

Information on Core Content Courses

Students often ask what courses can be used to fulfill the required CPA core content areas. The Director(s) must follow CPA guidelines, which state that core content areas must be addressed through broadly-based psychology courses. Here is the information from the CPA Accreditation Manual, with their examples of acceptable courses listed in parentheses:

The five core content areas are:

1. Biological bases of behaviour (e.g., physiological psychology, comparative psychology, neuropsychology, psychopharmacology)
2. Cognitive-affective bases of behaviour (e.g., learning, sensation, perception, cognition, thinking, motivation, emotion)
3. Social bases of behaviour (e.g., social psychology; cultural, ethnic, and group processes; sex roles; organizational and systems theory)
4. Individual bases of behaviour (e.g., personality theory, human development, individual differences, abnormal psychology)
5. Historical and scientific foundations of general psychology (this content area can be fulfilled with a one-semester, senior undergraduate course).

Below is a list of some of the courses that can and cannot be used to meet the core content requirements. As mentioned above, these courses must be general in nature to fulfill the requirement for a core content area. As such, courses that are very focused on a specific area (e.g., assessment, intervention) generally will not count.

NOTE:

The clinical courses (i.e., those taught by a registered clinical psychologist) can count either toward the core content requirement or toward the supplementary clinical courses. By default, they count as a supplementary clinical course so please advise Amanda Sigsworth if you wish the course to count as a core content requirement.

Biological Bases of Behaviour

PSY 5103 – Fundamentals of Behavioural Neuroscience

PSY 5125 – Principles of Neuropsychology

PSY 6151 – Drugs and Behaviour

PSY 6191 – Seminars in Psychology: Hormones and Behaviour

These courses do NOT count:

PSY 6191 – Seminars in Psychology: Neuroscience of Psychedelics

PSY 6191 – Seminars in Psychology: Educational Neuroscience

PSY 6191 – Seminars in Psychology: Psychedelics: Survey of an Emerging Field

Cognitive-Affective Bases of Behaviour

PSY 5105 – Fundamentals of Cognitive Psychology

PSY 6166 – Human and Social Motivation: Theory and Research

PSY 6191 – Seminars in Psychology : Consciousness

PSY 6191 – Seminars in Psychology: *Human Memory: Cognitive, Neural, Developmental, and Social Perspectives*

PSY 6191 – Seminars in Psychology: *Future-Oriented Thinking and Decision-Making: Cognitive, Developmental, and Clinical Implications*

These courses do NOT count:

PSY 6114 - Cognitive Psychophysiology

PSY 7123 - Cognitive and Behaviour Therapy

Social Bases of Behaviour

PSY 7108 – Multicultural Psychology

NOTE: For students starting the clinical program in September 2021 or later, this course must be used to fulfil the CPA core content area of Social bases of behaviour. For students who entered the program before September 2021, this course can count as a supplementary clinical course as it is highly recommended that all students complete this course.

Individual Bases of Behaviour

PSY 5114 – Fundamentals of Developmental Psychology

PSY 6132 – Child Psychopathology

PSY 6191 – Seminars in Psychology :*The Child's Social World*

PSY 6191 – Seminars in Psychology: *Infant and Child Cognitive Development*

These courses do NOT count:

PSY 6176 – Psychological Assessment and Intervention with Older Adult Populations