

**COORDINATING COMMISSION  
FOR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION**


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**PROPOSAL FOR NEW INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM**

**Form 92-40**

Institution Submitting Proposal:	<b>Southeast Community College</b>
Title of Program:	<b>Psychology</b>
CIP Code	<b>42.0101</b>
Organizational Unit in which Program will be located:	<b>Arts &amp; Sciences</b>
Name of Contact Person in the event additional information is needed:	<b>Bev Cummins, Vice President of Program Development and Lincoln Campus Director</b>
Telephone:	<b>402-437-2554</b>
Degree, Diploma, or Certificate to be offered	<b>Associate of Arts</b>
Proposal date to initiate program:	<b>August 2023</b>
List the location(s) where this program will be offered:	<b>Online, Lincoln, Milford, Beatrice Campuses, all SCC Learning Centers</b>
If the program has a projected ending date, please so indicate:	<b>N/A</b>
Date Approved by Governing Board:	<b>12/13/22</b>

Chief Executive Officer's or other Authorized Officer's signature: 

## I. Purpose and Description of the Proposed Program

Southeast Community College (SCC) proposes to establish an Associate of Arts in Psychology degree. This degree is intended for students seeking to complete their first two years of a bachelor's degree before transferring to a four-year institution to major in Psychology or a related field. Currently, students interested in majoring in Psychology at the Baccalaureate degree level are declared in the general Academic Transfer program.

The proposed AA in Psychology is designed for broad applicability to four-year transfer institutions. Since Baccalaureate degree requirements vary from institution to institution, absent an A to B articulation agreement to a specific college/university, the course options within each category are intended to provide a broad base of psychology and general education courses that fulfill many requirements at various colleges and universities in our region. Students are encouraged to meet with an advisor at both Southeast Community College and their intended transfer institution for assistance with selecting the program courses that will meet the degree and general education requirements for their bachelor's degree.

While a general academic transfer degree could (and has) served the purpose for students to transfer to and declare as a psychology major at a four-year institution, we believe that student engagement and connection to their chosen profession early in their academic career enhances retention. Packaging the academic transfer curriculum for high-demand majors gives students a sense of belonging and connection to their chosen discipline. An AA in Psychology will help students develop stronger relationships with faculty in their discipline of interest and make connections within their discipline not just at SCC, but at the four-year institution they are looking to transfer. SCC has a strong and active Psychology/Sociology Student Organization that will support students within the program with expanded co-curricular opportunities.

As shown in the program plan below, the AA in Psychology curriculum provides flexibility for students to work with their advisors and the four-year institution for a program that meets their academic goals. All courses listed below currently exist within the Academic Transfer program. For a full listing of potential courses in the general education sections, see Appendix A. While these courses are expected to transfer to any four-year institution, a recent email from UNL's Director of Advising in the School of Arts and Sciences validated the Psychology core and general education courses listed in the chart will all transfer for UNL's Psychology major. The student's SCC advisor will provide additional guidance on appropriate course selection depending on the student's choice of four-year institution.

Course Number	Course Name	Credit Hours
ACFS	Success@SCC	1.0
<b>Psychology Core Classes (15 credit hours)</b>		
PSYC 1810	Introduction to Psychology	3.0
PSYC 2880	Social Psychology	3.0
PSYC 2630	Cognitive Psychology	3.0
PSYC 2730	Brain and Behavior	3.0
PSYC 2960	Lifespan Human Development	3.0
<b>General Education Requirements</b>		
Written Communication	English Composition and one other Written Communication	6.0
Speech Communication	Selection from transfer courses	3.0

Mathematics/Logic	Selection from transfer courses	3.0
Natural Science	Selection from transfer courses	6.0
Humanities	Selection from transfer courses	9.0
Social Sciences	Selection from transfer courses	3.0
Electives	Selection from transfer courses	11.0
<b>Total Credit Hours – AA Psychology</b>		<b>61.0</b>

