



- **Type B Louisiana Certification**
- **Nationally Certified School Psychologist (NCSP)**
- **Licensed Specialist in School Psychology (LSSP)**

Thank you for your interest in the school psychology program at LSU-Shreveport. I want to first direct you to the LSUS school psychology program website to start your inquiry: <https://www.lsus.edu/academics/graduate-studies/specialist-in-school-psychology>
This site is continuously being updated, so a second source for useful information about the university and our program may also be found in the LSUS catalog at <https://www.lsus.edu/academics/catalog>

If you are interested in school psychology as a profession, I also encourage you to visit <https://www.nasponline.org/> to learn more about our field from a national perspective, and <http://lspaonline.org/> to view what is going on in our own state.

For those of you who live outside of our region, please visit <http://www.shreveportchamber.org/>. I think you will find Shreveport-Bossier to be a culturally rich, moderate-sized metropolitan area that is perfect for young adults.

If you have any questions during the application process, please do not hesitate to contact me:

Dr. Kevin Jones, Director, Specialist in School Psychology Program
LSU Shreveport
kjones@lsus.edu or kevin.jones@lsus.edu
318-797-5043



Application Procedures

You must apply simultaneously to both graduate studies and the school psychology program. First, begin your application by applying to LSU-Shreveport's Office of Graduate Studies. The application and fee payment must be completed online at <https://www.lsus.edu/graduate-admissions>

Acceptance to LSUS Graduate Studies requires (a) immunization records and (c) original transcripts from all universities attended that indicate a cumulative undergraduate GPA of at least 2.50.

At any time following your Graduate Studies application, you may begin the process of applying to the Specialist in School Psychology program. Application to the program requires three additional steps: letters of reference, a vita/resume, and an interview.

- **Two (2) letters of reference:** References may use our standard form that is attached below, or simply mail/email a letter in narrative form.
- Verbal and Quantitative GRE scores are optional.
- **A vita or resume:** Include previous degrees, job and volunteer work, research experiences, and references. A review of your vita/resume and original transcripts must indicate that you have met curriculum prerequisites: a Bachelor's Degree in psychology from an accredited institution - or – proficient grades (B or higher) in four undergraduate psychology courses, including statistics.
- **A letter of intent:** A letter should express your career and professional goals. A brief [Guide for Writing Letter of Intent](#) is provided below.
- **An interview:** An interview with the director is conducted. You may contact the program director to schedule a face-to-face interview anytime during the application process.

Reference letters, vita, and letter of intent may be mailed to the program director or sent as an email attachment.

Admissions Procedures

Once your application documents are complete, and a personal interview has been conducted, the School Psychology Training Committee will review your credentials and forward to you a letter stating whether you have been accepted into the program.

DEADLINES:

March 31: The LSUS Specialist in School Psychology program deadline for Early Fall admission is March 31. **The SSP program begins making admission decisions on April 15, which is the national deadline for graduate assistantship offers from graduate training programs in psychology.** Although we accept and will consider applications after this deadline, admission decisions are made on a competitive basis and enrollment is limited.

June 30: Because most undergraduate applicants are still enrolled in coursework, the LSUS Office of Graduate Studies deadline is much later. The deadline to receive immunization records, GRE scores, and original transcripts indicating a cumulative undergraduate GPA of 2.50 is June 30. If any documents are missing or standards are not met, the candidate is ineligible for graduate coursework – *even if he or she met all SSP requirements and was offered admission to the program*. Thus it is imperative that you retrieve original transcripts from previous institutions prior to the SSP deadline, and that you successfully complete your final semester(s) and your undergraduate degree program.

Once you accept an offer to enroll in the SSP program, and are accepted in LSUS Graduate Studies, you are officially ready to enroll and register for courses. To assist you in this first step, your name will be forwarded to the Graduate Program Coordinator of the LSUS College of Business, Education, and Human Development. The coordinator will register you for all fall courses, and send you an email providing important links to documents and resources that will assist your transition to LSU Shreveport.

Prior to your first semester, the LSUS School Psychology Graduate Student Organization will assign to you a second-year mentor. This mentor will be able to answer questions, help you find jobs or apartments, and provide support during your transition to graduate school.

