Ψ Department of Psychology Ψ

Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Psychology

STUDENT HANDBOOK

2019-2020
Academic Year
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Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) for a Student Completing a B.A. in Psychology

Students graduating with a B.A. in Psychology will be able to do the following upon program completion:

SLO #1: Knowledge:
“Describe major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in psychology.”

SLO #2: Scientific inquiry and critical thinking:
“Engage in integrative, science-based reasoning to interpret behavior and solve problems.”

SLO #3: Ethical and social responsibility:
“Apply ethical standards to science and practice.”

SLO #4: Communication:
“Effectively write, speak, and interact with others.”

SLO #5: Professional development:
“Apply psychological content and skills to career goals, and develop professional direction for life after graduation.”

Department of Psychology Contacts

Department Chair: Joan McDowd, Ph.D.
Undergraduate Program Director: Kym Bennett, Ph.D.
Undergraduate Psychology Advising Director: Kym Bennett, Ph.D.
Administrative Assistant: TBD

Note: Please see Appendix A for full Department of Psychology faculty information

Department Information

5030 Cherry St., Room 324
Administrative Office Phone: (816) 235-1318
FAX: (816) 235-1062 (Please use cover sheet so your fax can get to the proper person)
Email: psychology@umkc.edu
On the Web
Undergraduate Psychology Program Advising Information

Undergraduate Psychology Program Advisors: Emily, Madeleine, Shannon, & Anahi. But, whoever is scheduled the day you are seeing them can help you! Please contact the Advising Office directly for an appointment or to answer your advising questions, rather than the Department office. The Department office cannot make appointments for the Advising Office.

Psychology Advisors are available to students for psychology course and program advising, declaration of major/minor, and career/professional development. The Advisors solve special problems and are the central records source for psychology majors and minors. The Advisors hold weekly office hours during the semester and are available by appointment; they also are available by walk-in if an appointment cancels or no one is being seen. However, appointments are strongly encouraged, especially during busy enrollment periods. Additionally, Advisors may need to be away from their scheduled office hours for campus events or meetings, so it’s best to contact them prior to coming to see them. See the Undergraduate Psychology Program website for specific hours.

5030 Cherry St., Room 330
Phone: (816) 235-1092
Fax: (816) 235-1062  (Please use cover sheet for privacy and to insure your fax gets to the proper person)
Email: umkcpuga@umkc.edu
How to be a Psychology Student Each Year at UMKC

**Your First Year**

- Welcome to UMKC!
- Save your Student ID SSO and password in a safe, secure place. You will need these in order to complete many tasks throughout your academic career.
  - Forgot your student ID? Forgot your SSO and Password?
  - You can get a new ID card at the Atterbury Student Success Center, you can contact Registration & Records for your student ID number, and you can get a new password from Information Services (IS).
- Check your UMKC email.
- UMKC email is the official communication of UMKC. You are held responsible for anything emailed to you from UMKC. Please check it frequently!
  - Need help accessing your email? Go here.
  - Please contact instructors directly regarding class issues or enrollment consents via e-mail.
- Begin working on General Education Core requirements ➔ Explore all of your options.
- Need General Education Core class advice? You can receive General Education advising from the CAS Student Services Advisors in room 009 of Scofield Hall. You can call them at 235-1148, and view their website.
  - All students should meet with CAS Student Services Advisors during their first semester, and continue to meet with them one to two times per year throughout their undergraduate career. Transfer and incoming first year students should meet with a Psychology Advisor by the end of their first semester and end of their first year, respectively. While students are not required to meet with a Psychology Advisor beyond their first year, we highly recommend you schedule appointments with them approximately one time per semester. This will help you stay on track with your requirements, and provides an opportunity for you to begin discussing graduate school and career opportunities.
- Taking any psychology courses? Make sure you check the pre-reqs for the courses before you try to enroll.
- Review the psychology Major Map to make sure that you are taking the right courses in the right sequence.
- Want to network and make friends within psychology? Join the Psychology Club today! This will also look nice on your resume!
- Check to see if any courses you’ve taken at other universities count toward your psychology requirements.
- Declare your major. By declaring your major, you will be added to our email listserv, which will keep you up-to-date on information regarding psychology.
  - How do I declare my major? You can declare your major with CAS Student Services or Psychology Advising.