**II. Review Criteria**

**A. CENTRALITY TO ROLE AND MISSION**

The mission of Southeast Community College is *to empower and transform the diverse learners and communities of southeast Nebraska through accessible lifelong educational opportunities. The College provides dynamic and responsive pathways to career and technical, academic transfer, and continuing education programs that contribute to personal, community, and workforce development.*

The creation of an Associate of Arts degree in Psychology aligns with SCC’s mission to provide accessible and responsive pathways for academic transfer students. Additionally, it conforms with what the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education states in the Comprehensive Plan for Postsecondary Education regarding the expectation for the community college’s role and mission.

“Community colleges provide educational options for students seeking career training or transfer to a four-year institution. The education program may culminate in an applied technology associate degree, diploma, or certificate; or an associate of arts or associate of science degree from an academic transfer program” (p. 7-7). The comprehensive plan further defines by statute the community college second institutional and service priority as transfer education that includes “general academic transfer programs or applied technology and occupational programs that may be applicable to the first two years of a bachelor’s degree program” (p. 7-7). The expectation is that “community colleges serve as feeder institutions into four-year colleges and universities through their academic transfer programs” (p. 7-8).

We consider the AA in Psychology to represent an academic transfer program that meets the above expectations by the State of Nebraska for academic transfer.

**B. EVIDENCE OF NEED AND DEMAND**

Internally, Academic Advisors report that Psychology is one of the most popular majors for SCC Academic Transfer students. Their reports correspond with data from the National Student Clearing House shown in Table 1 below. We queried the number of students who enrolled in a course at SCC in the past five and ten years against their terminal four-year degree and found and found that over 3,000 students attained a bachelor’s degree in psychology. This indicates that providing students interested in a bachelor’s degree in psychology an affordable associate of arts option to transfer to a four-year institution.

*Table 1: Number of SCC Transfer Students Graduated in Psychology*

Past 5 years	Past 10 years
2018-2022	2012-2022
1,039 students	3,027 students

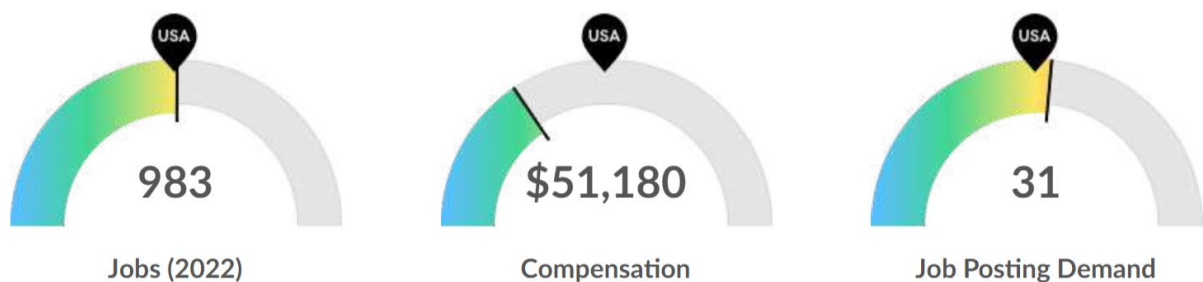
According to Gray Associates, a company used by SCC to provide academic program evaluation data, a review of internet searches for Psychology degrees demonstrated a high student demand as shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Gray Associate Data for CIP 42.0101 Psychology, General Student Demand

Student Demand				
Score: 17 Percentile: 98				
Categ...	Pctl	Criterion	Value	Score
Size	97	Google Search Volume (3 Months)*	2,771	5
	98	International Page Views (12 Months)	1,909	NS
	97	New Student Enrollment Volume (12 Mo.)	23	5
	91	On-ground Completions at In-Market Institutions	6	NS
	98	Online Completions by In-Market Students	6	NS
	92	Sum of On-ground and Online Completions	12	3
Growth	97	Google Search YoY Change (Units)*	486	1
	98	New Student Enrollment Vol. YoY Change (Units)	10	2
	4	Completion Volume YoY Change (Units)	-5	-1
	64	Google Search YoY Change (%)*	21%	1
	86	New Student Enrollment Vol. YoY Change (%)	81%	1
	30	Completion Volume YoY Change (%)	-31%	0

