WSU PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT
Advisement Handbook
HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF THE PSYCHOLOGY PROGRAM

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Is Psychology the Right Major for Me?

sychology is the scientific study of behavior and mental processes. Because many fields rely on the understanding of human behavior, psychology has widespread applications. If you enjoy working with people, are interested in human behavior, and have a scientific view of the world, then majoring in psychology may be right for you.

The WSU Psychology Department has dedicated faculty who are actively engaged in the discipline. Faculty members receive grants and awards, present their research at professional conferences, publish their research in academic journals, and practice psychology in applied settings. Faculty members have some of the highest course evaluations at WSU and graduating majors report being *very satisfied* with their experience in the department.

Psychology students are intellectually enriched by an exciting curriculum in which they receive excellent training in the science and practice of psychology. Small class sizes enable students to learn statistical, research, and interpersonal skills. Students also have the opportunity to participate in carefully supervised practicum courses and one-on-one research courses with faculty members. Graduating seniors have promising career trajectories and are well-prepared to succeed in graduate programs (e.g., masters or Ph.D. programs) or professional schools (e.g., law, pharmacy, medicine).

Through excellence in training in the science of psychology, our Department's mission is to facilitate students' career aspirations and academic goals in the context of an undergraduate, Liberal Arts University, and a department which values teaching and research. The curriculum of the psychology department is centered on meeting the following learning outcome goals for undergraduate students:

- 1. **Knowledge Base**. Students will 1) describe key concepts, principles, and overarching themes in psychology, 2) develop a working knowledge of psychology's content domains, and 3) describe applications of psychology.
- 2. **Scientific Inquiry & Critical Thinking.** Students will 1) use scientific reasoning to interpret psychological phenomena, 2) demonstrate psychology information literacy, 3) engage in innovative and integrative thinking and problem solving, 4) interpret, design, and conduct basic psychological research, and 5) incorporate sociocultural factors in scientific inquiry.
- 3. **Ethical & Social Responsibility in a Diverse World.** Students will 1) apply ethical standards to evaluate psychological science and practice, 2) build and enhance interpersonal relationships, and 3) adopt values that build community at local, national, and global levels.
- 4. **Communication.** Students will 1) demonstrate effective writing for different purposes, 2) exhibit effective presentation skills for different purposes, and 3) interact effectively with others.
- 5. **Professional Development.** Students will 1) apply psychological content and skills to career goals, 2) exhibit self-efficacy and self-regulation, 3) refine project-management skills, 4) enhance teamwork capacity, and 5) develop meaningful professional direction for life after graduation.

This handbook addresses students' most frequent questions about the Psychology program and should serve as an excellent reference for department requirements and resources.

Advising

Who is my adviser?

The Department Adviser, Leigh Shaw, assists psychology majors/teaching majors/minors with annual academic planning, handles all transfer articulation issues, and clears psychology minors for graduation. The **Department Chair**, Aaron Ashley, assists Bachelor of Integrated Studies (BIS) students with academic planning and clears all majors for graduation. Department faculty provide graduate school and career advising for students interested in their specific areas of expertise (e.g., biopsychology, counseling). The Amanda Social Science Advisers. Butts, Erin Beltran, Stephanie (https://weber.edu/SocialScience/advising.html) advise psychology majors on their general education requirements for the Associate's and Bachelor's degrees and basic University information. Appointments with the Department Adviser and Chair should be scheduled through the Department (801.626.6247, psychologydept@weber.edu). Please schedule appointments with faculty and the Social Sciences Advisers (LH 151/157/158, 801.626.7809, https://www.weber.edu/SocialScience/appointments.html) directly.

When should I see my adviser?

You should meet with the Department Adviser at least annually to discuss your progress toward graduation and your academic and professional goals. This annual appointment satisfies your program declaration requirement in the Psychology program. You should also regularly meet with the Social Sciences Advisers.

How should I prepare for my advising appointment?

It is best to schedule an appointment with the Adviser after you have reviewed the course schedule for the next semester and the general education and psychology courses you still need to complete. This preparation will enable you to better discuss your academic progress and ask relevant questions. The Adviser's job is to provide you with advice and guidance related to your progress toward graduation; do not expect the Adviser to tell you which classes you should take and what time of day to take them.

How long will my advising appointment last?

