

PSYC 2315 Student Success in Psychology
16-Weeks – Spring 2026 – January 12th – April 28th
Lecture: Tuesday/Thursday 11:00AM – 12:20PM – LS 100

As the instructor for this course, I reserve the right to adjust this schedule in any way that serves the educational needs of the students enrolled in this course.
–Erin Quinn Austin

Instructor Information

Name

Erin Austin, PhD

Office Location

SWSH 404T

Office Phone

817-272-2281

Email

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Faculty Profile

[Erin Austin](https://www.uta.edu/academics/faculty/profile?username=erinb) (<https://www.uta.edu/academics/faculty/profile?username=erinb>)

Office Hours

By appointment, virtual and in person

Communication Guidelines

My preferred communication method is Email and Canvas Inbox, I will respond to both so please do not send the same message twice. Please do not call or use MS Teams to communicate with me. I will respond to emails and Canvas messages within 24 hours or the next business day.

Course Information

Section Information

PSYC 2315-001

Course Description

Course Title: Student Success in Psychology

This is a learning community course that will provide an environment for new students to build the knowledge, skills and abilities that will aid them academically, personally, and professionally. The course will help teach and develop students' critical thinking, problem-solving, and analytical skills to support successful academic achievement. The course will also focus on students' personal growth to support school-life balance challenges and future professional objectives. Required for psychology majors.

Prerequisites: PSYC_UNIV, PSYC__INT, PSYCBA, or PSYCBS plan code

Course Delivery Method

This course is designated as ON-CAMPUS, which means students will be required to attend all class sessions on campus (unless otherwise noted in the syllabus) on all scheduled days/times throughout the semester.

Time and Place of Class Meetings

Room: LS 100

Time: Tuesdays/Thursdays from 11:00AM to 12:20PM

Time Zone

This course operates on Central Time. All times listed for class meeting times, exams, and assignment deadlines are in Central Time (CT).

Classroom/Lecture Recording Policy

Faculty maintain the academic right to determine whether students are permitted to record classroom and online lectures. Recordings of classroom lectures, if permitted by the instructor or pursuant to an ADA accommodation, may only be used for academic purposes related to the specific course. They may not be used for commercial purposes or shared with non-course participants except in connection with a legal proceeding.

Recording of classroom and online lectures in this course is allowed.

Expectations for Out-of-Class Study

Beyond the time required to attend each class meeting, students enrolled in this course should expect to spend at least an additional 3 hours per week of their own time in course-related activities, including reading required materials, completing assignments, preparing for exams, etc.

Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the academic and research opportunities available in the psychology department
2. Learn and apply various learning and study strategies that will contribute to personal academic excellence

3. Reflect on their school-life balance and devise strategies to help mitigate those challenges
4. List resources offered by the psychology department that will aid them in their academic pursuits
5. Recognize the different clubs and organizations specific to psychology and across campus
6. Assess the knowledge, skills and abilities that will aid them in their future academic and professional accomplishments
7. Acquire an understanding of the value of scientific research and the opportunities available within the psychology department and university-wide
8. Identify the psychology faculty who will provide academic guidance in research and experiential learning

Course Materials & Technology

Textbook Information

No required textbook. Various readings may be assigned throughout the semester on relevant subjects (e.g., group/team collaborations, introduction to the STEM research process, study skills, work/life balance, time management).

Technology & Equipment Requirements

This course will be computer/internet intensive. You will need a personal device (desktop, laptop, smartphone, tablet, etc.) or access to a UT Arlington computer lab so you can access Canvas regularly and participate in class effectively. If you do not own a commuter, please make arrangements to rent one through the UTA library or to access and use the computers available to you on campus during lab and lecture times.

Visit the [OIT Services page](#) for a list of Applications and Software available through UTA.

Visit the [UTA Libraries Technology page](#) for a list of items that can be checked out or used at the library.

Assignments

Attendance (15%)

Attendance goes beyond just sitting in the classroom, it refers to preparedness, active discussion, and engagement with speakers and peers. Each student brings to the class knowledge and experience in different areas. Active contribution by every student will enrich class discussions and activities, and it is for this reason that attendance is a requirement of this course. Students can miss up to two days without penalty to their grade.

