

Reading lists:

Top journals for the behavioral sciences

Moving beyond the overall top-ranked academic journals such as *The New England Journal of Medicine*, *Nature*, *JAMA*, *The Lancet*, and *Science*, this list looks at peer-reviewed journals focused specifically on the behavioral sciences. Although organized below into the six core disciplines, there is some overlap in focus. This is not an exhaustive list, given how narrow the topic of focus can become within certain topics. (With most of the listed journals having at least some open access content, an asterisk denotes that institutional/student member access is required to view any articles.)

Behavioral Sciences

General

[Journal of Contextual Behavioral Science](#)
[Current Opinion in Behavioral Sciences](#)
[Journal of Experimental Analysis of Behavior](#)
[Current Research in Behavioral Sciences](#)
[Behavioral Science and Policy](#)

Anthropology

[American Anthropologist](#)
[American Journal of Human Biology](#)
[Cultural Anthropology](#)
[Economics & Human Biology](#)
[Human Ecology](#)
[Journal of Human Evolution](#)

Criminology

[American Journal of Criminal Justice](#)
[Annual Review of Criminology](#)
[British Journal of Criminology](#)
[Criminal Justice and Behavior](#)
[Criminology](#)
[Criminology & Public Policy](#)
[Journal of Criminal Justice](#)
[Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency](#)
[Justice Quarterly](#)

Economics

[American Economic Review*](#)
[Econometrica](#)
[Economic Journal*](#)
[International Economic Review](#)
[Journal of Political Economy](#)
[Quantitative Economics](#)
[Quarterly Journal of Economics](#)
[Review of Economic Studies](#)
[Review of Economics and Statistics](#)

Neuroscience/Cognitive Science

[Affective Science](#)
[Behavioral and Brain Functions](#)
[Behavioural Brain Research](#)
[Behavioral Neuroscience](#)
[Brain, Behavior, and Immunity](#)
[Cognitive, Affective and Behavioral Neuroscience](#)
[Frontiers in Human Neuroscience](#)

[Nature Human Behavior](#)
[Nature Neuroscience](#)
[Neuroscience & Biobehavioral Reviews](#)

Psychology

[American Psychologist](#)
[Annual Review of Psychology](#)
[Clinical Psychology Review](#)
[Emotion](#)
[Frontiers in Psychology](#)
[Health Psychology and Behavioral Medicine](#)
[Journal of Applied Psychology](#)
[Journal of Experimental Psychology](#)
[Personality and Individual Differences](#)
[Psychological Bulletin](#)
[Psychological Methods](#)
[Psychological Review](#)

Sociology

[American Journal of Sociology](#)
[American Sociological Review](#)
[Journal of Marriage and Family](#)
[Social Forces*](#)
[Social Indicators Research](#)
[Social Science Research](#)
[Sociological Methods & Research](#)
[Socius](#)

Top professional societies for the behavioral sciences

The following lists detail many of the key organizations for professionals working within the disciplines encompassing the behavioral sciences. Professional societies can be a resource for conferences and publications highlighting new studies and research findings, as well as sometimes providing guidance or sharing internships for those seeking entry into a specific field of study. Such societies can also be a source of student paper awards.

Behavioral Sciences

Anthropology

- [Society for Applied Anthropology](#). Site offers student memberships, along with access to topical interest groups, publications, education programs, and research at annual meetings.
- [The American Anthropological Association](#). Site includes details on resident scholar fellowships, an annual meeting sharing research, membership benefits for students, K-12 resources, internships, higher education resources, and publications requiring member access.
- [The National Association for the Practice of Anthropology](#). Site includes application to enlist a mentor, as well as access to student memberships, publications, best practices, an ethical practice guide, and a toolkit for becoming a professional anthropologist.
- [World Council of Anthropological Associations](#). Site includes access to newsletters, working papers, webinars, and several publications.

Criminology

- [Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences](#). Site offers student memberships, including one free year for graduate students. Resources include publications, an annual meeting, and reviews of degrees and academic programs.
- [American Society of Criminology](#). Site includes access to publications, internships, and research opportunities. Resources include access to research, mentors, and funding, with student memberships available.
- [British Society of Criminology](#). With a membership category for U.K. students, the site provides access to publications, an annual conference, and specialist networks (including an early career researchers network).

- [European Society of Criminology](#). This site provides access to its journal, newsletter, working groups, and a summer school, with student membership open to Europeans.

Economics

- [American Economic Association](#). Site offers details on publications, annual meetings, and numerous resources including data sources, best practices, and economics links specifically for [students](#). Some high schoolers qualify for free access to its journals.
- [European Economic Association](#). Site includes student memberships, with access to its journal, papers, and council members.
- [Society for the Advancement of Economic Theory](#). Site includes open access to *Economic Theory* journal.
- [World Economics Association](#). Site offers access to books, journals, commentaries, textbooks, and even alternative texts and teaching links. Student membership includes unlimited access to library and conferences. Free membership includes access to many publications and a young economists network.

Neuroscience/Cognitive Science

- [Cognitive Neuroscience Society](#). Site details its annual meeting and cognitive neuroscience news. Membership discounts available for students in college.
- [Cognitive Science Society](#). Site includes access to its journal, conferences, and its listserv. Membership discounts available for students in college.
- [Society for Neuroscience](#). Site includes access to publications and tools for early career and higher education. With discounts for college students, members can present abstracts and access engagement opportunities including educational events.

Psychology

- [American Psychological Association \(APA\)](#). Resources include publications, databases, research, and news. Site offers networks and communities for college students, as well as provides [career advice](#) to students. High school students can join the American Psychological Association of Graduate Students ([APAGS](#)).
- [Association for Psychological Science](#). In addition to access to journals, videos, and career resources, the site allows visitors to drill down into specific research topics to access articles and news.
- [Society for Clinical Psychology](#). Resources include details on psychological treatments, principles for training, and advances in psychotherapy. With college student discounts available, membership includes a mentorship program and eligibility for student awards. A division of APA.
- [Society for Personality and Social Psychology](#). Site offers access to training programs, journals, publishing resources, journals, and online learning. College student memberships are available. A division of APA.

Sociology

- [American Sociological Association](#). Site details annual meeting, academic resources, and publications. With membership, students can access special events, a student forum, paper awards, an honors program, funding opportunities, and an advisory board.
- [International Sociological Association](#). Site provides access to research networks, publications, conferences, and national associations. "Junior sociologists" receive access to a worldwide competition, dissertation abstracts, and a network for PhD students.
- [Institute for Social Research](#). Site allows visitors to drill down into research by topics such as civil discourse and data and methods. Resources includes education programs, student research opportunities, and a junior professional researcher program.

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