The typical meeting with the Adviser lasts about 20 minutes. If you have reason to believe that you will require more time, you should mention this to the Department Administrative Assistant when scheduling.

Do I need a minor?

Yes: A minor is *required* for graduation (except for students with a double major) and helpful for many reasons. A minor can: (1) complement your major, (2) make you more competitive in the job market/as an applicant to graduate school, (3) give you a fuller understanding of some aspect of the human condition, (4) help foster your personal awareness, and (5) assist you in specializing your psychology training (e.g. a neuroscience minor may prepare you for training in biopsychology; a linguistics minor may prepare you for training in cognition; a family studies minor may prepare you for training in applied psychology). Questions about minor requirements/your double major should be directed to the director of the relevant program.

What classes should I take first?

After taking PSY 1010, complete your general education requirements and explore a minor. Focus first on PSY Core General & Content courses. Complete MATH 1010 (or equivalent) by your sophomore year so you can take OPTION A or B to complete the required Statistics/Research Methods sequence in your junior year. All Core General & Content courses should be complete by the beginning of your senior year (when graduate school applications are due) because many are prerequisites for capstone or elective courses. The Capstone requirement should be taken in your senior year (PSY 4950 in your final semester).

Psychology Requirements (current catalog 2019-2020)

Follow the requirements for your declared catalog year (see Cattracks). Refer to the current catalog for all course prerequisites, registration restrictions, grade requirements (i.e., individual courses for the major/minor must be passed with a C or higher; 2.5 Psychology GPA for courses being used for graduation), the course sunset policy, and the program residency policy.

Psychology Major and Teaching Major Requirements (45 credit hours)

Teaching Majors must meet the Teacher Education admission and licensure requirements (see Teacher Ed. Dept.) and are required to take PSY 4000 (preferred) or 4090.

CORE GENERAL COURSES (11 CREDITS)

PSY 1010 SS Introductory Psychology (3)		·	
You have two options to complete the required Statistics and Research Methods course sequence in Psychology. You			
must complete one option OR the other; you cannot complete the sequence by a combination of courses in each option.			
OPTION A (8)		OPTION B (8)	
PSY 3615, Psychological Statistics & Methods I (4) †		PSY 3600, Statistics in Psychology (3)*	
PSV 3616 Psychological Statistics & Methods II (4) +	OR	PSV 3605 Psychology Statistics Lab (1)**	

PSY 3610, Research Methods in Psychology (4)***

CORE CONTENT COURSES (18 CREDITS): Required to take 1 course from Areas A-F

AREA A	†PSY 2730	Biopsychology	3
AKEAA	†NEUR 2050	Introduction to Neuroscience)
AREA B	†PSY 3000	Child Psychology	3
AKEA D	†PSY 3140	Adolescent Psychology)
AREA C	PSY 3010	Abnormal Psychology	3
AREA D	†PSY 2250	Learning and Memory	3
AREA D	†PSY 3500	Cognition)
AREA E	†PSY 3460	Social Psychology	3
AREAE	†PSY 3430	Theories of Personality)
	†PSY 2000 SS	The Psychology of Human Relationships	
AREA F	†PSY 2370	Psychology of Women and Gender	3
	†PSY 3100	Psychology of Diversity	
		TOTAL	18

[†]Additional courses in each area may be taken as an elective

CAPSTONE REQUIREMENT (4 CREDITS)

PSY 4950 Capstone Experience: Promoting Psychological Literacy (1) (take in your FINAL semester)				
AND ONE (1) Capstone Course (3)				
Prerequisite: 24 PSY credits (including PSY 3610 or 3616) and instructor approval; additional capstones may be taken as electives				
Typically taught in FALL Semester Typically Taught in SPRING Semester				
PSY 4090 History and Systems of Psychology PSY 4000 Advanced General (required of teaching majors)				
PSY 4140 Theories of Development PSY 4050 Evolutionary Psychology				
PSY 4760 Tests and Measurements PSY 4100 Psychology in the Media				
	PSY 4310 Introduction to Counseling Theories			
(additional prerequisite: PSY 3010)				
PSY 4910 Senior Thesis (6, 3 credits in 1st term to defend the proposal: 3 credits in 2nd term to defend the final project)				

[†] OPTION A is a two-semester sequence (3615 in Fall, 3616 in Spring) that must be completed in the same year with the same instructor to complete the requirement. Sequence is recommended for the junior year, MATH 1010 or equivalent is a prerequisite.