**Your Second Year**

- Continue working on your General Education Core requirements and exploring all of your options.
  - You may contact the Career Counselors at the Career Services Office where they can help you firm up your career goals and figure out the best way to get there (816-235-1636).
- Have you completed the RooWriter Assessment yet? You must take this writing assessment before you can enroll our writing intensive course, PSYCH 495WI (Contemporary Issues in Psychology). Completion of
this writing assessment is mandatory after students have satisfied the Discourse II (or equivalent) requirement. Information about the RooWriter can be found here.

Have you taken MATH 110 (or any higher course) yet? This is a pre-requisite for PSYCH 316 (Quantitative Methods in Psychology), which should be taken by the end of your second year.

Taking any psychology courses? Make sure you make a C- or higher in order for the courses to count toward your psychology requirements.

Your Third Year

If you haven’t already done so… Declare your major

- How do I declare my major? You can declare your major with CAS Student Services or Psychology Advising.

After declaring your major, consider making an appointment with one of the Psychology Advisors to discuss any of the following:

- Check to see if any psychology courses you’ve taken at other universities are plugging into your degree audit correctly
- Plan of study in psychology
- Courses that are offered
- When to take different courses
- Learn more about what you can do with a degree in psychology
- Learn about graduate school
- Find out more about conducting research with faculty members in the Department through PSYCH 490 (Directed Individual Research)
- Find out more about conducting research at a Department partner site (e.g., Children’s Mercy Hospital) through PSYCH 491 (Psychology Research Externship)
- Find out more about internship opportunities through PSYCH 461 (Field Practicum)
- Learn the “how-to’s” for applying to graduate school by attending the Psychology Advising Graduate School Seminar
- Learn how you can become a member of the Psychology Club and/or a member of the International Psychology Honor Society, Psi Chi

Towards the middle/end of your junior year: Have you decided to continue your career in psychology by pursuing an advanced degree such as an MA or Ph.D.? If so, please stop by the Psychology Advising Office and pick up a “Graduate School Survival Guide.”

If you think you would like to attend graduate school (especially if you plan to apply for a Ph.D., or to programs that focus on experimental psychology [e.g., cognitive, development, social, biological]), speak with a Psychology Advisor about applying for a PSYCH 490 or PSYCH 491 research position. Do this by the end of the current semester so you can apply with a faculty member (or external partner site) for the upcoming semester. This will help you with developing your own research skills.

If you are considering applying to a graduate program in clinical psychology, counseling psychology, or social work, speak with a Psychology Advisor about taking PSYCH 461 (Field Practicum). Attaining human services-type experience in a community setting will help strengthen your applications. And, it will (hopefully!) confirm that a career in human services suits you.

Begin studying for the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) if you are planning to apply to graduate school. Plan to take the GRE the summer before your senior year. Also, check to see if the graduate program you are applying to requires the GRE Psychology Subject Exam as well as the general exam. It pays to research potential graduate programs well in advance—some MA programs do not require the GRE. Be sure to allocate enough time for this task!
Need career advice? Visit Career Services and meet with a Career Counselor who can help you find jobs, build your resume, etc.!

Taking any psychology courses? Make sure you make a C- or higher.

Students must apply for graduation in Scofield Hall, Room 9, two semesters (30 hours) before graduation to make sure all requirements are in order (816-235-1148). Students without degree programs on file with A&S Advising DO NOT graduate.

Your Fourth Year

Welcome to your senior year!

Once you have completed 90 credit hours, we encourage you to apply for graduation. Check the application for graduation deadlines on the academic calendar and find the form on the Registration & Records website. After you have applied for graduation, CAS Student Services Advisors will notify you via email of your academic standing and any remaining requirements. Please communicate with them directly regarding your remaining general education requirements.

After you receive the email notification from CAS Student Services, make an appointment with the Psychology Advisors in order to double check that everything is in place for you to complete your psychology requirements. (call us at 816-235-1092 for an appointment)

Taking any psychology courses? Make sure you make a C- or higher in order for the courses to count toward your psychology requirements.

Have you completed 105 hours of coursework? If so, you must take the Major Field Exam and the Proficiency Profile Exit Exam. You must take these to graduate. Information about these exams can be found here.

Have you decided to apply to graduate school?

