
SPECIALIST IN SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY

The Specialist in School Psychology (SSP) degree program is a 72 hour graduate program which has as its objective the training of individuals who can be certified as School Psychologists. The program is approved by the National Association of School Psychology (NASP) and accredited through NCATE. The program is structured as a full-time three year program of training. The first two years are spent predominantly in classroom instruction with some field experiences. The final year is a full-time (1,200 hours) internship experience involving full-time employment/internship in an approved setting. The full-time internship is supervised by both an on-site professional school psychologist and an on-campus faculty supervisor.

Admission Procedure

The general university requirements are outlined in the University catalog and Graduate Studies policy. An applicant for admission to the Specialist in School Psychology degree program must meet all program requirements.

There are three calendar deadlines for receipt of all required program and University application materials: June 30 for Fall Semester admission; November 30th for Spring Semester admission; and April 30th for Summer Semester admission.

Applicants must also submit to the Department of Psychology Chair:

1. at least two letters of reference;
2. official documentation of Graduate Records Examination (GRE) with a score of ≥ 800 (combined Verbal and Quantitative section scores);
3. SSP program application form; and
4. a letter of intent expressing career and professional goals of the applicant.

All material must be received prior to the application deadlines for an application to be considered complete. Missing materials will move consideration of the application to the next academic semester.

In addition, applicant's credentials should provide evidence of freedom from limitations that would jeopardize their success as a professional school psychologist. All necessary forms are available at the SSP program website <http://www.lsus.edu/ehd/ssp> and in the Psychology Department office. Admission decisions are made by the School Psychology Training Committee (SPTC) and are made on a competitive basis.

To the extent that applicants have not already taken the pre-requisite courses, students were expected to complete all needed pre-requisite courses near the beginning of their program of study. Applicants may apply up to 12 hours of transfer credit at the discretion of the School Psychology Training Committee.

The SSP program publishes a student handbook which provides guidelines and requirements beyond the minimum requirements of the graduate school. Success in the program must be consistent with the SSP handbook requirements. The handbook may be obtained from the programs web-site.

This program is a professional training program and much of the professional training occurs during the practicum and internship courses near the end of the program. No student is permitted to walk through graduation ceremonies until they have satisfactorily completed all program and degree requirements and has the approval of the department and program faculty.

Course Requirements

The Specialist in School Psychology degree is a 72-term-hour graduate program which has as its objective the training of professional school psychologists. The method in the first academic year is largely didactic in nature with the objective of providing a general foundation in psychology and education. In the second year methodology is supplemented by the supervised demonstration of professional skills, including a practicum in the spring term. The third year emphasizes field learning experiences, including a year-long internship supervised by university-based staff as a supplement to supervision in the school setting.

A student in the Specialist in School Psychology degree program must complete twelve term hours of undergraduate foundation coursework in Introduction to Psychology or Educational Psychology, Introduction to Statistics, Psychometrics, and Behavior Modification, unless these courses were completed as part of their undergraduate program. All students in the graduate program in psychology shall complete a core curriculum that shall consist of twelve term hours of work, in addition to other requirements stipulated in the curriculum for the Specialist in School Psychology degree program. The core requirements include Introduction to School Psychology, Principles and Theories of Learning, Intermediate Statistics, and Introduction to Methodology and Research Design.

Grade Policy--Suspension from Program

The School Psychology Training Committee expects students in the Specialist in School Psychology degree program to maintain a minimum 3.0 GPA. Students may make one "C" in a course and remain in the program if they have a grade of "A" to maintain their 3.0 GPA. If a student receives a second "C" in a course, that course must be repeated and a grade of "B" or better be achieved to remain in the program. If a grade of "B" or better is not achieved when the course is repeated, the student will be dismissed from the program. A student has this option only once during their course work. Since most courses in the program are taught only once a year, if a student decides to continue course work, then any additional "C's" in a course will result in immediate dismissal from the program. Also any grade below a "C" will result in immediate dismissal from the program.

Comprehensive Examination

Before beginning an internship, students in school psychology must pass a comprehensive written

examination, usually scheduled by the School Psychology Training Committee for the Monday following spring break. Students become eligible for the examination when they have completed all work except the practica and two of their academic courses, but they must apply in the Department of Psychology for permission to take it. The examination has two parts: an essay taken before, and the NCSP exam taken during the Internship year.

Three faculty members from the Department of Psychology and/or the Department of Education read the essays in blind review. To be considered satisfactory, an essay must receive a "pass" from at least two readers. The Psychology Training Committee considers these responses in determining whether a student has passed the examination. The committee then mails students the results, which may, at the committee's discretion, include a requirement to rewrite selected essays and/or repeat the objective portion of the examination.

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Total Hours: 72

FIRST YEAR					
<i>FALL TERM</i>	<i>Sem. Hrs.</i>	<i>SPRING TERM</i>	<i>Sem. Hrs.</i>	<i>SUMMER TERM</i>	<i>Sem. Hrs.</i>
Psychology 706	3	Psychology 609	3	Psychology 601	3
Psychology 709	3	Psychology 709	3	Psychology 605	3
Psychology 710	3	Psychology 718	3	Psychology 622	3
Psychology 716	3	Psychology 723	3	Psychology 706	3
Psychology 728	<u>3</u>	Psychology 749	<u>3</u>	Psychology 709	<u>3</u>
	15		15		15
SECOND YEAR					
<i>FALL TERM</i>	<i>Sem. Hrs.</i>	<i>SPRING TERM</i>	<i>Sem. Hrs.</i>	<i>Sem. Hrs.</i>	
Psychology 732	3	Psychology 752	3	3	
Psychology 751	3	Psychology 754	3	3	
Psychology 753	3	Psychology 760	3	3	
Psychology 755	3	Psychology 702, 722 or 733	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	
Psychology 780	<u>3</u>		12	12	
	15				
THIRD YEAR					
<i>FALL TERM</i>	<i>Sem. Hrs.</i>	<i>SPRING TERM</i>	<i>Sem. Hrs.</i>		
Psychology 788	<u>6</u>	Psychology 789	<u>6</u>		

Prerequisite courses: PSYC 152, PSYC 216, PSYC 350, PSYC 404/604, PSYC 455/655.