^{*} MATH 1010 (or equivalent) is a prerequisite.

^{**}PSY 3605 is a prerequisite or co-requisite for PSY 3610. This pre-/co-requisite applies to ALL catalog years.

^{***}PSY SI3600 (or an equivalent with prior approval from the Department Chair) is a prerequisite.

ADDITIONAL COURSES (12 credits required for Majors and Teaching Majors taken from the Core Content, Capstone, or Electives Group A or B courses: see catalog for course prerequisites)

ELECTIVES GROUP A: Area Specialization Courses

PSY 2010	Science & Profession of Psychology	3
PSY 2020	Mental Health Awareness	3
PSY 2400	Positive Psychology	3
PSY 3020	Child & Adolescent Psychopathology	3
PSY 3030	Health Psychology	3
PSY 3240	The Psychology of Drug Use and Abuse	3
PSY 3255	Conditioning, Learning, and Behavior Modification	3
PSY 3270	Motivation and Emotion	3
PSY 3450	Psychology of Language	3
PSY 3730	Perception	3
PSY 3740	Neuropsychopharmacology	3
PSY 3850	Forensic Psychology	3
PSY 4510	Industrial & Organizational Behavior	3
PSY 4575	Psychology of Criminal Behavior	3
PSY 4900	Selected Topics in Psychology (may be repeated 3x for maximum of 9 credits)	2-3
PSY 4990	Seminar	1

ELECTIVES GROUP B: Individualized Instruction and Experiential Courses *

PSY 2800	Projects and Research	1-3
PSY 2830	Directed Readings	1-3
PSY 2890	Cooperative Work Experience	1-2
PSY 4380	Practicum	1-4
PSY 4800	Projects and Research	1-3
PSY 4830	Directed Readings	1-3
PSY 4890	Cooperative Work Experience	1-2
PSY 4920	Workshops, Institutes and Special Programs	1-3

^{* 6} credits maximum from Electives Group B will be allowed to apply toward the Major or Teaching major.

Psychology Minor (18 credits)

	<i>J</i>
Required Course (3 credits)	PSY 1010 SS Introductory Psychology
Elective Courses (15	Electives may be taken from any area but only 3 credits from Group B are allowed
credits)	to apply toward the minor.

Psychology Bachelor of Integrated Studies (BIS) Emphasis (20 credits)

Core General Courses	PSY SS1010 Introductory Psychology (3)
(11 credits)	OPTION A OR OPTION B to complete Statistics & Research Methods Sequence
	(8)
Elective Courses (9 credits)	Only one course from Electives Group B will be allowed to apply toward the BIS.
, i	Electives must receive approval from the Department Chair. See p. 11 for more
	information about the Psychology BIS Emphasis.

Extending your Learning beyond the Classroom

During your sophomore and junior years you should get involved in activities that will supplement your psychology coursework. Check with the Department Adviser and/or faculty members about opportunities such as research, directed readings, practicum, and involvement in Psi Chi and Psychology Club. These activities are fun, stimulating, and critical to make you competitive for jobs and/or graduate school. Everyone with whom you will be competing for a job or a place in a graduate program will have completed college with good grades. What will make you stand out from the crowd? Involvement in learning activities outside of the classroom is an excellent way to show your commitment and competence in the field of psychology. Supervised research and directed readings are excellent means for you to personalize your course of study through intensive exploration of a topic of your choice. Practicum is an excellent opportunity for you to apply what you have learned in the classroom in a psychoeducational context and to determine if a career in applied psychology is for you.

What are the benefits?

Students who participate in these activities often report they were a highlight of their college experience. Students seeking admission to graduate school can expect admissions committees to value the ambition and intellectual curiosity demonstrated by supervised research, reading, or practicum experiences. These experiences allow students to have more extensive and personalized attention than can be obtained in the classroom. Because a letter of recommendation is strongest when a faculty member can report knowing the student quite well, this more extensive contact with a professor can result in a particularly strong letter of recommendation.

Projects and Research

What is Projects and Research (PSY 2800/4800/4805/4910)?

