

Doctor of Psychology (Psy.D.) in School Psychology

The doctor of psychology (Psy.D.) in school psychology provides school psychology practitioners with advanced training in the areas of psychological assessment, interventions, and applied research. The focus of the Psy.D. includes advanced training in school psychology that goes beyond what a student typically acquires during master's-level training. Psy.D. students are expected to demonstrate their research and scholarship through the completion of an applied research project. The Psy.D. course of study includes a minimum of 60 credit hours. During the final portion of the program, students complete a minimum of 1,500 clock hour, pre-doctoral internship. Following completion of the Psy.D. program, graduates will be eligible for state certification as a School Psychological Service Provider, and national certification as a Nationally Certified School Psychologist. Following completion of a 1,500 clock-hour, post-doctoral training experience, graduates will also be eligible for licensure as a psychologist.

Admission

In addition to meeting the minimum admission requirements of the College of Education and Human Development, to be eligible for admission to the Psy.D. program, an applicant must meet the following requirements:

1. Hold a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution;
2. Have earned a cumulative grade point average of 2.75 or higher (on a 4.0 scale) in a baccalaureate degree program; or have earned a cumulative grade point average of 3.25 or higher (on a 4.0 scale) in a master's/graduate degree program;
3. Have earned a score of 1,000 points or above on the combined verbal and quantitative scores on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE), or, for those with certification as a Nationally Certified School Psychologist (NCSP), submit a copy of a current and valid Nationally Certified School Psychologist (NCSP) Certificate and have earned a score of 900 points or above on the combined verbal and quantitative scores on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). Standardized test scores required of all applicants;
4. Submit two personal essays (see application form);
5. Provide documentation of professional experiences form (see application form).

All admission applications materials must be postmarked by the deadline of December 1. Late applications will not be considered.

The Psy.D. admissions process requires a date-specific formal interview. Candidates to be interviewed will be selected on the basis of the above information.

The Psy.D program includes two different sets of course requirements. Those students who were admitted to the Psy.D. program already holding the Nationally Certified School Psychologist (NCSP) credential are required to complete at least 60 credit hours. Those students admitted to the Psy.D. with a bachelor's degree are required to complete at least 117 credit hours. Those students admitted to the Psy.D. who hold a prior graduate degree in a field other than school psychology and who do not hold the NCSP will be required to complete the full 117 credit hour Psy.D. program except for any courses allowed to be transferred (see policy) and any courses waived by program faculty. After admission to the Psy.D., all students with a prior graduate degree may request a transcript review to determine if any courses can be transferred or waived. Transfer credits will be applied to the Psy.D. program. Waived courses must be substituted with courses of the same number of graduate credits from the CEHD graduate catalog.

Transfer Credit Students admitted to the school psychology program can request permission to transfer up to 6 graduate credits toward the Psy.D. in school psychology, M.S. in educational psychology, or Certificate in Applied Behavior Analysis (CABA). In order for credits to be eligible for transfer, they must meet the following criteria:

1. The credits must have been earned as part of a graduate course (e.g., 500 level or higher) offered at a U.S. institution of higher learning accredited at the time the credits were earned by a regional and/or national accrediting body and recognized as accredited by the U.S. Department of Education.
2. The credits must have been earned for a course which is equivalent in content covered and skills developed to one required in the student's USM program of study.

3. The earned grade for the course must be a B or higher (GPA equivalent of 3.0).
4. The credits must have been earned within 3 years from the date when transfer credit is requested.
5. The credits must not have been applied to any previously earned degree.
6. For students seeking certification for BCBA, any applicable course(s) must be transferred from a program that is approved by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board.

Transferred credits will be noted on the student's USM transcript and counted toward the student's degree or certificate program of study. To request transfer of credit(s), a student must submit the course syllabus/i and official transcript(s) showing the course grade(s) to the school psychology program coordinator. The coordinator will consult with program faculty to determine if the credit transfer is approved. Once approved, the program will notify the USM Registrar to enter the official transfer onto the student's record.

Graduate students in APA-accredited doctoral-level school psychology programs at other universities may transfer into the program if they take their final 21 hours, including the internship and dissertation requirement, in USM's school psychology program.

Course Waivers Students who have extensive prior graduate-level training in areas covered in the school psychology program courses can request to waive up to 5 courses or 15 credits of the required program of study. Waived courses are NOT transferred to the student's transcript. Students must replace waived courses with electives. Students are required to take enough electives to cover the number of credits or courses waived. In order for a course to be waived, the student must demonstrate the following:

1. The credits must have been earned as part of a graduate course (e.g., 500 level or higher) offered at a U.S. institution of higher learning accredited at the time the credits were earned by a regional and/or national accrediting body and recognized as accredited by the U.S. Department of Education.
2. The credits must have been earned for a course which is equivalent in content covered and skills developed to one required in the student's USM program of study.
3. The earned grade for the course must be a B or higher (GPA equivalent of 3.0).
4. The student can demonstrate ongoing competency in the knowledge and skills covered in the course for which a waiver is requested. For example, a student who has a prior master's degree in counseling and who has practiced and maintained state licensure as a counselor could be eligible for a waiver of a required counseling course.

Requests for course waivers follow the same procedure as requests for credit transfer. To request a course waiver, a student must submit the course syllabus and official transcript(s) showing the course grade(s) to the school psychology program coordinator. The coordinator will consult with program faculty to determine if a course waiver is approved. Once approved, the program coordinator will notify the student in writing and a copy of the waiver agreement will be placed in the student's file.

