

PROGRAM FEE REQUEST

University: **University of Arizona** College/School: **College of Science/School of Mind, Brain & Behavior**
Department: **Psychology** Program: **Psychological Science**

Graduate Undergraduate Upper Division Lower Division Both

New **\$ 200** **Fall 2016**
(Proposed) (Effective Date)

Existing \$ _____
(Proposed) (Current) (Year Approved)

Proposed fee to be applied as:

Per Term Per Unit, Total of ___ Units per Program

Proposed fee to be applied:

Fall Spring Summer Winter

Date Submitted: Nov. 2, 2015

Rationale for Request (~100 words)

We are proposing a new research-intensive major in Psychological Science that will provide students with intensive training in research methods, statistics, and opportunities to develop independent research projects. The major will increase the competitiveness of students applying to post-graduate programs in psychology, medicine, and related science fields, as well as those seeking employment in areas of science, technology, and business. The program fee will support laboratory research costs and will enhance the major by providing career advising services, forums for student scientific presentations, guest speakers, and field experiences. At least 14% of the program fees will be used to provide waivers for students who would otherwise be unable to enter the major because of financial considerations.

Compliance with Board Guidelines (~250 words)

The new major is designed to enhance the educational experience of undergraduates who plan to attend post-graduate programs that require in-depth knowledge of psychological research methods and statistics, such as graduate programs in experimental or clinical psychology, medicine, social work, and related fields. In addition, students planning on a career in such areas as special education, occupational therapy, or rehabilitation will benefit from training in psychological research.

Students will have access to small upper division seminar courses including laboratory courses in advanced research methods and statistics. Students will engage in laboratory research projects with faculty, and will be encouraged to develop their own independent research projects. Program fees will be used to support additional laboratory research costs including research materials and participant fees associated with the project. Fees will also support other activities that will enhance individualized educational experiences including career advising, research forums, guest speakers, and internship experiences.

The major will increase the competitiveness of students applying to post-graduate programs in psychology, medicine, and related fields, as well as those seeking employment in science, technology, and business. At least 14% of the program fees will be used each year to provide waivers for students who would otherwise be unable to enter the major because of financial considerations. Advising staff will identify students who may benefit from the major but who may not apply due to financial concerns, particularly students from underrepresented groups.

Student Consultation (~100 words)

Three groups of undergraduates were consulted, including 1) five elected board members of Psi Chi, an organization representing psychology majors at UA, 2) 49 first year undergraduates in an introductory psychology course, and 3) 32 third year undergraduates from 300-level psychology courses. All three groups indicated strong support for the new major, and indicated that they would be willing to pay the per-semester program fee. They felt that the additional cost would provide better quality educational experiences, and would be beneficial for those students who wished to pursue science-related careers. Some students had concerns regarding access to the new major for students without financial resources, and felt that it was important to have a well-established waiver program in place in order to encourage students to apply.

Students in each group indicated by anonymous ballot whether a) they felt that the program fee would significantly enhance their educational experience, and b) whether they would be willing to pay the fee in order to enter the major. Support for the program fee was 95%, and 86% of students indicated that they would be willing to pay the fee in order to enter the major.

MARKET PRICING (~200)

Adding a per-year cost of \$400 in program fees (\$200 per semester) would bring the total cost of projected 2016/17 tuition and fees for a resident student in this program to \$11,803. Compared to 15 peer institutions, this increase would not change UA's ranking from 8th place between U Washington-Seattle and U Wisconsin-Madison. Projected tuition and fees for non-resident students in the major would rise to \$33,683, which would maintain UA's ranking among peer institutions at 7th place between North Carolina-Chapel Hill and Pennsylvania State.

For comparison, peer Psychology Departments who offer a similar degree in Psychological Science are listed below. Including the program fee, UA's resident tuition would rank 5th out of 8 peer institutions. The same ranking applies to tuition for non-resident students.

Resident Tuition	2015-16 Tuition & Mandatory Fees	Requested Fee	Total Projected + Fee
U Illinois-Urbana Champaign	15,626	313	15,939
U California-Davis	13,951	279	14,230
Michigan State U	13,560	271	13,831
U Washington-Seattle	11,839	237	12,076
The University of Arizona	11,403	400	11,803
Indiana U	10,333	300	10,633
U Texas-Austin	9,810	196	10,006
U Alabama-Birmingham	9,569	0	9,569

Current tuition does not cover the costs of access to individualized research experiences in laboratories, or provide funds to cover laboratory-related costs associated with psychological research, or access to unique technological methods such as neuroimaging or evoked response potentials. While the Psychology Department has accommodated students engaged in independent study or thesis research in our laboratories, the expected increase in students working in our laboratories would be impossible to accommodate without additional resources.

ACCOUNTABILITY

Financial Aid Set-Aside Amount: 14%

Proposed Annual Revenue

Annual Program Fee Amount	\$	400
Number of Students Enrolled Annually	#	300
Total Annual Revenue	=	120,000

Proposed Annual Expenditures

Financial Aid Set Aside (14%)	\$	16,800
Institutional and Advising Personnel	\$	35,000
Support Staff Expense	\$	0
Total Operating Expenses + Administrative Charge + Value of Anticipated Waivers	\$	68,200
Total Program Costs	=	120,000