

# Graduate Certificate in Health Psychology

---

---

**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. Students may enroll in the Health Psychology Certificate Program (**see below**) as long as they have been admitted to another graduate degree program at the University of Kansas and are in good standing with that program or department and must apply directly to Graduate Studies <http://graduate.ku.edu/application-process> Non degree seeking graduate students must be admitted directly into the Health Psychology Certificate Program <http://graduate.ku.edu/application-process> . 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.

**Director:** Nancy Hamilton, Ph.D. [nancyh@ku.edu](mailto:nancyh@ku.edu)  
446 Fraser Hall, 785-864-9827

**Co-Director:** Sarah Kirk, Ph.D. [skirk@ku.edu](mailto:skirk@ku.edu)  
347 Fraser Hall, 785-8649853

## Information for Students:

**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.

**We welcome:**

**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).

## Application and Admissions Procedures

All students applying to the Health Psychology Certificate Program will need to fill out an application for the program.

Current non-psychology department KU graduate students wishing to be admitted to the Health Psychology Graduate Certificate Program first go to <http://graduate.ku.edu/application-process>. The application requires a statement of one's interest in Health Psychology and a current Degree Progress Report (DPR) if applicable. A graduate GPA of 3.0 or higher is required if currently enrolled in a graduate program.

Students applying for admission to any graduate program outside of Clinical Psychology or Clinical Child Psychology at KU will need documentation stating that they have been admitted from the other department or school upon admission thereto. They may be admitted to the **Health Psychology Certificate Program** on the condition that they are admitted by the other program in regular status.

Non-Degree seeking students should complete an application found at <http://graduate.ku.edu/non-degree-seeking> and pay the associated fee, complete the online application for the Health Psychology Graduate Certificate Program for Non-degree seeking student and official transcripts from all previous post-secondary educational institutions, and letter of recommendation from persons familiar with their academic work or potential for graduate school will be required and can be emailed to the Assistant Director at [skirk@ku.edu](mailto:skirk@ku.edu). Minimum requirements will be a bachelor's degree and completion of the GRE; a GPA of 3.0 or higher in undergraduate work is generally required for admission, but the GPA requirement may be waived at the discretion of the Graduate Director.

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.

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. **Application materials for the fall are due August 1<sup>st</sup>, for the spring by December 1<sup>st</sup> and for summer by May 1<sup>st</sup>.**

## Planning Curriculum and Enrollment

Any graduate student entering the Health Psychology Certificate Program should speak with their academic 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.

At least once per year the enrollee will need to meet with the Health Psychology Certificate Director or Assistant Director to discuss progress in the Certificate Program. Those meetings will need to take place in the spring advising period and will be prompted by the Assistant Director. 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.

## Requirements

### Certificate requirements:

12 hours that can include one course outside of Psychology.

3 units: **(Required)** One of the two **Primary Health Psychology Courses**

9 units: Any combination of elective or other primary course not be used for the primary requirement (may include a cross listed course).

\*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 and 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.

**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 two of these primary health psychology courses\*.

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

\*Students who wish to take both courses may count the second course as an elective.

**Elective Courses:** Students may select any of the elective courses to fulfill the credit 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 and 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 and clinical psychology program graduate students **cannot** take this course to fulfill certificate requirements) 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

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 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

\*Students may also petition the Director to take an alternative course offered and not listed here (Example: Pediatric Psychology, Courses at KUMC in MPH or other program areas).

## **Records and Progress Tracking**

The Assistant Director will maintain and be responsible for the electronic and paper records of admitted students as well as those students who are denied admission into the Health Psychology Certificate Program. Dr. Kirk will maintain electronic applications in a secure Health Psychology Certificate Program folder on the Administrative HIPAA drive for the KU Psychological Clinic. She will also maintain paper records in 340B

Fraser Hall in a locked file cabinet that is also behind two locked doors. These records will be stored alongside Clinical Psychology Program Student Files.

The Director and Assistant Director will maintain a long-term Blackboard site to track progress in the program and communicate with enrollees in the certificate program. The Blackboard site will contain relevant documents, announcements, and a Grade Center that will track progress through the program.

Certificates are awarded at the same time as August, December and May graduations. A list of certificate recipients will be sent to the graduate division of the college. The office of Graduate Studies will then provide necessary information to the University Registrar's office to record completion of the certificate program on the transcript of record.

## **Curriculum Completion and Awarding of Certificate**

The Co-Director will be checking each semester (fall, spring and summer) with the Graduate Officer of the department for completion of the certificate requirements and awarding the certificate. Please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Kirk at [skirk@ku.edu](mailto:skirk@ku.edu) if you have any questions regarding your status of enrollment or completion of the Health Psychology Certificate.