Program of Study

Students in the LSUS SSP program take a full-time courseload during spring and fall (12 credit hours) and summer (6 credit hours) for two consecutive years. During spring and fall semesters, your schedule will include two afternoon courses and two evening courses. During summer, your schedule will include one June course and one hybrid/online June-July course. For planning purposes, you will typically have a 4-week break during winter, a 3-week break during May, and a 6-week break during July-August that includes online requirements for one summer course.

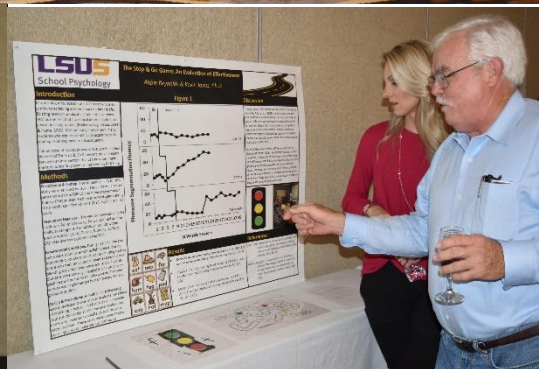
During your first year, SSP coursework will build competencies in two general areas – assessment and intervention. Much of the stress during year one is due to practice testing – you will need 15-20 volunteer children to complete all assignments. During your second (practicum) year, course assignments are more “real world,” and you will be expected to spend 2-4 hours per week in our afterschool clinic and 8-10 hours per week in the schools. The second year is a serious time management challenge.

Your third year in the program is internship. Most students elect to do internship as a first-year school psychologist in a school district, drawing full salary (median = \$51,000) and benefits while working full-time and satisfying internship course requirements. Although it pays well, the drawback of a salaried position is that you may have a limited role, depending on the position opening and the school district. A minority of students apply to a “school psychology internship” – positions that pay a smaller stipend (e.g.,

\$25,000) but ensure a more comprehensive training experience. It is important to discuss your plans with the internship director (Dr. Katherine Wickstrom) as early as possible during your course of study.

After successful completion of all internship requirements you will be certified to practice in schools by the Louisiana Department of Education, and have full eligibility for national certification (Nationally Certified School Psychologist) and licensure for independent practice in educational settings (Licensed Specialist in School Psychology).

Thank you for applying to the Specialist in School Psychology Program at LSU Shreveport!



CURRENT PROGRAM OF STUDY

The current model curriculum for fall entry, full-time enrollment is listed by year and term of study is below. Please note that the sequence and courses may change, as the program is continuously responding to student, field supervisor, and accreditation feedback.

SPECIALIST IN SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY		
LSU Shreveport		
Total Hours: 72		
<i>Year One</i>		
<i>Fall</i>		
PSYC 710	Introduction to School Psychology	3 hrs
PSYC 716	Intermediate Statistics	3 hrs
PSYC 749	Alternative Assessment Techniques and Interventions	3 hrs
PSYC 755	Applied Behavior Analysis	3 hrs
<i>Spring</i>		
PSYC 711	Child and Adolescent Psychopathology	3 hrs
PSYC 718	Introduction to Methodology and Research Design	3 hrs
PSYC 751	Psychological Assessment and Practicum I	3 hrs
PSYC 756	Applied Behavior Analysis in Autism	3 hrs
<i>Summer</i>		
PSYC 712	Therapeutic Interventions of Children and Youth	3 hrs
PSYC 752	Psychological Assessment II	3 hrs
<i>Year Two</i>		
<i>Fall</i>		
COUN 732	Social and Cultural Foundations in Counseling	3 hrs
PSYC 706	Theories of Learning	3 hrs
PSYC 753	Psychological Assessment Practicum I	3 hrs
PSYC 760	Behavioral Assessment and Intervention	3 hrs
<i>Spring</i>		
PSYC 740	Psychopharmacology for Practitioners	3 hrs
PSYC 745	Behavioral Pediatrics	3 hrs
PSYC 754	Psychological Assessment Practicum II	3 hrs
PSYC 780	Consultation in Human Development Settings	3 hrs
<i>Summer</i>		
PSYC 691	Field Experience	3 hrs
PSYC 748	Ethics and Law for School Psychologists	3 hrs
<i>Year Three</i>		
<i>Fall</i>		
PSYC 788	Internship in School Psychology I	6 hrs
<i>Spring</i>		
PSYC 789	Internship in School Psychology II	6 hrs

PROPOSED PROGRAM OF STUDY

The LSUS program is revising its curriculum to include the course content hours necessary for graduates to apply for Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) certification. If approved, the curriculum will include the following course changes, beginning in Fall 2022.

