

Health Psychology Graduate Certificate Program Handbook

2020-2021

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Program Directory and Overview

Director:

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Co-Director:

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Graduate Academic Advisor:

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438 Fraser Hall, 785-864-4195

Policy Statement

The Graduate Certificate Program in Health Psychology is designed to provide exposure to theoretical and empirical research in Health Psychology that will augment a student's primary course of study and provide certification of the completion of the program on a graduate transcript. The Health Psychology Certificate Program is associated with the Clinical Psychology Graduate Program and the Major Area of Study in Clinical Health Psychology within that Program.

Who Would Benefit from a Health Psychology Certificate?

From the very beginning, Health Psychology has always been a "hybrid" discipline. Following from those interdisciplinary roots, the Health Psychology Certificate would welcome students from a broad range of programs who have a variety of educational goals.

Students in Health Service Delivery Programs. Course offerings provide students the option of selecting classes that could be used to inform practice with patients with chronic or acute health problems. Practicum training is NOT offered, but didactic work can be used to inform training offered in other programs that prepare students to deliver mental or physical health related services (e.g., Counseling Psychology, Social Welfare, Physical Therapy, and Nursing).

Students interested in Health Promotion. Course offerings provide students the option of selecting classes that could be used by students interested in careers related to health promotion or primary prevention, or careers that involve communication about health care (e.g., Health Sport and Exercise Science, Public Policy, Health Care Administration).

Students interested in Transdisciplinary Research. Course offerings provide students the option of selecting classes with an applied focus in other domains of social science (e.g., Social Psychology, Cognitive Psychology, Quantitative Psychology, Philosophy/Ethics).

Program Requirements

Admissions

An admissions committee consisting of the Health Psychology Certificate Program Director and Co-Director and one rotating health psychology faculty will meet at least once each fall and summer semesters to make admissions decisions. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis.

Psychology department graduate students who wish to pursue a Health Psychology Graduate Certificate should consult with the Dr. Kirk or Dr. Hamilton. The Department will then request that the College/school add a certificate to a graduate degree-seeking student's plan. All other applicants must fill out an online application. You can complete your application at <http://graduate.ku.edu/ku-graduate-application>

Current non-psychology department KU graduate students must include the following:

- Statement of one's interest in Health Psychology
- Current Degree Progress Report (DPR) or Advising Report
- Letter of support from home academic department

Non-KU graduate student applicants must include the following:

- One letter of recommendation from persons familiar with your academic work or potential for graduate school
- Transcripts from all institutions from which a degree was obtained, or any institutions attended post-bachelors. A GPA of 3.0 or higher in undergraduate work is required for admission. Copies of official transcripts that you have opened may be uploaded to the application online and used for admissions consideration. If you are admitted, sealed, or official electronic transcripts showing degree conferral, if applicable, must be provided by the end of your first semester at KU. Send official, sealed transcripts to:

Graduation Admissions
313 Strong Hall
1450 Jayhawk Blvd.
Lawrence, KS 66045-7535

OR

graduateadm@ku.edu

- Applicants who indicate English is not their native language: [Proof of English proficiency](#), as required by the Office of Graduate Studies.

Planning Curriculum and Enrollment

Any graduate student entering the Health Psychology Certificate Program should speak with their faculty advisor before entering the program. The Director or Assistant Director is happy to meet with each student and design a curriculum that best meets the student's needs. We would personalize this depending on your interests and current enrollment in a graduate program or otherwise.

Program Time-Limits

A student pursuing the Health Psychology Certificate can take no longer than 4 years to pursue the certificate unless a leave of absence or other extenuating circumstances are present. In either event a petition letter would need to be submitted to the Director and Co-Director during the 4th year of enrollment.

Good Standing

Students must maintain a 3.0 GPA in courses taken in the certificate program, maintain good standing in any University program of study for which they are enrolled. Falling below this standard will be grounds for potential dismissal from the program or the necessity to take more courses. These decisions will be made on a case by case basis considering the individual issues present.

Requirements

The certificate program is a total of 12 credit hours, including 3 hours in one of the two **Primary Health Courses**, and 9 hours in approved elective courses. Your 12 credit hours can include one course outside of the Department of Psychology.

