



UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTHERN MAINE
College of Education and
Human Development

in person

An update from the USM College of Education and Human Development

Ms. Sullivan will present at the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) 2008 Convention. She received a travel stipend from the School Psychology program.

Ms. Sullivan received a Bachelor's in English from Ithaca College. After graduation, she moved to Maine and accepted a job at a special-purpose school in Bath. She remembers, "I had no prior experience and to my great fortune, I found a career.." In 2003, she started at the Margaret Murphy Center for Children. She characterizes her employment there as "a privilege of working in a community of professionals who shared my passion."

While there, she mentored with USM Professor Mark Steege to become a Certified Associate Applied Behavior Analyst. Shortly after, she applied to USM. Now, Ms. Sullivan is working with Dr. Steege in a new capacity. They are documenting findings of an intervention he developed. Together, they realized that these findings have important implications for students with disabilities as well as the field of Applied Behavior Analysis. In her words, "the intervention is based on analysis of precursor behaviors. The identification of precursor behaviors,



Erin Mary Sullivan
USM Psy.D. student

through functional analysis procedures, makes it possible to infer the environmental determinants of problem-behaviors. Analysts place experimental analysis contingencies on behaviors that are observed to occur prior to the onset of problem behaviors. She and Dr. Steege believe "this is a promising way to decrease risk to youth and their caregivers by creating windows for addressing behaviors before they occur."

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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College of Education and Human Development

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