Frequently Asked Questions About Psychology Requirements

What are the requirements for a Bachelor's degree in psychology?

- The psychology degree requirements have changed for all students entering in the program in Fall 2005 and after.
  - Pre-Fall 2005: Requires 28 hours in psychology, with a minimum of 22 completed at UMKC.
  - Fall 2005 – current: Requires 31 hours in psychology, with a minimum of 22 completed at UMKC.
- For specific degree requirements, please see our psychology website at: http://cas.umkc.edu/psyc/UndergradPlanOfStudy.asp.

What psychology courses count as electives?

- 300/400 level psychology courses may count as psychology electives. The department offers a broad range of electives, such as: Introduction to Health Psychology, Introduction to Community Psychology, Ethnic and Minority Perspectives in Psychology, Psychology of Women, and Family Life Cycle.
- However, if you take multiple courses from a specific Core Area (for example, Core Area A requires you to take either Child Psychology or Social Psychology), then one of your courses from that Core Area will fulfill your Core Area requirement, and the other will count as one of your psychology electives.

How do I find out if my psychology credits transfer from another university?

- General Psychology will always transfer from other universities, providing you earned a grade of C- or better
- UM Student transfers:
  - You will receive direct credit for any psychology core courses that you have taken that are offered at UMKC
- In order for other courses to transfer, they must:
  - be approved by UMKC Psychology Faculty.
- To determine which courses will transfer:
  - You will first need to meet with a Psychology Advisor to review your transcript. At this time you will need to have copies of the syllabi from the psychology courses you wish to have transferred (Note: Many students do not keep copies of the syllabi from all their courses. If you do not have a copy of a syllabus you need, contact the instructor who taught the course by email or phone, and normally he or she can send you a copy).
  - A Psychology Advisor will then submit you syllabi to faculty in the department to determine if the course is equivalent to the UMKC psychology course.
  - A Psychology Advisor will contact you within a month regarding the status of the course transferring.
- Please allow sufficient time to determine if your courses are equivalent. Waiting until your last semester could delay your graduation.
• Also keep in mind that you **must complete a minimum of 22 of your psychology** hours at UMKC, which will limit the amount of courses that you may transfer in from another university.

**Is Biopsychology I (Psych 418) still being offered?**

• Yes, this course is still offered, however the name has been changed to Brain and Behavior I (still PSYCH 418).

**When do I take the psychology capstone course?**

• This course is to be competed in your senior year (after you have completed 90 credit hours) and after successful completion of Experimental Psychology (Psych 302WI).

• History and Systems of Psychology PSYCH 415 is the capstone for the psychology major. It is an enrollment controlled course and requires permission from the Department of Psychology. After completing the pre-requisites, contact the Psychology Advising Office to be granted permission for enrollment in PSYCH 415 History and Systems of Psychology.

**RESEARCH**

**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, Psychology 490 Directed Individual Research, which may be taken for 1-6 credit hours, but only 3 credit hours will count towards the psychology elective requirement. 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 302WI, the research course in psychology, before completing a 490.

• Because we have a limited number of faculty members, students must apply for a Psych 490 position. The steps for applying are as follows:
  
  o First, refer to this list of faculty members to determine who may have research interests similar to your own. The list of faculty can be found at: [http://cas.umkc.edu/psyc/People.asp](http://cas.umkc.edu/psyc/People.asp) or you can pick one up by stopping by the Psychology Advising Office.

  o Second, contact professors who you would be interested in working with to determine if they are accepting applications for their research labs. We suggest contacting more than one professor about lab opportunities to increase your chances of acceptance.

  o Third, fill out the 490 Application. You will need to fill out a separate application for each position in which you plan to apply. The application can be picked up in the Psychology Advising Office.

  o Last, return the 490 application to the professor’s mailbox located in the Department of Psychology Office at: 4825 Troost, Suite 124. Typically professors will notify students within a few weeks.
INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Are there internship opportunities in the Department of Psychology?

- Currently, the Department of Psychology does not offer internship opportunities. However, the Career Services Center can assist students in finding jobs or internships related to psychology. For more information, please call: (816) 235-1636.
- The Communication Department does offer a course related to internships (Communication Studies 484). The credit you receive would be for your general education requirements and not your psychology requirements. However, any internship experience that you can gain will be beneficial for you in the future, so even though you would not receive psychology course credits for this class, we highly encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity if feasible.
  - For more information, please contact Carol Koehler at: (816) 235-1693 or by email at: koehlerc@umkc.edu.

GRADUATION PROCEDURES

What is a degree audit?