This course is for students who want to get research experience. The research question may be your own idea or one being explored in a faculty member's ongoing research in which you get involved.

How do I enroll?

First, you must find a faculty member willing to serve as your research mentor. If the research idea is your own (e.g., an extension of a research methods project or other coursework), you should find a faculty member with interest and/or expertise in the area. Otherwise, you should investigate the current research ongoing in the department (see faculty websites and/or the research board in the Department) and seek to get involved in a faculty member's research lab. Your faculty mentor will then discuss with you the research course in which you should enroll. PSY 2800 is for students with no research experience and who have not yet taken Research Methods. PSY 4800 and 4805 are for students who are interested in research and who have taken Research Methods. PSY 4910 (6 credits taken over two consecutive semesters) is for students who would like to complete a senior thesis and/or earn Departmental Honors in Psychology. Your faculty mentor will discuss with you the credit hours and the work expectation of the course. Upon agreement, you will complete a form that will serve as a course contract between you and the faculty mentor. This form should be given to the Department Administrative Assistant, who will advise you on how to register for the course.

Directed Readings

What is Directed Readings (PSY 2830/4830/4835)?

This course is for students who want to investigate a topic of particular interest. The topic will be one that you and a faculty member agree upon and may involve exploring in more depth a theory/concept covered in a course or exploring a theory/concept not covered by a regularly scheduled course.

How do I enroll?

First, you must find a department faculty member who is willing to serve as your readings mentor. You should find a faculty member with interest and/or expertise in the area who is comfortable supervising your projects. Your faculty mentor will then discuss with you the reading course in which you should enroll. PSY 2830 (1-3 credits) is intended for students who have not yet taken Research Methods; PSY 4830 (1-3 credits) and 4835 (3 credits) are intended for students who have taken Research Methods. Your faculty mentor will discuss with you the credit hours and the work expectation of the course. Upon agreement, you will complete a form that will serve as a course contract between you and the faculty mentor. This form should be given to the Department Administrative Assistant, who will advise you on how to register for the course.

Practicum

What is Practicum (PSY 4380/4390)?

This course is for students who want to be placed in the college classroom as a TA or in state/community agencies for the purpose of getting supervised practice in application of psychological skills and knowledge. Practicum sites have included the WSU Counseling Center, Youth Impact, OUTreach Resource Center, Treehouse Museum, United Way, and WSU Introductory Psychology classes.

How do I enroll?

In order to enroll, you must have completed 18 Psychology credits (3 from PSY 1010) and have a PSY GPA of at least 3.0. Specific sites may have additional requirements. Application deadlines are early April for Fall placements and early November for Spring placements. The Practicum committee/supervisors will review completed applications and interview finalists. Your Practicum supervisor will discuss with you the credit hours (1-4) and work expectation of the course. Upon agreement, you will complete a form that will serve as a course contract between you and the faculty supervisor. This form should be given to the Department Administrative Assistant, who will advise you on how to register for the course.

Departmental Honors in Psychology

What is Departmental Honors in Psychology?

To earn Departmental Honors, a student must: 1) maintain a Psychology GPA of 3.7 and an overall GPA of 3.25, 2) successfully complete 6 hours of PSY 4910 Senior Thesis, and 3) complete 3 credit hours of General Honors coursework. Students who earn Departmental Honors will be recognized with special designations on their transcript and degree diploma, a personalized letter signed by the WSU President and the Honors Director, invitations to the Honors educational and social events and to the Honors Nye-Cortez banquet at the end of the academic year.

How do I enroll?

Students must apply to be awarded Departmental Honors and be cleared by both the Psychology and the Honors Program (https://www.weber.edu/Honors/contracts.html). After ensuring you meet the above requirements, you should complete the Entrance Application and submit it to the Honors Director (Stewart Library, 324, http://weber.edu/honors). After completing all department contract requirements, complete the Exit Application (801.626.7591; meganmoulding@weber.edu).

Psi Chi, International Honor Society in Psychology

Psi Chi is the International Honor Society in Psychology. Our chapter gives you the opportunity to join the honor society if you meet the standards required by Psi Chi and the Association of College Honor Societies. Our chapter requires that applicants be of junior or senior standing, have completed at least 10 credit hours in Psychology, and have a 3.25 overall and Psychology GPA.