Individuals with a degree in psychology obtain employment in a wide range of employment sectors, from education and government to management and research. In addition to the psychology field, students with an AA in Psychology may continue their education in other areas such as Sociology, Economics, Education, Social Work, Counseling, and Medicine. According to *Lightcast Q3 2022 Data Set*, ([www.economicmodeling.com](http://www.economicmodeling.com)) the SCC 15-county service area in southeast Nebraska has an average job demand of nearly 1,000 jobs annually for graduates of a psychology field as shown in Figure 2. We see an average median local salary of \$51,180.

Figure 2: Job Posting Demand Over an Average Supply of Regional Jobs



Your area is about average for this kind of job. The national average for an area this size is 978\* employees, while there are 983 here.

Earnings are low in your area. The national median salary for your occupations is \$56,478, compared to \$51,180 here.

Job posting activity is about average in your area. The national average for an area this size is 29\* job postings/mo, while there are 31 here.

The occupational forecast for bachelor degrees from Psychology programs suggests a nearly 5% increase in jobs in the SCC service area in the next five years as noted by Lightcast and shown in Figure 3.

Figure 3: Employment Forecast Psychology Occupation

	Region	2022 Jobs	2027 Jobs	Change	% Change
●	SCC service area	983	1,031	47	4.8%
●	National Average	978	1,061	83	8.5%
●	Omaha-Council Bluffs, NE-IA	1,390	1,502	112	8.1%
●	Lincoln, NE	829	868	39	4.7%
●	Beatrice, NE	23	19	-4	-15.3%
●	Milford, NE (in Seward county) (ZIP 68405)	<10	<10	Insf. Data	Insf. Data

By offering an Associate of Arts in Psychology, SCC would provide a program-specific transfer degree for an affordable pathway for students interested in attaining their four-year degree in Psychology to meet the demand for the high number of jobs in the community. As a feeder program to four-year institutions, we help meet the demand for the career field.

## ADEQUACY OF RESOURCES

### 1. Faculty and Staff Resources

The Arts & Sciences division currently has eight full-time faculty and a solid pool of adjunct faculty qualified to teach psychology courses. The program’s curriculum is already developed, and existing courses will continue to be offered online as well as at all three SCC campuses (Beatrice, Lincoln, & Milford) and available to all size Learning Centers. No additional faculty would be required to create the AA in Psychology degree. The Arts & Sciences Division will provide support staffing and administrative oversight.

Existing faculty and staff will be used for program delivery and there are no facility needs at this time. Courses will be offered every term throughout the academic year, and we will continue to enroll students annually in the Psychology core courses. It is difficult to forecast if there will be an impact on enrollment at this time, so to be conservative, we believe the current average annual enrollment of 1,300 students will be maintained. The minimum number of students to make the program viable is 8.

### 2. Physical Facilities and Instructional Equipment

Because the AA in Psychology utilizes existing courses and faculty, there will be no need for additional space or facilities on campus at this time.

### 3. Instructional Equipment and Informational Resources

No additional equipment is needed for the AA in Psychology degree. Virtual library and technology

resources are already in place to support all distance learners. Sufficient library staff, library resources and information technology resources are in place to support the students and program.

**4. Budget Projections**

As stated above, the creation of the Associate of Arts degree in Psychology will utilize the current full-time faculty and adjunct instructors. The tuition rates are projections based on past trends as no rates beyond the first year have been set by the SCC Board of Governors. Salary increases are projections based on past trends of a 3% total compensation increase. Because there are no new courses to be developed and no new faculty or staff to be hired and no new equipment to be purchased, we do not anticipate any expenses associated with this proposal. Additionally, to be conservative, we do not anticipate a change in enrollment, therefore no new revenue is anticipated.