In-Class Activities & Engagement (15%)

In part, students' in-class activities and engagement grade will be based on their preparation prior to class (e.g., reading the materials, preparing questions for guest presentations) as well as on their in-class active participation. Students who consider themselves to be highly introverted are encouraged to inform the instructor to discuss ways to increase comfort in this area. Student contributions will be continually evaluated for quality and frequency. Class

activities will include peer engagement opportunities, various discussions, self-assessments, research assignments, and campus/department exploration. Students can miss one in-class activity without penalty to their grade. Throughout the semester, students will be expected to complete a number of in-class activities designed to support the learning objectives such as:

- Team building breakout sessions
- Exploring faculty research expertise
- Participating in self-assessment surveys
- Debating challenges associated with school-life balance
- Discovering the psychology department and the university

Out-of-Class Assignments (40%)

Throughout the semester, you will complete a series of structured out-of-class assignments designed to support your academic, personal, and professional development as a psychology major. These assignments give you practical experience with skills we will discuss in class—such as navigating campus resources, planning for your degree, communicating professionally, and exploring future career paths. Each assignment is worth 100 points and includes clear instructions and a grading rubric provided in Canvas.

Assignments include:

- **Psychology Scavenger Hunt** – Identify key campus resources, meet support staff, and familiarize yourself with opportunities that will help you succeed in the major.
- **4-Year Graduation Plan** – Create a personalized academic roadmap outlining how you will complete your degree requirements on time.
- **Campus Engagement Plan** – Explore involvement opportunities and design a realistic engagement strategy to support your sense of belonging and professional growth.
- **Communication for Advocacy Plan** – Learn how to write effective, professional emails by completing structured real-world scenarios.
- **Self-Care Plan** – Reflect on your wellbeing and develop strategies for maintaining balance throughout the semester.
- **Scholarship Application Assignment** – Complete the required UTA General Scholarship Application and identify additional opportunities relevant to your goals.
- **Career Exploration Summary** – Research psychology-related career paths, required preparation, and steps you can take now to build toward future opportunities.
- **Future Self Letter** – Write a reflective letter to your future self-focused on identity, goals, and the person you are becoming as a psychology major.

Weekly Go & Do Assignments (20%)

Instead of a traditional written journal, you will complete a weekly “Go and Do” assignment designed to help you actively apply course concepts in your daily life. Each week, you will be asked to complete a small, real-world task related to academic success, personal development, or building your psychology identity. Examples may include visiting a campus resource, practicing a study strategy, attending an academic support workshop, organizing your weekly schedule, or engaging in a self-care activity. To receive credit, you will submit photographic evidence (such as a selfie or a photo of your completed task) along with a brief description of what you did. These activities are intended to be practical, meaningful, and supportive of your growth as a college student—while also helping you build habits that

contribute to success both inside and outside the classroom. Specific instructions, weekly tasks, and submission guidelines will be posted in Canvas. Students can miss up to three Go & Do Assignments without penalty to their grade.

Personal Success Portfolio (10%)

At the end of the semester, you will submit a digital portfolio that includes major course assignments, selected Go & Do assignments, and a final reflection essay. This portfolio will demonstrate your academic growth, personal development, and engagement with course content. All materials must be submitted in a single, organized Word document.

Grading Information

Assignment Categories	Percent of Final Grade
Attendance	15%
In-Class Activities & Engagement	15%
Out-of-Class Assignments	40%
Weekly Go & Do Assignments	20%
Personal Success Portfolio	10%
Total:	100%

Students are expected to track their performance throughout the semester, which Canvas facilitates, and seek guidance from available sources, including the instructor, if their performance drops below satisfactory levels. Refer to the [Student Support Services](#) section below.

Final Grade Calculations

Earned Percentage Range	Letter Grade
90-100%	A
80-89%	B
70-79%	C
60-69%	D
0-59%	F

Late Work Policy

Beyond University-approved, documented absences, no late work is accepted in this course. Any missing or late work will receive a grade of a zero.

Make-Up Exams Policy

There are no exams in this course. Make-up and/or late assignments will be granted only for University-approved, documented absences. Routine scheduled activities, such as work, doctor's appointments, vacations, weddings, or other conflicting appointments, will not be considered excused absences. Arrangements to make-up work should be made with me within 48 hours of your absence. You must make-up missed work within 3 working days.

Extra Credit Policy

There is no opportunity to earn extra credit in this course.