SPECIALIST IN SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY		
LSU Shreveport		
Total Hours: 72		
<i>Year One</i>		
<i>Fall</i>		
PSYC 710	Introduction to School Psychology	3 hrs
PSYC 716	Intermediate Statistics	3 hrs
PSYC 730	Single Case Designs in Behavior Analytic Settings	3 hrs
PSYC 755	Applied Behavior Analysis	3 hrs
<i>Spring</i>		
PSYC 711	Child and Adolescent Psychopathology	3 hrs
PSYC 718	Introduction to Methodology and Research Design	3 hrs
PSYC 751	Psychological Assessment and Practicum I	3 hrs
PSYC 756	Applied Behavior Analysis in Autism	3 hrs
<i>Summer</i>		
PSYC 712	Therapeutic Interventions of Children and Youth	3 hrs
PSYC 752	Psychological Assessment II	3 hrs
<i>Year Two</i>		
<i>Fall</i>		
COUN 732	Social and Cultural Foundations in Counseling	3 hrs
PSYC 706	Theories of Learning	3 hrs
PSYC 753	Psychological Assessment Practicum I	3 hrs
PSYC 760	Behavioral Assessment and Intervention	3 hrs
PSYC 731	Supervision of Human Services Personnel	3 hrs
PSYC 758	Science and Philosophy of Behavior	3 hrs
PSYC 754	Psychological Assessment Practicum II	3 hrs
PSYC 780	Consultation in Human Development Settings	3 hrs
<i>Summer</i>		
PSYC 691	Field Experience	3 hrs
PSYC 748	Law and Ethics in Behavior Analytic Settings	3 hrs
<i>Year Three</i>		
<i>Fall</i>		
PSYC 788	Internship in School Psychology I	6 hrs
<i>Spring</i>		
PSYC 789	Internship in School Psychology II	6 hrs

Guide for Writing Letters of Intent LSU-Shreveport SSP Program

A letter of intent is an essay, usually 1 to 3 pages, that provides a narrative to accompany all other elements of the applicant's application, such as GRE scores, GPA, and vita/resume. This narrative is an opportunity to expand on your current professional interests and your primary motivation for entering the field of school psychology (rather than counseling or clinical psychology) and, more specifically, the LSU-Shreveport program. You may also include those personal or professional qualities that might distinguish you from other applicants.

Due to the restricted number of students who are admitted, it is very important that all candidates have the best opportunity for success. The program requires the equivalent of three years of study, so it is critical that there is a "good match" between the candidate and the program faculty, and that candidates entering the program have the qualities and professional dispositions necessary to complete their degree plan.

It is always a good idea to allow your letter of intent to be reviewed by an advisor and/or peer for feedback before actually submitting it as a part of your application.

Louisiana State University in Shreveport
 Department of Psychology
 One University Place
 Shreveport, Louisiana 71115

Specialist in School Psychology Request for Reference

Under the provision of the Family Educational Rights Act of 1974, this applicant (if admitted and enrolled will have access to information provided below unless he/she has waived such access.

(Applicant completes this section)

Name of Applicant _____

(Optional) I hereby waive my right to access to the material recorded below.

_____ Name _____ Date

The applicant should provide at least two letters of reference. Letters may be mailed directly to Dr. Kevin Jones, Department of Psychology, LSU in Shreveport, One University Place, Shreveport, LA 71115 or sent as an email attachment – kjones@lsus.edu.

To the respondent: Please rate the applicant's qualifications compared to other students at the same level:

Characteristics	Exceptional	Above Average	Average	Below Average	No Opportunity to Observe
Intellectual Ability					
Communicative Skills - Oral					
	Written				
Academic preparation					
Maturity					
Teaching Ability					
Work Habits					
Creativity					
Emotional Stability					
Ability to Work Cooperatively					
Dependability					

What would you list as the applicant's strongest characteristics?

What would you list as the applicant's weakest characteristics?

Please use the reverse side or submit a separate letter if you would like to expand on those qualities that differentiate this person from other applicants.

I have known the applicant for approximately _____ years in my capacity as _____

Respondent's Name _____ Signature & Date: _____