Primary Health Psychology Courses

Prevention and Illness management are the primary clinical foci of health psychology. Thus, all students are required to take one of the three of these primary health psychology courses. Students who wish to take all three courses may count the second and third course as an elective.

- PSYC 832: Clinical Health Psychology: Health Promotion and Disease Prevention (Lawrence Campus) 3 credit hours
- PSYC 833: Clinical Health Psychology: Acute and Chronic Illness (taught at KUMC and must have instructor's permission) 3 credit hours
- PSYC 834: Clinical Health Psychology: Physical Aspects of Health and Disease (taught at KUMC and must have instructor's permission); 3 credit hours

Elective Courses

Students may select any of the elective courses to fulfill the 9 hour elective requirement. Students are strongly advised to consult with their primary advisor to choose classes that are consistent with their primary course of study.

- **PSYC 605 Health Psychology** (see instructor for any course enhancements; clinical psychology program graduate students **cannot** take this course to fulfill certificate requirements); 3 credit hours
- **PSYC 690: Eating Disorders** (see instructor for any course enhancements clinical psychology program graduate students **cannot** take this course to fulfill certificate requirements); 3 credit hours
- **PSYC 690: Addiction** (see instructor for any course enhancements clinical psychology program graduate students **cannot** take this course to fulfill certificate requirements); 3 credit hours
- **PSYC 838: Pain and its Management** (online); 3 credit hours
- **PSYC 839: Palliative Care in Health Psychology** (taught at KUMC); 3 credit hours
- **PSYC 840: Psychology of Women's Health**; 3 credit hours
- **PSYC 841: Stress and Coping**; 3 credit hours
- **PSYC 843: Behavioral Pharmacology**; 3 credit hours
- **PSYC 844: Mental Health and Aging**; 3 credit hours
- **PSYC 986: Interprofessional and Integrated Behavioral Health Care**; 3 credit hours
- **PSYC 993: Human Behavioral Genetics** 3 credit hours
- **PSYC 993: Social Determinants of Aging and Life Course**; 3 credit hours
- **PSYC 993: Treatment of Eating Disorders** (with permission of instructor); 3 credit hours
- **EPSY 845 Substance Abuse Counseling**; 3 credit hours
- **EPSY 871 Crisis and Disaster Counseling**; 3 credit hours
- **ABSC 705: Pediatric Psychology**; 3 credit hours

Petitions for Electives

Students may also petition to take an alternative course offered and not listed here (Example: Pediatric Psychology, Courses at KUMC in MPH or other program areas). If a student wishes to petition to take an alternative course, they should contact co-director, Dr. Sarah Kirk at skirk@ku.edu and send their syllabus via email and be sure the course approval is on file with the graduate academic advisor, Kirsten Hermreck (kahermreck@ku.edu).

Records and Progress Tracking

The graduate academic advisor will work with the co-director to maintain digital records for all admitted students as well as those student who were denied admissions to the Health Psychology Certificate program. Further the graduate academic advisor will track admitted students' progress through the program to ensure timely completion and alert the co-director of any students who are close to the four year time limit.

The graduate academic advisor with work with the co-director to maintain a list of courses available each semester that count towards the certificate and will communicate with enrollees regarding these course options along with information detailing their progress through the certificate program at least once per fall and spring semester. If at any time an enrollee in the program would like more information regarding their progress, they are encouraged to contact either the co-director or the graduate academic advisor.

Certificate Completion

Certificates are awarded at the same time as August, December and May graduations. The co-director and graduate academic advisor will check each semester (fall, spring and summer) for completion of the certificate requirements and awarding the certificate. Upon completion of all the certificate requirements, the graduate academic advisor will be in touch with final steps to be awarded your certificate. Finally, the Office of Graduate Studies will provide necessary information to the University Registrar's office to record completion of the certificate program on the transcript of record.

Please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Kirk at skirk@ku.edu or Kirsten Hermreck at kahermreck@ku.edu if you have any questions regarding your status of enrollment or completion of the Health Psychology Certificate.