✓ Have you applied for, and enrolled in, a PSYCH 490 research class yet? Or a PSYCH 491 class yet? It is highly recommended that you apply to do a PSYCH 490 or PSYCH 491 if you are planning on attending graduate school!
✓ Make sure to take the GRE in the summer or early fall, as most application deadlines are in early December. It can take 4-6 weeks for the scores to get to your chosen universities. Information about the GRE can be found here.
✓ Obtain useful resources on how to apply to graduate school from the Psychology Advising Office

Have you talked with a Psychology Advisor about an internship through PSYCH 461 (Field Practicum)?

Have you decided to apply to graduate school?

Are you seeking employment following graduation with your B.A.?

✓ Need advice? Visit Career Services and meet with a Career Counselor who can help you find jobs, build your resume, etc.!

Have fun at graduation! We wish you best of luck wherever your psychology degree takes you!
## UMKC Psychology B.A. Degree Requirements: Fall 2019

### Required Courses (13 credit hours)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course #</th>
<th>Course name</th>
<th>Credits, pre-reqs, additional information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>207</td>
<td>Introduction to the Psychology Major</td>
<td>1 credit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>210</td>
<td>General Psychology</td>
<td>3 credits; <em>a C- or better is a pre-req for all other courses</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>217</td>
<td>Academic &amp; Career Opportunities in Psychology</td>
<td>2 credits; co- or pre-req: PSYCH 207 with a C- or better, 15 credit hours completed, and declared Psychology major</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>302</td>
<td>Experimental Psychology</td>
<td>4 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>316</td>
<td>Quantitative Methods</td>
<td>3 credits; pre-req: any Math 110 or higher</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Foundational Courses (18 credit hours)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Foundational area</th>
<th>Course #</th>
<th>Course name</th>
<th>Credits, pre-reqs, additional information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1) Development</td>
<td>222</td>
<td>Child Psychology -OR- Psychology of Aging</td>
<td>3 credits 3 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2) Social</td>
<td>212</td>
<td>Social Psychology</td>
<td>3 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(3) Diversity</td>
<td>305</td>
<td>Psychology of Gender -OR- Ethnic &amp; Minority Perspectives in Psychology</td>
<td>3 credits 3 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(4) Clinical</td>
<td>323</td>
<td>Theory &amp; Methods of Personality -OR- Abnormal Psychology</td>
<td>3 credits 3 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(5) Cognitive</td>
<td>407</td>
<td>Cognitive Psychology</td>
<td>3 credits; recommended after 302 and 316</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(6) Biological</td>
<td>418</td>
<td>Brain &amp; Behavior</td>
<td>3 credits; recommended after 302 and 316</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Psychology Elective Courses (6 credit hours)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Suggestions and additional information</th>
<th>Credits, pre-reqs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Psych Elective #1</td>
<td>Select an extra course from a foundational area above, or choose from our other offerings</td>
<td>3 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psych Elective #2</td>
<td>For most students, PSYCH 495WI: Contemporary Issues in Psychology should be one psych elective</td>
<td>3 credits; PSYCH 495WI pre-req: completion of the RooWriter, PSYCH 210 with a C- or better, and PSYCH 302 with a C- or better</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Things to remember:

- The major requires 37 credit hours in Psychology, with a minimum of 12 credits completed here at UMKC. Also, students must complete at least 12 upper division credits within the major (i.e., 12 PSYCH credits at the 300- or 400-level).
- General Psychology (PSYCH 210) must be completed with a C- or better prior to enrollment in all other Psychology courses.
- Students may transfer in courses that match our courses by name, and courses that transfer in as psychology electives.
- Two psychology electives are required.
- A maximum of 3 credit hours of PSYCH 490/491 (supervised research) may be used toward fulfilling the psychology elective requirement.
- A maximum of 3 credit hours of PSYCH 461 (field practicum) may be used toward fulfilling the psychology elective requirement.
- A grade of “C-” or higher must be achieved for any Psychology course to apply towards the major in Psychology.

General Advice to help you develop your plan of study:

- Please note that the Psychology Department varies course offerings each semester. All courses are not offered every year.
- Do not plan to complete your coursework by taking courses only during the summer. The Department usually offers some courses during the summer term, but we can’t guarantee that required courses will be offered.
- Make sure you meet the pre-requisites for courses prior to enrollment.