Grades and Feedback Timeline

I will post grades to the Canvas gradebook within 1 week of the due dates.

Grade Grievance Policy

Any appeal of a grade in this course must follow the procedures and deadlines for grade-related grievances as published in the current [University Catalog: Grades and Grading Policies](#). For the Department of Psychology, see the [Grade Grievance Form](#).

Course & University Policies

Attendance Policy

Students should review the University Class Attendance Policies on the [Class Attendance Policies page](#). The following attendance policy will be applied in this course.

Attending class sessions is a critical predictor and indicator of student success. The University of Texas at Arlington does not recognize a single attendance policy but encourages faculty to establish class-specific policies on attendance. As the instructor of this section, lecture attendance is required. Any absence must be approved ahead of the scheduled class time.

Generative AI Use in This Course

The use of Generative AI (GenAI) in course assignments and assessments must align with the guidelines established by the instructor. Unauthorized use of GenAI could result in breaches of academic integrity. Instructors are responsible for clearly delineating the permissible uses of GenAI in their courses, underscoring the importance of responsible and ethical application of these tools.

[Community Standards](#) within the [Office of the Dean of Students](#) articulate the university's stance on [academic integrity and scholastic dishonesty](#). These standards extend to the use of GenAI. Unauthorized or unapproved use of GenAI in academic work falls within the scope of these policies and will be subject to the same disciplinary procedures.

As the instructor for this course, I have adopted the following policy on student use of GenAI.

As the instructor of this course, I have adopted the following policy on Student use of GenAI: **Prohibition of GenAI Use.** In this course, the focus is on the development of independent

critical thinking and the mastery of subject-specific content. To ensure that all submitted work accurately reflects personal understanding and original thought, the use of Generative AI (GenAI) tools in completing assignments or assessments is strictly prohibited. This policy supports our commitment to academic integrity and the direct measurement of each student's learning against the course's Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs). Any work found to be generated by AI will be subject to academic review.

Institutional Policies

UTA students should review the [University Catalog](#) and the [Syllabus Institutional Policies](#) page for institutional policies and contact the specific office with any questions. The institutional information includes the following policies, among others:

- Drop Policy
- Disability Accommodations
- Academic Integrity
- Electronic Communication

UTA Honor Code

UTA students are expected to adhere to and observe standards of conduct compatible with the University's functions as an educational institution and live by the [University of Texas at Arlington's Honor Code](#). It is the policy of The University of Texas at Arlington to uphold and support standards of personal honesty and integrity for all students consistent with the goals of a community of scholars and students seeking knowledge and responsibility.

Student Support Services

Academic Success Center

The Academic Success Center (ASC) offers a range of resources and services designed to help you maximize your learning and achieve academic success as a student at the University of Texas at Arlington. ASC services include supplemental instruction, peer-led team learning, tutoring, mentoring, and TRIO SSS. Academic Success Center services are provided at no additional cost to UTA students. For additional information, visit the [ASC](#) website or submit a [tutoring request form](#).

The English Writing Center (411LIBR)

The Writing Center offers FREE tutoring in 15-, 30-, 45-, and 60-minute face-to-face and online sessions to all UTA students on any phase of their UTA coursework. Register and make appointments online at the [Writing Center](#). Classroom visits, workshops, and specialized services for graduate students and faculty are also available. Please see [Writing Center: OWL](#) for detailed information on all our programs and services.

Academic Plaza

The Library's 2nd floor [Academic Plaza](#) offers students a central hub of support services, including IDEAS Center, University Advising Services, Transfer UTA, and various college/school advising hours. Services are available during the [library's hours](#) of operation.

UTA Health and Wellbeing Resources

UT Arlington is committed to the safety, success, and well-being of our students. To support our community, UTA has established a Community Advocacy, Response, and Engagement (CARE) Team, a dedicated group of campus professionals responsible for helping students who could benefit from academic, emotional, or psychological support, as well as those presenting risks to the health or safety of the community. If you know of someone experiencing challenges, appearing distressed, needing resources, or causing a significant disruption to the UTA community, please submit a [CARE Referral](#) by visiting the [CARE Team](#) page. You may also submit a referral for yourself if you would like additional support.

UTA students also have access to virtual, on-demand emotional support, appointment-based counseling, advanced psychiatric care, and more. For more information, visit [TimelyCare](#).

