

TRENDS IN PRECOLLEGE AND UNDERGRADUATE PSYCHOLOGY

Recent data on the number of students enrolled in precollege and undergraduate psychology courses demonstrate the growing interest of students in the study of psychological science. At the high school level, students have the opportunity to take a variety of psychology courses, including college-

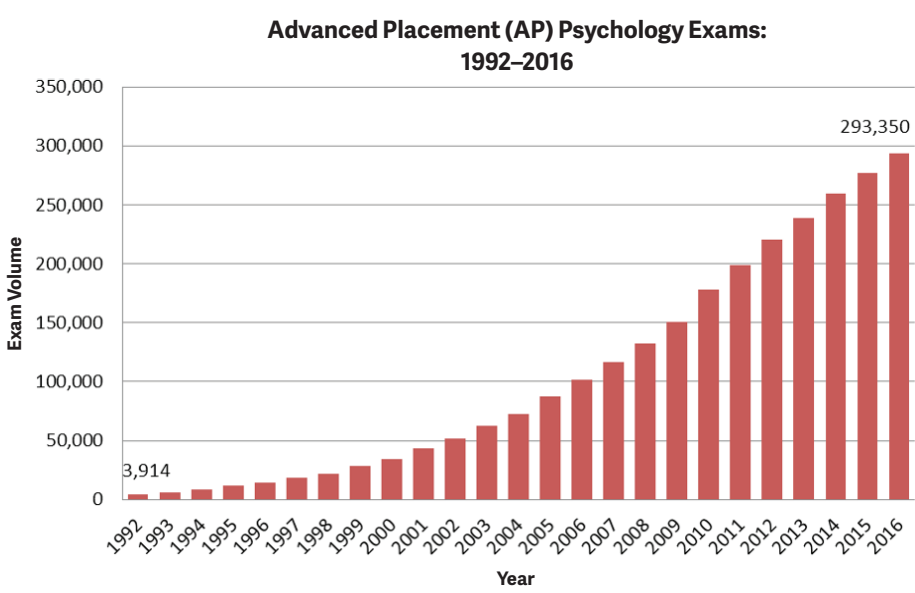
equivalency courses such as Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) psychology. At the undergraduate level, the introductory psychology course is one of the most popular courses in college; the psychology major is among the most popular of the undergraduate academic majors.

Why is this important?

High school and undergraduate psychology courses are the start of the psychology pipeline. These courses play an important role in educating the public about the science and practice of psychology.

HIGH SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY

NEARLY **294,000** students took the AP psychology exam in 2016. (College Board, 2016)

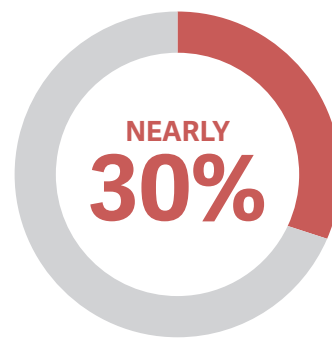


Source: College Board. (2016).



This makes AP Psychology the **6TH LARGEST AP COURSE** by exam volume.

It is **LARGER THAN ANY AP SCIENCE COURSE** by exam volume.



OF GRADUATING STUDENTS earned credits in a psychology course during their four years in high school. (From 2009 data; U.S. Department of Education, 2011)

This indicates that close to

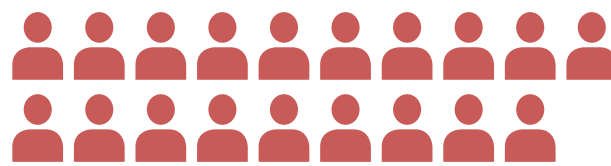
1,000,000

students graduated in 2009 having taken psychology in high school.



OF TEACHERS in a recent survey reported teaching other types of psychology courses besides AP or IB (e.g., introductory, dual credit)

OVER **19,000** =1,000 students students worldwide took the IB psychology exam in May 2016. (IBO, 2016)



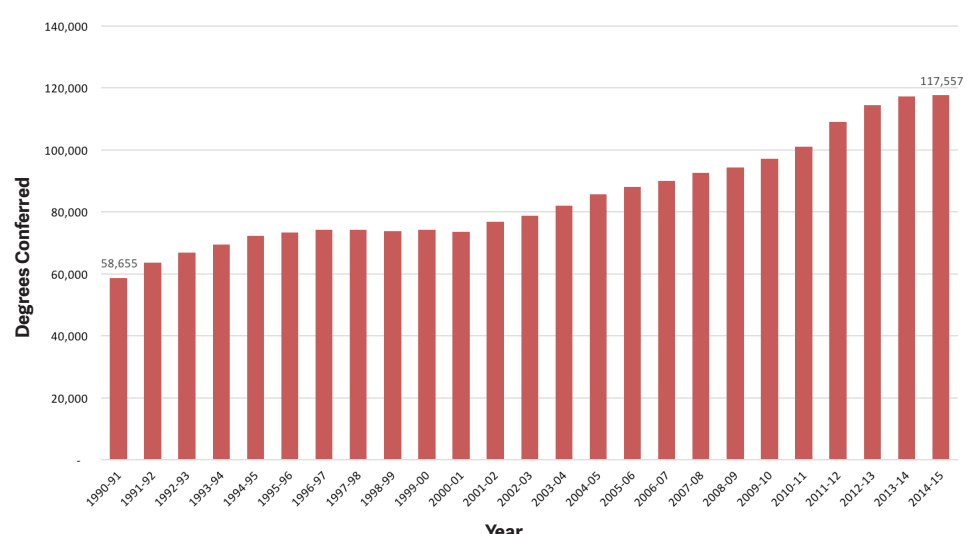
IB psychology is the **11TH LARGEST IB COURSE** by exam volume.

UNDERGRADUATE PSYCHOLOGY

OVER **117,000** bachelor's degrees in psychology were conferred in the 2014-2015 academic year. (NCES, 2016)

BETWEEN 1.2 AND 1.8 MILLION undergraduates enroll in the introductory psychology course each year (Gurung et al., 2016). The introductory course also served as a general education requirement for most undergraduate majors. (Norcross et al., 2016, p. 92)

Bachelor's Degrees in Psychology: 1992-2015



Source: NCES. (2016). Adapted from Table 322.10.

Retrieved from https://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d16/tables/dt16_322.10.asp

Interested in learning more? Visit <http://www.apa.org/ed/precollege/>
Contact education@apa.org for references.