Suggested Sequence of Psychology Major Requirements:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Year 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall of Year 1:</td>
<td>- PSYCH 210* (General Psychology)</td>
<td>Fall of Year 2:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring of Year 1:</td>
<td>- PSYCH 207 (Intro to the Psychology Major)</td>
<td>Spring of Year 2:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Year 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall:</td>
<td>- Diversity Foundational course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring:</td>
<td>- Clinical Foundational course</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Year 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall:</td>
<td>- Cognitive Foundational course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring:</td>
<td>- Biological Foundational course</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*PSYCH 210 with a C- or better is a pre-req for all other courses in psychology.
**PSYCH 495WI is our department’s Writing Intensive class (a requirement of all Arts & Sciences students). It is called, “Contemporary Issues in Psychology.” The topic rotates by semester and is based on the expertise area of the faculty teaching the course.
Psychology Minor

- A minor in Psychology requires 18 credits hours in Psychology.
- PSYCH 210 and 5 Psychology electives are required
- Students may transfer in courses that match our courses by name, and courses that transfer in as psychology electives.
- A minimum of 9 credits must be completed at UMKC, and a minimum of 9 credits need to be upper division (i.e., at the 300- or 400-level).
- A grade of “C-” or higher must be achieved for any course to apply toward the minor in Psychology.
Important Psychology Class Links

- The Catalog contains an updated list of all psychology classes offered through our Department, along with course descriptions.

- The online class schedule allows you to search when psychology classes are offered.

- For information on a suggested course sequence, please see our Major Map. It provides guidance about what courses to take, along with the semester in which we recommend you take them.

Graduation Requirements

Students can apply for graduation online through Pathway two semesters (about 30 credit hours) before they anticipate completing their degrees to make sure all requirements will be met.

Directions for how to apply for graduation in Pathway can be found here.

Graduation Requirements for the Psychology Major:

- All questions regarding the psychology degree requirements should be directed to the Psychology Advising Office, 5030 Cherry Hall, Room 330 or call (816) 235-1092.

  ✓ Please Note: A grade of D or F (either as a transfer or as a UMKC grade) will not count toward the 37 required credit hours for the psychology major, nor toward the 18-hour requirement for a psychology minor.

Departmental Requirements for Graduation Include the Following:

1. Approved Major Declaration Form on file in CAS Student Services.
2. CAS Student Services-approved degree audit.
3. A grade of “C-” or higher in ALL psychology courses.
4. A minimum of 12 upper division credit hours must be completed here in the UMKC Psychology Department.

Graduation Requirements for the Psychology Minor:

1. Approved Minor Declaration Form on file in CAS Student Services.
2. CAS Student Services-approved degree audit.
3. A grade of “C-” or higher in ALL psychology courses.
4. Nine of the 18 credit hours must be at the upper division (i.e., 3/400) level.
5. A minimum of nine credit hours must be completed here in the UMKC Psychology Department.
Psychology FAQs

*How do I register for classes?*

After deciding on the courses you would like to take, there are two easy ways for you to register for classes:

Before getting started, make sure you have two things:

1. Your student SSO (single sign on) and password

   **Can’t remember your email alias and/or your password? You have to go in person to the Registrar’s office (115 Administrative Center)**

2. The courses you would like to take and their 5 digit Reference Numbers

You may register for classes two ways:

1. **Pathway Registration:** This is an online registration system.
2. Walk-in and receive help registering at 115 Administrative Center (Registrar’s Office)

*New Students: Steps for Registration and Enrollment!*

If you haven’t received an admission decision yet or still need to apply, come in-person to the Office of Admissions for Walk in Review Days (WIRD) with all relevant application materials.

- Apply for Financial Aid & Scholarships.
- Once you are admitted to UMKC:
  - Set-up your single sign-on (SSO) and UMKC email address which gives you access to:
    - UMKC Pathway for registering, paying your bill, and updating your student information
    - UMKC computer labs
    - Canvas (for accessing online content for all your classes)
    - Take the Math placement test
    - Degree Audit Report (called Plan My Degree)
- Attend New Student Orientation where you will:
  - Meet with your academic advisor
  - Pick out your class schedule
  - Register for classes
  - Pay your fees
  - Get your student ID card
  - Purchase your textbooks at the UMKC Bookstore
  - Purchase a parking permit
  - Go to class! Classes for Fall 2018 start Monday, August 19th