Note: Course waivers are not available for those courses that are required for certification in behavior analysis.

Students who enter the Psy.D. at the post-baccalaureate level can earn a master's degree along the way to the doctoral degree. Students may also apply to the Psy.D. at the post-master's level. Students seeking only a master's degree should apply for admission to the educational psychology master's degree program.

If a Psy.D. student is unable or chooses not to complete all program requirements, the student may be eligible for the M.S. in school psychology degree. Psy.D. students seeking to earn the M.S. instead of the Psy.D. in school psychology may apply to transfer into the M.S. program by completing the following steps:

1. Complete an application for the M.S. program that includes the same GRE scores, transcript(s), and letters of recommendation submitted for the Psy.D.;
2. Submit a letter with the M.S. application requesting admission to the M.S. that summarizes the reasons why the student wishes to obtain the M.S. instead of the Psy.D. as the terminal degree;
3. Pay a \$25.00 re-application fee with the M.S. application.
4. Provide the above information to the Office of Graduate Admissions no later than December 1 of the year preceding the requested transfer.

Program Requirements for those with the National Certified School Psychologist (NCSP) credential (60-72 credits):

Psychological Foundations (3 credits)

SPY 709 History and Systems of Psychology
Other competencies met through completion of NASP approved M.S. program or equivalent

Educational Foundations (6 credits)

HRD 630 Facilitating Adult Learning
One course chosen from 600-level or higher in the College of Education and Human Development
Other competencies met through completion of NASP approved M.S. program or equivalent

Assessment

All competencies met through completion of NASP approved M.S. program or equivalent

Interventions (12 credits)

HCE 620 Fundamentals of Counseling Theories
HCE 644 Crisis Intervention
SPY 727 Advanced Academic Intervention Methods
SPY 728 Advanced Interventions for Individuals with Behavioral Disabilities
SPY 729 Advanced Intervention Methods for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities

Research (15 credits)

EDU 697 Statistics I
EDU 698 Statistics II
SPY 751 Advanced Research Seminar
SPY 759 Psy.D. Dissertation (6 credits)

Professional School Psychology (15 credits)

EDU 671 Organizational Behavior
HCE 681 Clinical Supervision
SPY 788 Pre-Doctoral Internship in School Psychology (9 credits)

Electives (3-15 credits)

Students completing the counseling concentration need to complete the following courses:

HCE 621 Fundamentals of Counseling Skills
HCE 622 Counseling Children and Adolescents
HCE 627 Group Counseling
HCE 690 Individual Counseling Practicum Seminar
HCE 691 Practicum in Individual Counseling Laboratory

Students not completing the counseling concentration need to complete a minimum of 3 hours of coursework selected from 600-level or higher courses in the College of Education and Human Development.

Program Requirements for those without the Nationally Certified School Psychologist (NCSP) credential (117-129 credits)

Psychological Foundations (18 credits)

HRD 668 Human Development
SPY 671 Physical Bases of Behavior
SPY 673 Social Foundations of Behavior
SPY 674 Child and Adolescent Psychopathology
SPY 676 Behavioral Principles of Learning
SPY 709 History and Systems of Psychology

Educational Foundations (12 credits)

- HRD 630 Facilitating Adult Learning
- SED 540 Nature and Needs of Learners Who Are Exceptional
- SED 682 Special Education Law

One course chosen from 600 level or higher in the College of Education and Human Development

Assessment (15 credits)

- HCE 605 Psychological Measurement and Evaluation
- SED 653/
SPY 672 Assessment of Academic Achievement
- SPY 675 Indirect Behavioral Assessment
- SPY 677 Cognitive Assessment
- SPY 678 Functional Behavioral Assessment

Interventions (24 credits)

- HCE 620 Fundamentals of Counseling Theories
- HCE 626 Group Process and Procedures
- HCE 644 Crisis Intervention
- SPY 603 Consultation in School Psychology
- SPY 684 Advanced Applied Behavior Analysis
- SPY 727 Advanced Academic Intervention Methods
- SPY 728 Advanced Interventions for Individuals with Behavioral Disabilities
- SPY 729 Advanced Intervention Methods for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities

Research (21 credits)

- EDU 600 Research Methods and Techniques
- EDU 697 Statistics I
- EDU 698 Statistics II
- SPY 659 Clinical Research Methods
- SPY 751 Advanced Research Seminar
- SPY 759 Psy.D. Dissertation (6 credits)

Professional School Psychology (24 credits)

- EDU 671 Organizational Behavior
- HCE 681 Clinical Supervision
- SPY 609 Professional Ethics in Psychology
- SPY 693 School Psychology Practicum I
- SPY 694 School Psychology Practicum II
- SPY 788 Pre-Doctoral Internship in School Psychology (9 credits)

Electives (3-15 credits)

Students completing the counseling concentration need to complete the following courses:

- HCE 621 Fundamentals of Counseling Skills
- HCE 622 Counseling Children and Adolescents
- HCE 627 Group Counseling (6 credits)
- HCE 690 Individual Counseling Practicum Seminar
- HCE 691 Practicum in Individual Counseling Laboratory

Students not completing the counseling concentration need to complete a minimum of 3 hours of coursework selected from 600-level or higher courses in the College of Education and Human Development.