NOTE: If a person's behavior poses an immediate threat to you or someone else, contact UTA Police at 817-272-3003 or dial 911. If you or someone you know needs to speak with a crisis counselor, please reach out to the [MAVS TALK 24-hour Crisis Line](#) at 817-272-8255 or the [National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline](#) at 988.

Student Services Page

The [Student Services page](#) provides links to many resources available to UTA students, including:

- Academic Success
- Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)
- Health Services
- Students with Disabilities
- Veteran Services

Students are also encouraged to check out [Career Center](#) resources to enhance their career-readiness, find student employment, search for internships, and more. We encourage [Major Exploration](#) and the use of [Experiential Major Maps](#) to keep students on track for graduation. Refer to the [Graduation Help Desk](#) for more details.

Accessibility of Course Materials

Some course materials, such as PDFs of musical scores, technical drawings, graphs, blueprints, design plans, or artworks (common in fields like drawing, painting, or construction drafting), may not fully comply with all [Web Content Accessibility Guidelines \(WCAG\)](#) requirements.

The University of Texas at Arlington is dedicated to ensuring all students have equal access to information. If you experience any accessibility barriers with course materials, please know that

accommodations are available. You can get assistance through the [Student Access and Resource \(SAR\)](#) Center or by contacting your instructor directly. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you need help.

Online Academic Success Guide

Visit the [Online Academic Success Guide](#) to explore a list of helpful tips and resources to help you succeed in your online journey.

Librarian to Contact

Each academic unit has access to [Librarians by Academic Subject](#) who can assist students with research projects, tutorials on plagiarism, citation references, as well as support with databases and course reserves.

Safety Information and Resources

MavAlert System

The MavAlert system sends information to cell phones or email accounts of subscribed users in case of an emergency. Anyone can subscribe to MavAlerts at [Emergency Communication System](#).

Emergency Phone Numbers

In case of an on-campus emergency, call the UT Arlington Police Department at **817-272-3003** (non-campus phone) or **2-3003** (campus phone). You may also dial 911. The non-emergency number is 817-272-3381.

Course Schedule					
Week	Date	Lecture Topic	In-Class Activity	Assignment	
1	T 1/13	Welcome to Psychology	Team building and Icebreakers	Go & Do #1	
	Th 1/15				
2	T 1/20	Psychology Department	Guest Speaker: Department Leadership	Scavenger Hunt, Go & Do #2	
	Th 1/22				
3	T 1/27	Academic Planning	Guest Speaker: Academic Advisors	4-year graduation plan, Go & Do #3	
	Th 1/29				
4	T 2/3	Time Management & Organization	Schedule Creation	Go & Do #4	
	Th 2/5				
5	T 2/10	Getting Involved	Guest Speaker: Club Representatives	Campus Engagement Plan, Go & Do #5	
	Th 2/12				
6	T 2/17	Study Skills, Goal Setting, Test-Taking	Guest Speaker: Academic Success Center	Go & Do #6	
	Th 2/19				
7	T 2/24	Academic & Professional Communication	Peer-to-Peer role play, Peer feedback	Communication for Advocacy Plan, Go & Do #7	
	Th 2/26				
8	T 3/3	School-Life Balance & Mental Wellness	Guest Speaker: Counseling & Psychological Services	Self-Care Plan, Go & Do #8	
	Th 3/5				
Spring Break – No Classes: March 9th – 13th					
9	T 3/17	Leadership Skills and Psychological Identity	Guest Speaker: Follett Leadership Center	Go & Do #9	
	Th 3/19				
10	T 3/24	Scientific Research	Guest Speaker: Faculty	Go & Do #10	
	Th 3/26				
11	T 3/31	Scientific Research	Guest Speaker: Faculty	Go & Do #11	
	Th 4/2				
12	T 4/7	Critical Thinking	Guest Speaker: Psychology Librarian; Media Analysis	Go & Do #12	
	Th 4/9				
13	T 4/14	Financial Literacy	Guest Speaker; Student Money Management; Budget Worksheet	Scholarship Application, Go & Do #13	
	Th 4/16				
14	T 4/21	Career Development	Guest Speaker: Career Center	Career Exploration, Go & Do #14	
	Th 4/23				
15	T 4/28	Final Reflections		Future Self-Letter, Go & Do #15	
	Th 5/5	Personal Success Portfolio			