



UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTHERN MAINE
College of Education and
Human Development

in person

An update from the USM College of Education and Human Development

Ms. Piechocki will be a presenter at the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) 2008 Convention poster session. She received a travel stipend from the School Psychology Department, which was able to make the award because of a generous alumni donation to the Annual Fund.

Ms. Piechocki has a bachelor's in Public Relations and Educational Studies from Syracuse University. "It was literally at the last minute that I decided to pursue the Education Studies minor," she said. "This was very lucky for me, because education built the foundation for my passion for working with adolescents."

While working in business, she discovered that she "desperately missed working with kids—I had worked as a camp counselor during college. So, I followed my heart, left business, and moved to Utah, where I worked as a field instructor for Second Nature, a therapeutic wilderness program for troubled youth. While with Second Nature, I was able to witness and play a role in great changes in the lives of the participants. This experience changed my life and brought me to USM."



Iride Piechocki
USM Psy.D. student

Ms. Piechocki's research interests include treatments for adolescents with disruptive behavior disorders. At NASP, she will present research conducted with Associate Professor Rachel Brown-Chidsey. Together, they identified that self-reports are as effective as observer-reports of treatment integrity. According to Ms. Piechocki, these findings are "good news" for because they mean that interventions monitored by a teacher can be as effective as those monitored and observed by a school psychologist.

The Psy.D. in School Psychology provides comprehensive training in school psychology.

Psy.D. students take courses in assessment, interventions (including counseling), and consultation as well as supervision. The Psy.D. program prepares graduates to utilize data-based, problem-solving methods to enhance outcomes for children and adolescents.

Psy.D. students take a minimum of 60 credit hours of coursework beyond the master's degree. Their culminating experience is a 1,500-hour, pre-doctoral internship in a school or community setting—at least 750 hours must occur in a public school. Interns work under the supervision of a licensed psychologist.

USM also offers the Certificate in Applied Behavior Analysis (CABA).

The CABA is a six-course, 18-credit-hour program. Completion of USM's CABA program constitutes partial fulfillment of the requirements to obtain the national Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) credential. After completion of USM's CABA program, those who wish to obtain national certification complete an internship under the supervision of an experienced BCBA and pass the national BCBA exam.

For more information about the School Psychology Program:

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USM's College of Education and Human Development (CEHD) is committed to being Maine's leading teacher-education institution. CEHD has more than 30 academic-program options at the certificate, master's, post-master's, and doctoral levels. Many are offered on-line.

College of Education and Human Development

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