

Curriculum of the studies in Psychology at Swiss universities

The Swiss law of psychological professions (PsyG¹) serves as the basis of the legal regulation of the study in Psychology at Swiss universities, the further specialist titles and the regulated professional titles in the various fields of psychology listed in the article 8 of the PsyG. The Swiss universities represented by KPSYCH² created the following consensus based on their study regulations and curricula (see attachment 1 and 2). This consensus serves as the basis for the recognition of psychology majors at Swiss universities and as an evaluation basis for professional and political decision-making bodies.

1. Minimum requirements regarding content und structure

Bachelor program 180 ECTS, of which at least 120 ECTS fall within the various fields of psychology	Methodology	At least 30 ECTS with at least 25 ECTS in statistics / methodology and at least 3 ECTS in empirical-experimental internship and participation in psychological studies
	Basics and their application	At least 54 ECTS with at least 3 ECTS in one or more of the following five fields: Cognitive/Emotional / Motivational Psychology; Biological Psychology/Neuropsychology; Social Psychology; Developmental Psychology; Personality Psychology/Differential Psychology; Clinical Psychology/Health Psychology; Business/Work/Organizational psychology
	Practical skills	At least 3 ECTS
	Other	At least 33 ECTS within the field of Psychology
	Theory	At least 15 ECTS
Master program 120 ECTS, of which at least 108 ECTS fall within the various fields of psychology	Methodology	At least 6 ECTS
	Master's thesis	At least 30 ECTS
	Internship	At least 9 ECTS
	Other	At least 48 ECTS within the field of Psychology

2. Consecutiveness

In order to pursue the regulated profession of a psychologist (see Swiss law of psychological professions „PsyG“) and to obtain further professional titles in the field of psychology, the successful completion of a consecutive study in Psychology is required. The Bachelor as well as the Master program need to meet the content and structural minimum criteria listed above.

3. Minimal criteria regarding the qualification and quality control

The study in Psychology needs to be taught by qualified personnel and evaluated continuously.

Approved on 10 October 2020 by the Commission for Studies in Psychology at Swiss Universities (KPSYCH); updated on July 17, 2025.

¹ SR 935.81

² University of Basel, University of Bern, University of Freiburg/Université de Fribourg, Université de Genève, Université de Lausanne, Hochschule Luzern HSLU, Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz FHNW, UniDistance/FernUni Schweiz, Università della Svizzera italiana, Zürcher Hochschule für Angewandte Wissenschaften ZHAW, University of Zürich

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Swiss Psychological Society
Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Psychologie
Société Suisse de Psychologie

Attachment 1: Study regulations and curricula of the Bachelor program in Psychology at Swiss universities represented by the KPSYCH

Bachelor program	University of Basel	University of Bern	University of Fribourg	University of Zürich	Université de Genève	UniDistance FernUni Schweiz	Université de Lausanne	FHNW	ZHAW	HSLU			
Field						F	D	AOP	WP				
Introduction	3	2	3	2	9	10	10	9	1	1	5		
Methodology	37	31	45	33	33-42	39	40	45	33	33	31	30	
Statistics und Methodology	26	25	27	25	30-39	29	30	39	27	27	28	27	
Empirical-experimental internship and participation in psychological studies	11	6	18	8	3	10	10	6	6	6	3	3	
Basics / Application	70	56	54	75	123-132	116	100	69	68	72	56	78	
Cognitive/Emotional/Motivational Psychology	14	12	6-9	13	15-24	30	30	9	10	10	8	9	
Biological Psychology/Neuro-psychology	8	6	3-12	10	6	19	10	12	3	3	4	-	
Social Psychology	14	6	0-6	6	6-9	10	10	12	6	6	6	6	
Developmental Psychology	11	6	6-9	10	9-12	10	10	6	3	3	5	3	
Personality Psychology/Differential Psychology	3	3	0-3	4	6	4	10	6	3	3	7	3	
Clinical Psychology/Health Psychology	14	9	6-12	20	3-18	20	20	18	9	3	22	3	
Business/Work/Organizational Psychology	6	6	0-9	8	3	10	10	3	33	28	4	AOP 24	MKP 24
Other fields		8	0-21	4	54-87	13	-	3	1	16	-	30	
Practical skills	11	21	27	4	6	15	10	9	21	12	28	27	
Diagnostics	7	11	9	4	6	10	10	6	3		18	-	
Practical skills	4	10	18			5		3	18	12	10	27	
Work/scientific internship	12		18		6 (optional)				27	27	20	12	
Bachelor's thesis	12	10	15	6	6 (optional)		10		12	12	15	15	
Elective subjects	0-35	60	18	60	42		10	48	18	23	31	12	
Total	180	180	180	180	180	180	180	180	180	180	180	180	

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Attachment 2: Study regulations and curricula of the Master program in Psychology at Swiss universities represented by the KPSYCH

Master program	University of Basel	University of Bern	University of Fribourg	University of Neuchatel	University of Zurich	University of Geneva	UniDistance FernUni Schweiz	University of Lausanne	FHNW	ZHAW	Università della Svizzera italiana	
Field							F	D				
Theory	15	60	63	51	38	54-81	15	40	39	36	18	62
Practical skills						3-18			3-15	12		
Methodology	12	10	12	6	8	9	20	20	12	12	20	6
Internship	12	10	15	15	16	6-15	15	15	15-18	18	12	14
Master's thesis	30	30	30	36	38	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
Master's exam					8							
Elective	min. 105	10		12	12	6	40	15	6-24	12	40	8
Total	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120