

Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of General Studies in Psychology

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See here for more information (<https://catalog.ku.edu/liberal-arts-sciences/#undergraduate>) on the difference between a BA and a BGS.

Psychology examines all aspects of human behavior: Why do people behave the way they do? What makes people happy or unhappy? What are the relationships between the mind and the brain? Majoring in psychology allows you to explore the behavior of people and how their minds work, and then apply that knowledge to the modern world.

Students have many reasons for wanting to major in psychology. Some are simply fond of observing the behavior of others around them, fascinated with the results of their observations and curious to learn why people behave as they do. Some plan to become psychologists themselves or to enter one of the many professions where a background in psychology can be useful -- such as, business, teaching, medicine, nursing, law, social work, the ministry, counseling, student services, child development, administration, or human resources.

Our department offers a wide variety of psychology courses (<https://catalog.ku.edu/liberal-arts-sciences/psychology/#courseinventory>) from which to choose and additional experiences and opportunities are available beyond the classroom. There are many chances to engage in extracurricular enrichment, including Psi Chi (<http://psych.ku.edu/psi-chi/>), a research-focused Honors Program (<https://psychology.ku.edu/honors/>), research assistantships and volunteer opportunities in faculty labs (<http://psych.ku.edu/undergraduate-research/>).

Our scientific approach to understanding human behavior equips students with a solid foundation of analytical, research and interpersonal skills for careers in many fields with a human service emphasis.

Learn more about career paths available to psychology majors: What are you going to do with that degree? (<http://benschmidt.org/jobs/>) Where do college graduates work? (<https://www.census.gov/dataviz/visualizations/stem/stem-html/>)

Undergraduate Admission

Admission to KU

All students applying for admission must send high school and college transcripts to the Office of Admissions. Prospective first-year students should be aware that KU has qualified admission requirements that all new first-year students must meet to be admitted. Consult the Office of Admissions (<http://admissions.ku.edu/>) for application deadlines and specific admission requirements.

Visit the International Support Services (<http://www.iss.ku.edu/>) for information about international admissions.

Students considering transferring to KU may see how their college-level course work will transfer on the Office of the University Registrar (<https://registrar.ku.edu/credittransfer/>) website.

Requirements for the B.A. or B.G.S. Major B.A. or B.G.S. Major in Psychology Psychology Major Course Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
Psychology Core Knowledge and Skills		
Majors must complete a course in each of the following 9 areas:		
Orientation Seminar in Psychology. Satisfied by:		
PSYC 102	Orientation Seminar in Psychology	1
General Psychology. Satisfied by:		
PSYC 104	General Psychology	3
or PSYC 105	General Psychology, Honors	
Research Methods in Psychology. Satisfied by:		
PSYC 200	Research Methods in Psychology	3
Statistics in Psychological Research. Satisfied by:		
PSYC 210	Statistics in Psychological Research	3
Five PSYC courses at the 300-level		15
Social Issues and Ethical Behavior		
Majors must complete 3 hours. Choose one of the following:		
PSYC 465	Stereotyping and Prejudice Across Cultures	3
PSYC 492	Psychology and Social Issues	
PSYC 545	Culture and Psychology	
Psychology Required Electives		
Majors must complete 9 hours, at least 6 of these hours must be completed with courses numbered 300 or higher.		
Capstone Course		
LA&S 494	Senior Seminar in Liberal Arts and Sciences	
PSYC 460	Honors Thesis	
PSYC 620	Experimental Psychology: Sensation, Perception, and Cognition	
PSYC 622	Experimental Psychology: Social Behavior	
PSYC 625	Experimental Psychology: Methods in Psychophysiology and Neuroscience	
or approved capstone course		
Total Hours		37

Psychology Major Hours & Major GPA

While completing all required courses, majors must also meet each of the following hour and grade-point average minimum standards:

Major Hours

Satisfied by 37 hours of major courses. Note: No more than 3 hours of PSYC 480, PSYC 481, or PSYC 483 may count toward the minimum hours required for the major. (No more than a 6-hour combination of these courses may be counted toward the major.)

Major Hours in Residence

Satisfied by a minimum of 15 hours of KU resident credit in the major.

Major Junior/Senior (300+) Hours

Satisfied by a minimum of 24 hours from junior/senior courses (300+) in the major.

Major Junior/Senior Graduation GPA

Satisfied by a minimum of a 2.0 KU GPA in junior/senior courses (300+) in the major. GPA calculations include all junior/senior courses in the field of study including F's and repeated courses. See the Semester/Cumulative GPA Calculator (<https://sis.ku.edu/gpa-calculator/>).

A sample 4-year plan for the **BA** degree in Psychology can be found here: Psychology (<https://catalog.ku.edu/liberal-arts-sciences/psychology/ba-bgs-psychology/ba/>), or by using the left-side navigation.

A sample 4-year plan for the **BGS** degree in Psychology can be found here: Psychology (<https://catalog.ku.edu/liberal-arts-sciences/psychology/ba-bgs-psychology/bgs-in-psychology/>), or by using the left-side navigation.

At the completion of this program, students will be able to:

- Acquire and update knowledge base: Students acquire knowledge of the field; they understand influential theories, scientific findings, and applications to real-world issues.
- Critically evaluate and integrate information : Students should be able to understand, critically evaluate, organize, and integrate information. Students will receive training in scientific literacy to judge the validity and reliability of information (e.g., distinguish reliable from less reliable sources). This training is intended to enable students to independently.
- Address questions with objective evidence: Students should know the power, scope, strength, and limitations of scientific evidence, and aspire to use these standards ethically and where appropriate.
- Articulate applications of psychological knowledge: Students should understand the basic principles and applications of psychology and articulate how these principles can be useful in their everyday lives. They should also be able to communicate these principles and applications orally and in writing.
- Demonstrate social awareness and cultural understanding. Students should be able to understand the ways that sampling bias and investigator bias may shape psychological findings. Students should be able to consider the ways that ability, language, class, gender, sexuality, religion, nationality, ethnicity, indigeneity, and race influence psychological findings.

Departmental Honors

Students may inquire about departmental honors as soon as they are admitted to the undergraduate major. This program is distinct from College Honors (<https://honors.ku.edu/>). A student may earn College Honors, Psychology Honors, neither, or both. The Psychology Honors program requires students to have a faculty research mentor, take two semesters of PSYC 460 Honors Thesis, complete a research project, and present their findings in a public forum (including in the PSYC 460 course). Per the college rules, students must complete the course with a grade of B or higher. Per the college rules, the completion of these requirements must be certified to the departmental honors director by at least three members of the college faculty who have read the report of the independent research. Please reference the department website (<https://psychology.ku.edu/honors/>) for specific details.