Membership in Psi Chi is an earned honor for life. A permanent record of your membership is preserved at the Psi Chi National Office and may be used for reference purposes (e.g., applications for graduate school and jobs). One-time \$60 dues (\$45 National dues, \$15 Chapter dues) are for lifetime membership, a certificate suitable for framing, and other benefits. There are no annual dues.

When you are inducted into Psi Chi, you become eligible to wear Psi Chi regalia at graduation and to receive copies of Psi Chi's magazine, "Eye on Psi Chi'. Psi Chi members are eligible to present research papers/posters at Psi Chi programs held at national and regional conventions, and members may participate in Psi Chi's undergraduate and graduate research award and grant programs. Undergraduate members may submit their research for publication in the Psi Chi Journal of Undergraduate Research. For more information on Psi Chi and its benefits, visit www.psichi.org.

To join, submit a completed membership application and National and Chapter registration cards to the Psi Chi faculty adviser, who will then determine your membership eligibility.

Psi Cho, the WSU Psychology Club

You should consider joining Psi Cho, the Weber State University Psychology Club, if you love psychology and want to get involved in academic and social events related to Psychology but currently do not meet the chapter standards for membership in Psi Chi. Membership in Psi Cho will give you the opportunity to get involved in the department and on campus and to interact with your peers and faculty in Psychology. Please submit a completed Psi Cho membership application with your one-time \$15 chapter dues to the Psychology Club faculty adviser.

Bachelor of Integrated Studies (BIS)

How do I declare a Bachelor of Integrated Studies (BIS) in Psychology?

First, call 801.626.7713 to set up an appointment with the Director of the BIS Program (Student Services 140). Second, decide on your 3 areas of emphasis, one of which is Psychology. Finally, meet with each Department Chair to discuss your required and elective courses (see pg. 6). Call the Department Administrative Assistant (801.626.6247) to set up an appointment with the Department Chair. The Department Administrative Assistant will provide the Chair with a copy of your transcripts; you will need to bring a copy of your BIS contract. PSY 1010 will NOT count among the 20 credits you need if you count it as a General Education class.

Transfer Students

Which classes will transfer to WSU?

Weber State University accepts transfer credit from regionally accredited colleges and universities, and awards credit for competencies gained outside the university as measured by way of standard examination such as the College Level Examination Program (CLEP) and the Advanced Placement program (AP), the International Baccalaureate (IB), by special examination administered by individual departments, and by petition. The Transfer office can help you transfer to WSU the credits for courses taken elsewhere that may count towards your degree. For information on the transfer process at WSU, see weber.edu/Admissions/Transfer Guide.html. The Department Adviser, guided by the WSU Transfer Office and Utah State Board of Regents Policy, can accept the courses and credits as counting towards your Psychology major or minor. The Psychology Department accepts course credits from Psychology classes (no other departments) taken at regionally accredited universities (see https://ope.ed.gov/accreditation/. Information about a school's accreditation can be found at https://ope.ed.gov/accreditation/.

Why didn't my psychology courses transfer in the way I expected?

Your transcripts will be evaluated by the Transfer office as part of the admissions process at WSU. If a Psychology course(s) did not transfer in the way you expected you can request (by email or appointment) that it be reevaluated by the Department Adviser. If the university where you took your Psychology course(s) was acceptable, the Adviser will determine how the credits will count towards your Psychology major or minor. For the Adviser to accept a transfer course in lieu of a course in the WSU Psychology curriculum, you must demonstrate to the Adviser's satisfaction that the courses are equivalent, typically by bringing in a course syllabus or other similar documentation beyond the course description.

Residency Policy

The Psychology Department has a residency policy for students transferring undergraduate psychology credits from another accredited institution of higher education. Students who are majoring in Psychology must complete at least 9 credits hours of Psychology courses with a "C" or better in residence at WSU; students who are minoring in Psychology must complete at least 6 credit hours of Psychology courses with a C or better in residence at WSU. All transfer requests must go through the University Transfer Office.

Registration Assistance

Why am I getting an error when I try to register for this course?

The Psychology Department has many courses with pre-requisites or co-requisites and/or that require instructor approval in order to register. If you have met the course pre- or co-requisite (see Catalog), then you will need to contact the Department Administrative Assistant for permission to register (mickeycole@weber.edu; 801.626.6247). Once you have permission and/or instructor approval to register for a course, the Department Administrative Assistant will issue an override that will allow you to register for the course within your eWeber portal. Instructions and quick tutorials for the registration process can be found at http://www.weber.edu/Registration/Learn More.html.