*When can I add a class?*

Students may add classes to their semester schedule using Pathway through the first week of the semester. Depending on their major, or particular classes being added, students may need to contact their advisor for approval to register, add, or drop classes. If a student wants to add a class and the class shows closed on Pathway, the student needs to contact the instructor to see if there are any available seats (in some cases, the classroom cannot accommodate any additional students per the Fire Code). If the instructor says the student can add a class, he/she/they needs to complete an Add Form.
Because instructors’ schedules tend to be busy, it’s recommended that students e-mail instructors directly rather than stopping in to their office. This will allow you to quickly connect with the instructor to determine if you can add the course. The Department office cannot add students to classes.

If it is after the first week of classes, students need to contact the instructor of the course to see if they can add the class, then fill out an Add Form and take it to the instructor for his/her/their signature. The form then needs to be signed by a Psychology Advisor. Afterward, the form can be taken to Registration & Records to complete the enrollment process.

**What do I do if I have a hold on my account or someone says I have an advising hold?**
The Undergraduate Psychology Program advisors do not put holds on student accounts, and cannot remove holds from accounts. You must either contact the CAS Student Services for an advising hold, or the Cashiers Office for a cashier’s (financial) hold.

**I want to take more hours than the full-load. Who can help me take more hours?**
Contact CAS Student Services (9 Scofield Hall) 235-1148. You must petition the College if you’d like to take more than 17 credit hours during the fall or spring semester.

**How do I find out if my credits transfer from another university?**
UMKC Psychology currently accepts transfer courses from accredited institutions with Psychology as the prefix (e.g., PSYCH, PSY, PSYC, etc.). Those classes should show up on your degree audit after your transcript has been evaluated by UMKC. We advise all students with transfer credits to meet with a Psychology Advisor during their first semester at UMKC to make sure that their transfer classes are plugging into their degree audit correctly. If they are not, we can help to correct the degree audit.

*Note* The Psychology Advisors can only help you with psychology transfer course issues. For help with any general education transfer questions, please contact CAS Student Services at 816-235-2488.

**What Psychology courses count as electives?**
The Department offers a range of electives, such as: Introduction to Health Psychology (PSYCH 331), Motivation & Emotion (PSYCH 405), Field Practicum (PSYCH 461), Directed Individual Research (PSYCH 490), and Contemporary Issues in Psychology (PSYCH 495WI). Also, if you take both Child Psychology (PSYCH 222) and Psychology of Aging (PSYCH 440; both are in Developmental Foundational area), or both Theories and Methods of Personality (PSYCH 323) and Abnormal Psychology (PSYCH 430; both are in Clinical Foundational area), then one will count toward the Foundational Area and one will count as a psychology elective. The same is true for Psychology of Gender (PSYCH 305) and Ethnic & Minority Perspectives in Psychology (PSYCH 320; both are in the Diversity Foundational area).

**How can I withdraw from a class?**
Students may drop classes in the same way they register for classes. Please note that withdrawing from classes does not release students from financial obligations to the University. Check the academic calendar on the Registration website for withdrawal deadlines and refund percentage deadlines.

Withdrawals can be processed in two ways:
- In-person at the Registration Office, 115 Administrative Center
• Accessing your Pathway account
• Always confirm your withdrawal by accessing your Pathway account. If you have any problems or questions, contact the Registration Office at 816-235-1125

IMPORTANT: No one (including faculty and advisors) can withdraw for you. Your signature (or PIN) is required to withdraw from any class. Undergraduate and graduate student withdrawal deadlines differ and are strictly enforced. If you require advising or have questions, contact your advisor before withdrawing.

**What is academic assessment?**

After the eighth week of the fall and spring semesters (after the 4\textsuperscript{th} week during the 8-week summer session), withdraws may be assessed academically. Both undergraduate and graduate students may receive a WF (withdraw failing) grade from their instructor if they are failing at the time of withdrawal. A WF is not calculated in the GPA for undergraduate students. Students are encouraged to discuss the withdrawal from class with their instructor. For more information about withdrawals, please visit Registration & Records.