**C. AVOIDANCE OF UNNECESSARY DUPLICATION**

There is no unnecessary duplication because these courses currently exist within the curriculum. It provides students with a focused transfer degree.

**D. CONSISTENCY WITH THE COMPREHENSIVE STATEWIDE PLAN FOR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION**

The proposed Associate of Arts in Psychology is consistent with Nebraska's Comprehensive Statewide Plan for Postsecondary Education. The program will provide education "...that prepares students for productive and fulfilling lives..." and "...enhances workforce development..." Specifically, the Comprehensive Statewide Plan directs institutions to "provide specialized certification programs in professional, technical, and vocational fields that address regional and state needs" (p. 3-3). Given the current demand for Psychology majors detailed previously, SCC's proposed AA in Psychology is consistent with this goal.

## Appendix A

### AA PSYCHOLOGY DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

**Credit Hours Required for Graduation:** 61.0

**Required first term course:**

ACFS1015 Success @ SCC 1.0

**Psychology Core Classes:** 15 credits

PSYC1810	Introduction to Psychology	3.0
PSYC2880	Social Psychology	3.0
PSYC2630	Cognitive Psychology	3.0
PSYC2730	Brain and Behavior	3.0
PSYC2960	Lifespan Human Development	3.0

**Written Communications** 6.0 Credits

ENGL1010	~English Composition I	3.0
OR		
ENGL1010H	English Composition I H	3.0

AND take one of the following:

ENGL1020	English Composition II	3.0
ENGL1020 H	English Composition II H	3.0
ENGL2560	Technical Writing	3.0
OFFT2120	Business Communication Strategies	3.0

**Speech Communications** 3.0 Credits

SPCH1090	Fundamentals of Human Communication	3.0
SPCH1110	Public Speaking	3.0
SPCH2810	Business & Professional Communication	3.0

**Mathematics/Logic** 3.0 Credits

CCSI1010	Introduction to Computer Science	3.0
CCSI1550	Computer Science I	4
MATH1150	College Algebra	3.0
MATH1200	Trigonometry	3.0
MATH1400	Applied Calculus	3.0
MATH1600	Analytic Geometry & Calculus I	5.0
MATH2170/	Applied Statistics	3.0
BSAD2170		
PHIL1100	Intro to Logic and Critical Thinking	3.0
PHIL2110	Introduction to Modern Logic	3.0

**Natural Science** Min 6 Credits

Take the following:

FSDT1350 Basic Nutrition 3.0

Take one of the following:

BIOS1010	General Biology	4.0
BIOS1090	Plant Biology	4.0
BIOS1120	Introduction to Zoology	4.0
BIOS1400	Biology I	4.0
BIOS2460	Microbiology	4.0
CHEM1050	Chemistry & the Citizen	4.0
CHEM1090	General Chemistry I	4.0
CHEM2550	Biological Organic Chemistry	3.0
FSDT1350	Basic Nutrition	3.0
GEOG1500	Physical Geography	4.0
GEOL1010	Physical Geology	4.0
PHYS1410	Elementary General Physics I	5.0
PHYS2110	General Physics I	5.0

*NOTES: Cannot receive credit for CHEM1050 and CHEM1090.*

*Credit cannot be received for more than one of these: PHYS1410 and 2110.*

*If you plan to pursue a health occupation after receiving your bachelor's degree, check with an advisor for recommendations for appropriate science courses.*

## **Humanities**

**9.0 Credits Total**

Take one of the following:

