

National Standards for High School Psychology Curricula

SUMMARY OF CHANGES BETWEEN 2011 STANDARDS AND THE 2022 REVISION

In revising the Standards, the Working Group adopted the model developed through [APA's Introductory Psychology Initiative](#) to help teachers design a high school psychology course grounded in science that demonstrates how psychology can improve society and change lives. The Working Group chose to use fewer and broader content standards and learning targets and did not include lists of examples within individual standards. Additional changes are summarized below.

	2011 National Standards	2022 National Standards
Model	Bullseye model graphic depicted how the units fit together	Pillar Model from the APA Introductory Psychology Initiative (IPI) depicts how course units can fit together
Themes	Eleven Overarching Themes	Seven integrated themes consistent with the APA IPI Student Learning Outcomes
Domains of Psychology	Seven broad content domains	Five broad content pillars on a Scientific Inquiry and Research Methods foundation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scientific Inquiry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scientific Inquiry and Research Methods foundation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biopsychology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biology
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cognition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cognition
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development and Learning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development and Learning
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sociocultural Context 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social and Personality
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individual Variation Application of Psychological Science 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical and Mental Health
Outcomes	Performance standards	Learning targets
Priority of Units	No units were deemed priority units, teachers were encouraged to teach at least one unit from each domain	10 units are recommended as priority units if a course is limited on time: Scientific Inquiry and Research Methods, Biological Bases of Behavior, Cognition, Memory, Life Span Development, Learning, Social, Multiculturalism and Gender, Disorders, and Health
Standard Areas	20 standard areas	18 standard areas ^ indicates a new or renamed pillar or standard area ~ indicates a moved standard area

	Scientific Inquiry Domain Perspectives in Psychological Science Research Methods, Measurement, and Statistics	Scientific Inquiry and Research Methods Foundational Base[^] Scientific Inquiry and Research Methods [^]
	Biopsychology Domain Biological Bases of Behavior Sensation and Perception Consciousness	Biological Pillar[^] Biological Bases of Behavior Sensation [^] Consciousness
	Development and Learning Domain Life Span Development Learning Language Development	Development and Learning Pillar Life Span Development Learning Language [^]
	Cognition Domain Memory Thinking Intelligence	Cognition Pillar Cognition [^] Memory Perception ^{^~} Intelligence
	Individual Variations Domain Motivation Emotion Personality Psychological Disorders Sociocultural Context Domain Social Interactions Sociocultural Diversity	Social and Personality Pillar[^] Social [^] Personality [~] Multiculturalism and Gender [^] Motivation and Emotion ^{^~}
	Applications of Psychological Science Domain Treatment of Psychological Disorders Health Vocational Applications	Mental and Physical Health Pillar[^] Disorders ^{^~} Health [~] Therapies ^{^~}

For further detail, please visit the standards website at www.apa.org/education-career/k12/national-standards. Please contact topss@apa.org with any questions