**Where can I find out my grades?**

Visit your Pathway account. You can also request a Degree Audit Report (Plan My Degree). This is an automated report that reflects student’s academic progress toward the completion of a degree. A student may request a degree audit for their major. In addition, a student may request "What If" reports for other majors or minors they may be considering. The report automatically places the student's UMKC course work, transfer courses, and courses in progress within a series of requirements and sub-requirements for a specific degree program. Please note that a Plan My Degree audit is not a confirmation of requirement or degree completion. You must meet with your academic advisor to confirm progress towards earning your degree.

**What is “academic probation” and how do I know if I’m ineligible?**

Undergraduate degree-seeking students' academic status is assessed at the end of every term, whether the student is full-time or part-time. A summer session is considered the same as a semester for the purpose of the policy. The policy can be found here.

**How can I find out more information about Disability Services?**

The Office of Services for Students with Disabilities (OSSD) is available to assist any UMKC student with a diagnosed disability. Because each person is unique, their office asks that you contact them for an appointment so that they can discuss how best to assist you. They can be reached at (816) 235-5696 or by e-mail at disability@umkc.edu.

During your first visit with OSSD, they will get to know you, your strengths and needs, as well as explain their procedures. To help them in this process, they ask you to provide a written evaluation of your disability. This is usually a letter or a formal evaluation prepared by your physician, psychologist, specialist, etc. who is qualified to diagnose your particular disability, and who is not related to you. The evaluation should indicate the evaluator’s name, title, address and credentials and should be typed, dated, legible, and signed by the professional. Ideally, the evaluation should be no more than three years old. Any evaluation that is more than three years old may be accepted for conditions that are not expected to change over time. This will be assessed on a case by case basis. The evaluation should clearly state the type of disability and provide sufficient information to assist them in understanding the unique way your disability impacts you in an educational
setting. It should include all tests performed and all scores obtained. This evaluation will help in determining what accommodations are appropriate and other ways they can support you.

What is the RooWriter and do I really have to take it?
Yes, you are required to complete the RooWriter Assessment. It is an online writing assessment that provides feedback to students on their writing skills. Students will have 72 hours to write a critical essay of 750-1500 words based on a discipline-specific reading packet. The RooWriter Assessment must be completed after Discourse II (or its equivalent). In addition, you must complete the RooWriter before you enroll in any Writing Intensive (WI) class. For the psychology major, you must complete the RooWriter before enrolling in PSYCH 495WI, Contemporary Issues in Psychology.

When should I see an advisor?
You are required to see a Psychology advisor at least once during your time at UMKC. For transfer students, you will be required to see us during your first semester. For new first-time students, you will be required to see us before the end of your first year. However, we strongly encourage you to see a Psychology advisor each semester. We are here to assist you with course planning, class registration, preparation for job-searching or graduate school applications, and so much more.

How do I get involved in research as a Psychology major?
If you are interested in psychological research, or plan to attend graduate school, consider getting involved in a research lab or conducting an individual research project. The Department of Psychology offers an elective, PSYCH 490 (Directed Individual Research), which may be taken for 1-6 credit hours. This course is taken under the supervision of a faculty member within the Department of Psychology. Most faculty members prefer that students have completed PSYCH 302, the research methods course in Psychology, before completing a 490.

Refer to the list of faculty members on the psychology website to determine which faculty members perform research similar to your own interests, then e-mail the faculty member about their requirements for completing this opportunity. Once you have found out if the faculty would accept a 490 student, students need to fill out the PSYCH 490 application and submit it to the faculty member via their mailbox. Contact the Psychology Advising Office if you need help in determining which faculty is the best match or with the process. Students can find information about the 490 process and procedures as well as the 490 application here.

Students also can gain research experience by completing PSYCH 491 (Psychology Research Externship). This is a complementary class to PSYCH 490, but the research project is under the supervision of a community partner. In the past, we have had students complete PSYCH 491 courses at Children’s Mercy Hospital, the University of Kansas Hospital, and Saint Luke’s Cancer Center. These opportunities change each semester, so watch your email to receive updates about openings via the listserv.

Are there internship opportunities in psychology?
There is no requirement for an internship for your psychology degree at UMKC. However, we are now offering an internship course to provide our students with human services-related experiences. This course, PSYCH 461 (Field Practicum), will serve as a psychology elective. Preference will be given to psychology majors or minors in their junior or senior years. We partner with community agencies to offer this course. Generally speaking, the 3-credit class requires 120 hours of on-site work at the internship site; this hands-on experience
accompanies readings and reflections completed online for the course. Internship opportunities change each semester, so watch your email to receive updates about openings via the listserv. You also may contact the Psychology Advising Office for more information.

