



## Bachelors of Arts vs. Bachelors of Science (BA vs. BS)

**Q:** I am not sure if I want to pursue a Bachelors of Arts (BA) or Bachelors of Science (BS). Since I am here for orientation, I am confused what I should do. Help!

**A:** Some students wonder whether it is more advantageous to have a BA or BS in psychology. In general, graduate programs require only introductory psychology, statistics and experimental psychology/research methods. Naturally, you would want to take more courses to show that you are serious about psychology and have adequate preparation to do graduate work. Graduate schools want a solid background in psychology; they will teach you the rest. With that said, it would probably be a good idea to investigate specific programs of study to be certain you have taken the appropriate undergraduate courses.

**Q:** What is the difference between a BA and BS?

**A:** Essentially, while one degree is not necessarily better than another, some educational experts suggest that students who earn a BS degree in psychology have greater flexibility and more opportunities.

**BA -** The BA in Psychology is a great option for students who have a strong interest in Psychology, but also want to explore other disciplines in greater depth. Students who choose this degree option can also opt to later go on to further study in law, education, journalism, political science, marketing, business, social work and counseling.

**BS -** The BS in Psychology offers excellent preparation for careers in science and health fields, as well as further graduate study in psychology or related disciplines. Students with a strong interest in science can also benefit from this degree options extensive study in biological science and research methodology. Generally, sstudents pursuing the BS option are generally doing so to develop and demonstrate the analytical and quantitative skills that graduate programs and scientific fields seek.

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**Overall,** it is important to focus on choosing a degree that is the best-suited to *your* unique needs, skills, interests and professional goals. If you are still unsure about which option is right for you, review your university's requirements for each degree and talk to an Advisor within the Psychology department for further advice.

Check here for more information: <http://www.apa.org/ed/precollege/about/faq.aspx#preparing>

