MINIMUM ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

An appropriate Bachelor's Degree with an average of 60% in the final year;

**OR**

An appropriate Advanced Diploma, provided that a 360 credit Diploma or appropriate equivalent has been completed, with an average of 60% in the final year.

Candidates must have completed Bachelor of Arts (BA) or Bachelor of Commerce (BCom) or Bachelor of Social Science or equivalent qualification(s), with one of the psychology disciplines at NQF Level 7 and a foundation research module at the undergraduate level, preferably at NQF Level 7. Those who have not completed a foundation research module at undergraduate level will be required to do The IIE Introduction to Research SLP and need to be able to demonstrate an understanding of basic research before they can commence with their research report. Candidates are normally required to have a minimum final year average of 60% in the qualifications final-year (NQF L7) modules. Those with a final year average of 55 to 59% will be admitted if they attained an average of 60% or higher for the designated cognate/core discipline modules at final-year (NQF L7) level.

Semester 1	Semester 2
<p><b>Psychological Assessment</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>PSAS811</b></span></p> <p>The purpose of the module is to develop students' critical engagement with the technical, ethical, and multicultural issues that inform the design and implementation of psychological assessment measures. Students will become familiar with basic psychometric principles, as well as different assessment tools and their functions. Traditional and contemporary theories of child development, intelligence, neuropsychology, and personality are examined. Course content is structured across different contexts of assessment, namely early child development, cognitive and scholastic assessments, career counselling, clinical diagnostics, and organisational management. The focus is primarily on critical perspectives to provide a foundation for future postgraduate studies in which students focus on the manual administration of assessment tools.</p>	<p><b>Therapeutic Interventions</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>THIN8112</b></span></p> <p>The purpose of the module is to provide the student with a succinct overview of the divergent approaches to counselling and psychotherapy, beginning with the basic issues in counselling practice such as values, the therapeutic process and ethical considerations. The student will become familiar with the key concepts of the approaches and will gain a working knowledge of the techniques and procedures of each, by applying the theories to a community health context within South Africa. The module will encourage students to think critically, and evaluate each theory from a multicultural perspective, highlighting the strengths and weaknesses of each when applied to diverse populations.</p>
<p><b>Electives:</b></p> <p>Students will choose between Developmental Psychology or Community Psychology.</p> <p>* Please note the availability of either the Developmental Psychology or Community Psychology modules will be dependent on student numbers, and campus resources.</p> <p><b>Developmental Psychology</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>DPSY8111</b></span></p> <p>The purpose of this module is to develop an advanced and critical knowledge of the systematic, complex, successive and multifactorial changes that occur across the lifespan. Areas of concern and significance within the South African context, with regards to the impact on development will also be covered.</p> <p><b>Community Psychology</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>CPSY8111</b></span></p> <p>The purpose of this module is to equip students with a strong conceptual and applied understanding of community psychology principles, methodologies and praxis. The course frames the historical development of community psychology as a socially responsive sub-discipline of psychology, recognising theoretical and methodological diversity within the field and divergence from mainstream approaches to mental health. With reference to the South African context, students engage with community psychology's explicit values and ideological orientation as an applied discipline, drawing links to critical psychology.</p> <p>As emergent psychological practitioners, the module develops the student's practical skills, critical thought and reflexivity so as to allow effective and meaningful community engagement. The module extends capacity for social analysis, theoretical synthesis and methodological application by calling upon students to devise and evaluate community psychology intervention programs in response to real-world problems.</p>	<p><b>Psychopathology</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>PSPA8112</b></span></p> <p>The purpose of this module is to have students critically consider, on a theoretical and practical level, the classification, development, treatment and prevention of psychological problems. It also aims to sensitise students to the impact of culture on the experience and expression of mental illness, and have the students engage with critical, current literature on psychological health and illness, particularly within the South African context.</p>

<p>Research Methodology and Statistics <b>REMS8411</b></p> <p>The purpose of this module is to advance and develop students' knowledge and skills in research paradigms, designs, methods, analytical and statistical techniques and ethical issues for both quantitative and qualitative research in applied Psychology. This module is intended to develop students' knowledge and application of research competencies in psychological research in South African and global contexts.</p>	
<b>Year Long</b>	
<p>Independent Research Project</p> <p>Students develop a proposal and write up the final independent research project under the guidance of a supervisor. The independent research report constitutes an integrated assessment of all knowledge acquired in the Research Methodology and Statistics module.</p>	<b>INPR8419</b>

## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

The qualification focusses on four core and aligned fields within Psychology, namely: psychopathology, therapeutic interventions, psychological assessment as well as one of the following electives: developmental psychology or community psychology, depending on availability. All of these areas of study will have a sustained focus on their utility in the South African context, and the contribution that they can make to address the challenges currently faced in South African society. These core aspects of psychology are presented in five respective modules carrying the names of these aspects (Psychological Assessment, Psychopathology, Therapeutic Interventions and Developmental Psychology or Community Psychology). Examples of possible career opportunities for graduates include:

- Clinical Psychology/Counselling/Therapy (with further postgraduate studies)
- Human resources (with further studies)
- Teaching (with further postgraduate studies)
- Community worker
- Marketing or advertising
- Research
- Academia (Lecturing and tutoring)
- User experience designer (with further education and training)
- Customer care consultant (with further company-based training)

Details are correct at the time of printing  
V2 12 September 2022