**Where do I get information about commencement procedures?**
Information regarding commencement can be found [here](#).

**Do I have to take an exit exam or major field exam?**
Yes, CAS Student Services will send you information regarding both exams. You must complete these exams before you can graduate from UMKC. In order to receive this information in a timely manner, make sure that CAS Student Services is aware of the correct semester in which you plan to graduate. For information about the exams, contact Testing Services at 816-235-5820.

**Where do I get information about graduate programs in Psychology?**
The Psychology Advising Office has some files and books on graduate school. In addition, conducting web searches for programs that interest you are very helpful. There are also several books published that focus on what you need to get into graduate school. *Graduate Programs in Psychology* is published yearly by the American Psychology Association (APA) and lists every graduate program in the nation, along with their requirements. If you are interested in going to graduate school in psychology and becoming a psychologist, the accrediting body and professional organization for psychologists is the APA. It would be especially helpful to look at their information about accredited Ph.D. programs and graduate school information.

**What do I need to do to apply to graduate school?**
The first thing to do is decide what area of Psychology you want to focus on - such as Clinical, Counseling, Social, School, Industrial/Organizational, Biopsychology, etc. Then decide if you are interested in obtaining your Master’s or a Ph.D. The requirements will vary depending on the type of program. Students will most likely need to: 1) complete applications for graduate programs, 2) take the General and perhaps the Subject GRE exam, 3) obtain letters of recommendation from faculty members, and 4) submit additional program and university application materials (e.g., official transcripts from all universities attended).

Most students apply to a dozen or more Ph.D. programs, as they are VERY competitive. Most graduate programs prefer that you have research experience, so consider taking PSYCH 490 (Directed Individual Research) to help you become a competitive applicant. Consult with graduate program websites for deadline dates and admissions requirements, as most have their own requirements aside from the university requirements. Deadline dates vary but many are December/January or March, depending on the type of program. Not all graduate programs admit each semester. In fact, most only admit once per year, and most do not admit large incoming classes. When contacting graduate programs for information, make sure you ask for a particular program that department or school has. If you start by asking about their “graduate program” they will need to ask you more questions. It’s better to be prepared before you contact them, and it is definitely preferred that you e-mail programs with your questions rather than calling.
How do I find information about the Ph.D. in Psychology programs at UMKC?

Please refer to the UMKC Department of Psychology website for information about our Clinical Psychology Ph.D. option or our Applied Cognitive and Brain Sciences Ph.D. option. If you have general questions about the type of program that may be best for you, please make an appointment to discuss your options with a Psychology Advisor, or attend their Graduate School Seminar. Career counseling at UMKC can also be a valuable resource if you are undecided about a career. Most students applying to graduate school apply to many different programs so be prepared to submit more than one graduate school application.

I want to be a therapist who works with people, what degree is best for me?

If you are most interested in being a therapist, a Master's degree (MA) is your quickest option. The requirements for licensure vary by state, but an MA in counseling would be your best option in Missouri. A Ph.D. in either field will give you the most options, though. Although the fields vary by theory, both will prepare you to be a researcher, therapist (after passing possible additional state licensure exams), or faculty member. Note that at UMKC, the MA & Ph.D. Counseling programs are offered through the UMKC School of Education, NOT the Department of Psychology.

Want Recognition? Get involved in Undergraduate Research at UMKC:

Undergraduate Research allows you the opportunity to design a research project based on your own personal area of interest! You will work with a faculty mentor on your project and fulfill your potential by participating in “cutting-edge work.” This will usually involve applying and enrolling for PSYCH 490 in the Fall so you can continue in the Spring semester with your faculty mentor’s prior approval. After completing your project, you will present your work at the annual symposium.

Undergraduate Research includes the following immediate benefits:

1. One-to-one faculty interaction and hands-on experience
2. A safe place for intellectual risk-taking, learning to think creatively, sharpening problem-solving skills, and creating new knowledge
3. Exploring potential careers while enhancing professional communication skills and applying research methods and ethics
4. Networking with faculty and other student researchers
5. Presenting your work in a public forum with the opportunity for professional feedback and recognition for achievement

Need Help Writing a Paper? Visit the UMKC Writing Studio

The Writing Studio provides a variety of free resources to all UMKC students. Whether it’s developing ideas, organizing essays, theses, or dissertations, the Writing Studio works with writers at all levels, undergraduate through graduate, and from all the schools and divisions of the University.