Group 1: Literature/Journalism

ENGL2050	Modern Fiction	3.0
ENGL2100	Introduction to Literature	3.0
ENGL2140	Introduction to Shakespeare	3.0
ENGL2150	Introduction to Women's Literature	3.0
ENGL2160	Children's Literature	3.0
ENGL2200	Science Fiction Literature	3.0
ENGL2210	American Literature After 1865	3.0
ENGL2220	British Literature Post 1800	3.0
ENGL2440	African American Literature	3.0
ENGL2450	Native American Literature	3.0
ENGL2460	Latino/a & Latin American Literature	3.0
ENGL2470	Asian American Literature	3.0

Take one of the following:

Group 2: Creative/Fine/Performing Arts:

ARTS1050	Intro to Art History & Criticism I	3.0
ARTS1060	Intro to Art History & Criticism II	3.0
ARTS1110	Beginning Drawing I	3.0
ENGL1510	Introduction to Creative Writing	3.0
ENGL2520	Fiction Writing	3.0
ENGL2530	Poetry Writing	3.0
HUMS1200	Contemporary Arts & Ideas	3.0
MUSC1010	Introduction to Music	3.0
MUSC1610	Music Theory I	4.0



MUSC2750	Introduction to American Music	3.0
MUSC2800	Introduction to World Music	3.0
MUSC2870	History of Rock Music	3.0
SPCH2050	Oral Performance of Literature	3.0
THEA1010	Introduction to Theatre	3.0

Take one of the following:

Group 3: History/Philosophy

HIST2010	American History I	3.0
HIST2020	American History II	3.0
HIST1820	Survey of Asian History	3.0
HIST2100	World History to 1500 CE	3.0
HIST2110	World History since 1500 CE	3.0
PHIL1010	Introduction to Philosophy	3.0
PHIL2130	Bioethics	3.0
PHIL2550	Environmental Ethics	3.0
PHIL/REL2610	Comparative Religions	3.0

**Social Sciences**

**3.0 Credits**

Choose one course from the following:

ECON1200	Personal Finance	3.0
ECON2110	Macroeconomics	3.0
ECON2120	Microeconomics	3.0
POLS1000	American Government	3.0
POLS1040	Comparative Politics	3.0
POLS1080	Introduction to Political Science	3.0
POLS1600	International Relations	3.0

**Culture & Gender Studies**

**3.0 Credits**

ANTH1120	General Anthropology	3.0
ENGL2150	Introduction to Women's Literature	3.0
ENGL2440	African American Literature	3.0
ENGL2450	Native American Literature	3.0
ENGL2460	Latino/a & Latin American Literature	3.0
ENGL2470	Asian American Literature	3.0
GEOG1400	Human Geography	3.0
GEOG1420	World Regional Geography	3.0
HIST1820	Survey of Asian History	3.0
HIST2100	World History to 1500 CE	3.0
HIST2110	World History since 1500 CE	3.0
HIST2960	Survey of African American History	3.0
MUSC2800	Introduction to World Music	3.0
PHIL2610/ RELS2610	Comparative Religions	3.0
POLS1600	International Relations	3.0
SOCI1020	Diversity in Society	3.0
SOCI2000	Women in Contemporary Society	3.0

SOCI2010	Social Problems	3.0
SOCI2150	Issues of Unity & Diversity	3.0
SPCH2110	Intercultural Communication	3.0

**Electives**

**11.0 Credits**

*NOTE: The following courses are suggested electives for psychology majors, but degree requirements vary among four-year psychology degree programs.*

*Schedule an appointment with an advisor for more specific advice on which electives to take based upon your intended transfer institution.*

PSYC2870	Psychology of the Personality	3.0	OR
PSYC2980	Abnormal Psychology	3.0	

Recommended additional electives:

PSYC1250	Interpersonal Relations	3.0
PSYC2110	Animal Behavior	
PSYC2710	Positive Psychology	3.0
PSYC2900	Adolescent Psychology	3.0
PSYC2901	Psychology Internship	3.0
PSYC2970	Introduction to Psychological Research	3.0

Other electives may be chosen from the Academic Transfer Electives list.

Grades of C or higher required for all classes.