Scholarships and Awards

What scholarships are available to psychology students?

Students apply annually (January deadline for the following academic year) for general scholarships by updating their Scholarship Application in the eWeber portal. The Psychology Department receives scholarship monies proportional to the number of students who apply. In allocating scholarship monies, the Psychology Department gives priority to students based on GPA and the completion of Core General courses (year in school is not relevant). The Dean's Scholarship is awarded annually to an outstanding psychology student with a strong GPA who, at a minimum, has completed Core General credits.

What awards are available to psychology students?

The Psychology Department grants three awards. The Outstanding Graduating Senior Award is granted to a psychology student graduating that academic year in recognition of overall excellence in coursework, research, and contributions to the department (sponsored by Dr. Rick Miller, WSU Distinguished Alumnus). The Outstanding Service Award is granted to a psychology student in recognition of excellence in service contributions to the department, for example in the context of Psi Chi or Psi Cho. The Eric Amsel Psychology Award is granted to an upcoming senior psychology student who has shown exemplary leadership, service to the department through active participation in departmental groups, and mentoring.

What other financial assistance is available to psychology students?

Each academic year, the Psychology Department hires advanced undergraduates to serve as tutors and the lab manager. Applications are advertised through the Department website.

Graduation

How and when do I apply for graduation?

You must be cleared for graduation for your major and minor and General Education requirements. Consult the Graduation office (https://www.weber.edu/graduation/) for information about application fees and deadlines. **The semester before you plan to graduate**, Psychology majors and minors should seek graduation clearance. Contacting the Department Administrative Assistant early to schedule your appointment leaves time to satisfy any remaining requirements. Majors meet with the Department Chair for a Graduation Evaluation (~15 minutes) after they have completed the WSU Psychology Graduation Evaluation (see Department FAQs https://weber.edu/psychology/FAQ.html). Minors meet with the Department Adviser for clearance (this can be handled over email with a request including student's W#).

What's next?

Psychology majors are highly employable because they have the good communication, interpersonal, and analytical skills desired by many employers. Psychology is well suited to careers that involve "helping people" and our students often find employment in hospitals, group/nursing homes, correctional or juvenile detention facilities, preschools, shelters, and local/state human services. Students should broaden their view of what it means "to help people." Psychology provides strong preparation for careers in sales and service jobs, human resources, management, student affairs/services, and in research jobs in finance & marketing (https://www.weber.edu/careerservices; http://scoutiescareersinpsychology.org/).

Many Psychology majors go on to medical, pharmacy, and law schools, as well as graduate programs in Psychology. Graduate education takes a lot of time, energy, and money, and it requires initiative, aptitude, and commitment. Graduate education is not a matter of desire: you must be an attractive applicant and that

requires planning and building a set of experiences that display your talents. Successful applicants have strong grades and test scores (e.g., GRE), research experience (e.g., conducting a project, presenting at a conference), professional experience (e.g., practicum, tutoring, Psi Chi), and personal statements and letters of recommendation from faculty who know them well. Successful applicants start building their vita early and work with the Adviser and faculty to clarify and reach their goals.

Department Listing

Professor	Area of Interest	Office	Phone (801)	Email address
Mickey Cole	Administrative Assistant	LH 379	626.6247	mickeycole@weber.edu
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Leigh Shaw (Adviser)	Developmental	LH 377	626.7429	lshaw@weber.edu
Todd Baird	Clinical	LH 371	626.7724	tbaird@weber.edu
Azenett Garza Caballero	Social	LH 372	626.6249	agarza@weber.edu
Sarah Herrmann	Social/Community	LH 374	626-6247	sarahherrmann@weber.edu
Todd Hillhouse	Biopsychology/Neuroscience	LH 392	626.6315	toddhillhouse@weber.edu
Joseph Horvat	Personality/Forensic	LH 385	626.6248	jhorvat@weber.edu
Theresa Kay	Clinical	LH 384	626.6247	tkay@weber.edu
Cade Mansfield	Developmental	LH 373	626.6247	cademansfield@weber.edu
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