Visit the Atterbury Student Success Center!

A collaboration between students and the university, the Student Success Center is specially designed to promote academic success. The offices located in the Student Success Center work together seamlessly to provide students with the support they need to develop, grow and graduate. The Student Success Center will play a key role in enhancing the overall student experience at UMKC.
Below is a list of many activities for you to get involved in while attending UMKC. There are many more activities than what is listed below! Please visit the Office of Student Involvement website for more information and activities.

**Interested in being part of a student organization?**
- **IFC Fraternities:** Beta Theta Pi, Lambda Chi Alpha, Sigma Phi Epsilon, Sigma Alpha Epsilon
- **Panhellenic Sororities:** Alpha Delta Pi, Chi Omega, Delta Zeta, Alpha Sigma Alpha
- **Local Sororities:** Delta Rho
- **NPHC Fraternities:** Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.
- **NPHC Sororities:** Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
- **Other Organizations:** Gamma Alpha Lambda, Sigma Gamma Rho Inc., Lambda Theta Phi, Kappa Psi Pharmaceutical Fraternity

**Feel like being part of a team or forming your own? Join a UMKC intramural team!**

**Feel like being involved politically? Join the Student Government Association (SGA)**

**Feel like getting in shape?**
Check out the weight and exercise equipment as well as aerobic classes at the Swinney Recreation Center. Personal trainers are also available (extra fee).

**Come be a part of the Fighting Roos action and attend a Roos sporting event!**
UMKC has numerous sports teams including: cross country, track and field, men’s and women’s basketball, women’s volleyball, men’s soccer, men’s and women’s golf, men’s and women’s tennis, softball!

**New to Kansas City?**

**Things to Do & See in Kansas City**
Visit the Country Club Plaza for shopping, restaurants, movies, art fairs, etc! The Plaza is within walking distance of the campus. For more information:

Visit historic Westport featuring eclectic stores and multicultural restaurants.

River Market  (Another diverse location with shops and farmers’ market on the weekends)  
201 Wyandotte  
(816) 471-6789

Crossroads Art District  (1st Friday Art Walk; art galleries galore; every first Friday of the month there is a free art walk. Food, music, art & fun!)

Kansas City Zoo  
6800 Zoo Drive  
Swope Park  
(816) 513-5700

Nelson Atkins Museum of Art  (Within walking distance of campus!)  
4525 Oak Street  
(816) 751-1278

Worlds of Fun Amusement Park  
4545 World of Fun Ave.  
(816) 454-4545

Power & Light District  
Shopping, free concerts, AMC Theater, restaurants, Sprint Center

Sports Fan?  
Watch a professional football, soccer, or baseball game with friends:  
Chiefs  
Sporting KC  
Royals

Website with all the wonderful places to visit in Kansas City
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Degree, University</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Research Interests</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kymberley Bennett</td>
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<td>The impact of social cognition on health. In particular, how causal attributions shape physical and psychological health in patients with cardiovascular disease.</td>
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### Joan McDowd
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**Department Chair**

Research interests: Cognitive aging, particularly attention and memory processes. Inhibitory function and selective attention in executive functioning.

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### Johanna Nilsson
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Research interests: International issues and populations (e.g., international students, refugees, and immigrants), supervision, and social justice advocacy.

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### Alexis Petri
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**Associate Research Professor**  
**Director, Propel Program**

Research interests: Young adults from marginalized populations, often having experienced trauma, and college-going. Specific focus on educational policy, experiential and applied learning, high impact learning strategies, and universal design for learning.

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### Melisa Rempfer
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**Director of Clinical Training, Clinical Psychology Ph.D. Option**

Research interests: Serious mental illness, disability and rehabilitation, neurocognition and community outcomes for individuals with psychiatric disabilities, and community-based participatory research.

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### Joah Williams
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**Assistant Professor**

Research interests: Psychosocial and health consequences of trauma exposure across the lifespan. More particularly, the development and evaluation of traumatic stress prevention and early intervention programs.

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### Psychology Advising Office

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