- When you have completed 90 credit hours, you should complete a degree audit through Arts & Sciences Advising (Scoffield Hall, Room 9). An Arts and Science Advisor will check that you have taken the required general education requirements, and inform you of what you still need to complete to graduate.
- After you have completed a degree audit with Arts and Science Advising, you need to complete a psychology degree audit with a Psychology Advisor. This process is similar to the degree audit you performed with Arts and Science Advising, except that we will be checking to make sure you have completed your psychology requirements. We will also inform you of what you have left to complete to graduate with a B.A. in psychology.

What is the Measure of Academic Proficiency and Progress (MAPP) exam?

- The MAPP tests college-level reading, writing and comprehensive skills. All students seeking to earn a degree from UMKC must complete the test to graduate. It is a 40 minute, multiple choice test. Students are eligible to take the test when they have completed between 70-90 credit hours. This exam will not appear on your transcript and does not affect your GPA.

What is a Major Field Exam?

- The major field exam is a 2 hour, multiple choice exam that tests your knowledge of psychology. It must be completed to graduate. The grades on the test assess the level of comprehension our undergraduates have upon earning their degree, which helps evaluate the effectiveness of our program. To be eligible to take the exam, students
must have completed 105 credit hours. This exam will not appear on your transcript and does not affect your GPA.

**How do I sign up for the MAPP and the Major Field Exam?**
- Both exams are given through the Assessment Office, which sends email reminders several times a semester to students eligible to take the tests. However, if you have not received an email or have deleted one, you can also sign up through the Testing Services website at: [https://www.umkc.edu/provost/testing/services/assessment.asp](https://www.umkc.edu/provost/testing/services/assessment.asp).
- Both tests are given several times throughout a semester, but we suggest taking them as soon as possible. Failure to complete the exams on time could delay your graduation. For a complete list of exam dates, please visit: [http://irapweb.umkc.edu/assessment/exitexams/examdates.aspx](http://irapweb.umkc.edu/assessment/exitexams/examdates.aspx).

**How do I apply for graduation?**
- You can apply for graduation at the College of Arts & Sciences Advising Office (Scoffield Hall, Room 9). The advising staff will help you complete all the necessary documents for graduation. In addition, for further information, please visit the Registrar’s graduation website at: [http://www.umkc.edu/registrar/graduation/default.asp](http://www.umkc.edu/registrar/graduation/default.asp).

**Where do I get information about commencement procedures?**
- Information regarding commencement can be found at: [http://www.umkc.edu/commencement](http://www.umkc.edu/commencement).

**GRADUATE SCHOOL**

**What do I need to do to apply to graduate school?**
- Applying to graduate school is a lengthy process. To make things easier for you, we have created a “Applying to Graduate School: Survival Guide” available upon request in the Psychology Advising Office. It gives helpful information on what to think about when applying for graduate school and the steps you need to take.
- In addition, if you have general questions about the application process, we would be happy to meet with you.

**Where do I get information about graduate programs in psychology?**
- For a comprehensive review of available psychology graduate programs, we recommend *Graduate Study in Psychology*. It is published yearly by the American Psychological Association and lists every graduate program in the nation, along with their requirements. Internet searches also can provide you with a plethora of information on different programs.

**How do I find information about psychology graduate programs offered at UMKC?**
For information about the Clinical Psychology Ph.D. or Interdisciplinary Ph.D. please visit our website at: [http://cas.umkc.edu/psyc/grad/GCPhD.asp](http://cas.umkc.edu/psyc/grad/GCPhD.asp) and click on the appropriate link.

For information on the Counseling Psychology Ph.D. or the Masters in Counseling and Guidance, please visit: [http://education.umkc.edu/CEP/](http://education.umkc.edu/CEP/) for more information, or contact the Education Department at: umkccep@umkc.edu or (816) 235-5270.

**What types of graduate programs are available in psychology?**

- There are a plethora of graduate programs in psychology! Graduate programs in psychology can normally be divided into two groups: Applied Psychology and Research Psychology.
- Applied psychology includes: clinical psychology, counseling psychology, community psychology, health psychology, forensic psychology, industrial/organizational psychology, and sports psychology.
- Research psychology includes: educational psychology, cognitive psychology, experimental psychology, environmental psychology, developmental psychology, neuroscience, psychometric (quantitative) psychology, and social psychology.
- However, do not assume that just because you look into applied psychology programs that you will not be doing research. Many clinical, counseling, and health programs, along with others, focus a lot of attention on research.

**What career options are available for persons with a M.A. or a Ph.D. related to psychology?**

- There are many options for individuals with graduate degrees related to psychology! Many persons work as professors; conduct psychological research; work as therapists, counselors, or in medical settings; or do any combination of the three.
- Work is available at universities, health care agencies such as hospitals, in private practice settings, and through research centers.
- However, depending on the type of graduate degree you seek, it may limit what your options are for job opportunities. Be sure to check what your graduate degree will specifically train you to do before beginning a program.