College of Arts & Sciences

Psychology

Overview
Kansas State University’s undergraduate major in psychology provides a broad liberal arts education and an understanding of both how psychologists study and what they have learned about behavior. This knowledge and these skills are useful in a wide variety of employment settings and careers.

Additional course work and experiences are available for students preparing for advanced study at the graduate level or interested in social service careers. The minimum requirements for completing a major in psychology are small enough that some students are able to complete the requirements of a second major in the College of Arts & Sciences or another college in four years.

Psychology is both an academic discipline and a profession. To become a professional, you must receive advanced training. Our undergraduate program does not train you to become a professional psychologist. We do offer the opportunity to earn academic credit for participating in research and supervised field experiences in social service agencies, industry and government settings. Students can gain experience working with professional psychologists.

Professional options
Careers
Many of our graduates seek employment immediately after graduation, and they are successful in a variety of settings including social services, business and industry, and government. The remaining students enter graduate or professional programs in psychology (clinical, industrial/organizational, experimental, school) social work, law, medicine, etc.

A psychology background allows graduates to compete for a variety of positions that draw upon knowledge and skill in the areas of learning, perception, motivation, memory, personality and social groups. While such positions do not require that the person be a psychologist, having a major in psychology provides a background that is useful in many endeavors.

Many employers have an interest in hiring people with knowledge and experience in people-oriented activities. For example, K-State psychology graduates now hold such positions as marketing analyst for a motel chain, research assistant for an aircraft company, director of a college admissions office, vice president of a pipe supply company, advertising consultant to a soap company and parole officer.

Students who pursue advanced training in psychology can have careers as professional psychologists. Many psychologists find careers in public service or in private practice. For example, clinical and counseling psychologists may work in a variety of settings, such as mental hospitals, community mental health clinics and university counseling centers.

School psychologists work toward improving the intellectual, social and emotional development of school-age children. Industrial psychologists may be employed directly by industrial and business firms, or they may provide consulting services to industry. More recently, psychologists have been included on the staffs of executive and legislative branches of government.

Some psychologists teach in universities, community colleges and high schools. Others have careers in research. Whether in behavioral neuroscience, social psychology, personality psychology, industrial/organizational psychology, cognitive psychology or human factors psychology, the research may be part of a professional’s role in universities, manufacturing firms, the military or consulting firms.

Academics
Degree options
Both a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Science degree are offered. The chief difference between these degrees is that the B.S. requires more courses in the natural sciences and mathematics, while the B.A. requires a sequence of courses in modern languages. Two graduate degrees are also offered: the Master of Science and the Ph.D.

We also offer an undergraduate concentration in clinical psychology. This option is available for students with good academic records who are interested in careers in social services. Students accepted into this option take a set of courses and can arrange to receive academic credit for satisfactory performance in a social service setting under the supervision of professional psychologists and other mental health professionals.

Faculty
The Department of Psychological Sciences has 16 full-time faculty members and one part-time faculty member whose teaching and research interests span the areas of:

- Clinical psychology
- Industrial-organizational psychology
- Personality-social psychology
- Developmental psychology
- Behavioral neuroscience
- Learning
- Perception and sensation
- Human judgment
- Psycholinguistics
- Cognitive psychology
- Human factors

More than 40 courses in these areas are available. This selection allows students to choose among a variety of courses and to select advisors who share their interests.

Facilities
The department’s facilities occupy most of two floors and 26,000 square feet in Bluemont Hall, in addition to faculty offices, classrooms, research rooms and a room for the psychology undergraduate honor society, Psi Chi.

Points of pride
The Princeton Review picked K-State among the best colleges in the country, K-State is a national leader among state-supported universities in its total of Rhodes, Marshall, Truman, Goldwater and Udall scholarship winners.
Admission Requirements
Incoming students apply to K-State through the general university admissions process. To become a psychology major, a student must meet one of these criteria:

- Present evidence of having earned a cumulative GPA of at least 2.50 (on a 4-point scale) based on a minimum of 15 credit hours earned at K-State and a minimum of at least 30 total credit hours (including transfer hours).
- Present evidence of 60 or more transfer credit hours from another accredited institution with a GPA of at least 2.50 (no credit hours need have been earned at K-State).

Suggested course work
To graduate from K-State with a bachelor’s degree in psychology, a student must do all of the following:

- Fulfill the university, college and departmental requirements.
- Earn a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or greater on all work undertaken at K-State.
- Earn a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or greater on all psychology courses taken at K-State.

Psychology majors may enroll in any classes offered by the Department of Psychological Sciences for which they have the prerequisites.

All students who major in psychology will take the following set of core courses in addition to those courses required by their college:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hrs.</th>
<th>Course</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Junior Seminar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>General Psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Elements of Statistics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Experimental Methods in Psychology</td>
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</tbody>
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Two of the following:

- Cognitive Psychology
- Principles of Learning
- Fundamentals of Perception and Sensation
- Psychobiology

One of the following:

- Advanced Social Psychology
- Psychology of Personality

12 Psychology electives (4 courses)

33

The electives will reflect each student’s specific interests and career goals. Of course, many students enroll in more than the required 12 hours of electives. The remainder of the hours necessary for graduation includes required and elective courses in the natural sciences, humanities, social sciences, mathematics and computer science. K-State’s undergraduate catalog, at catalog.k-state.edu, gives complete information on degree requirements.

For more information about psychology, contact:
Department of Psychological Sciences
Kansas State University
492 Bluemont Hall
1114 Mid-Campus Dr North
Manhattan, KS 66506–5302
785-532-6850
psych@k-state.edu
k-state.edu/psych

For more information about Kansas State University, contact:
Office of Admissions
Kansas State University
119 Anderson Hall
919 Mid-Campus Dr North
Manhattan, KS 66506–0102
1-800-432-8270 (toll free) or 785-532-6250
k-state@k-state.edu
k-state.edu/admissions

Notice of nondiscrimination
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Post-Graduation Statistics
k-state.edu/postgrad-stats
ksdegreestats.org

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