

M.S. in School Psychology

M.S. IN SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY

The USM M.S. in School Psychology provides training for its graduates to offer high quality psychological services to children and adolescents in schools and community agencies. USM's School Psychology Program is the only school psychology training program in northern New England. In addition to pre-service training, the program coordinates and provides professional development opportunities to school psychology practitioners. The M.S. program is fully accredited and recognized by the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) at the specialist level.

The program offers comprehensive studies that integrate general psychological content, methodology, and research with educational principles and practitioner skills. The program is oriented toward acquisition of a range of technical and communication "best practice" skills necessary for effective functioning as a school psychology practitioner. The School Psychology Program Philosophy is available on the program website. Through integrated field-based training experiences, students are introduced to child and adolescent cognitive, social, and emotional behavior, instructional model, effective teaching methods, and the differential effects of teacher-student interactions and classroom climate. Program students demonstrate competencies in assessment, interventions, and consultation through completion of a comprehensive examination and a performance-based portfolio. During the final portion of the program, students participate in a 1500 clock hour internship, working under the supervision of a credentialed school psychology practitioner. Internships may be completed outside of Maine, pending the approval of program faculty.

The USM School Psychology program conforms to the training standards specified by the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP), the Maine Department of Education, and the Maine Board of Examiners of Psychologists. Individuals graduating from this program are eligible for certification as a Nationally Certified School Psychologist (NCSP), and for certification by the Maine Department of Education as a School Psychological Service Provider. Graduates may also choose to sit for the examination leading to licensure as a psychological examiner by the Maine Board of Examiners of Psychologists.

Admission

Admission to the USM master's in School Psychology program is competitive with about fifty percent of applicants having been admitted during the last three years. Applications for admission are considered only once a year and the School Psychology program admission deadline is December 1st. Late applications are not accepted.

For an admission application, contact:

Office of Graduate Admissions in Gorham
(207) 780-5306
(800) 800-4USM
TTY: (207) 780-5646
www.usm.maine.edu/grad/applicationmats

Monthly information sessions about the School Psychology program are held the second Tuesday of each month from September through December and February through May.

Sessions are from 2:00-4:00 p.m. in Bailey Hall on the Gorham campus. To pre-register for a session, contact:

Rose Mahoney
(207) 780-5220
(800) 800-4USM
TTY: (207) 780-5646
www.usm.maine.edu/cehd/prospective_students/

Special Admission Requirements

In addition to the general admission requirements of the College of Education and Human Development, applicants to the School Psychology master's program must provide a narrative essay. This narrative is evaluated in terms of clarity of expression, grammatical construction, and other facets of English composition, as well as the quality of information given about the following topics:

- a) relevant educational and experiential background;
- b) reasons for wanting to be in a helping profession;
- c) commitment to pursuing a career in school psychology;
- d) reasons for seeking admission to the program;
- e) a statement of personal philosophy;
- f) a statement of personal strengths and weaknesses.

The admissions process requires a formal interview. Candidates to be interviewed are selected on the basis of the quality of all required application components (e.g., GPA, test score, recommendations, personal narrative). During the interview, issues relating to the following topics are covered: a) self-awareness; b) awareness of social issues; c) awareness of others as persons; d) communication skills; and e) commitment to the field of school psychology. Graduate students in Master's level school psychology programs at other universities may apply to transfer into the program but must take their final 21 hours, including the internship requirement, at USM's School Psychology program. Transfer applicants must complete the same application procedures as other applicants.

M.S. in School Psychology

M.S. in School Psychology Program Requirements

The School Psychology program requires 72 credit hours of coursework. The program may be completed on either a full-time or part-time basis. It usually takes three full years to complete the program on a full-time basis. The program of study begins in May of the year in which the student is admitted. Due to the intensive nature and high credit requirements of the program, it is expected that all students will take classes on either a full-time or part-time basis during the Fall, Spring, and Summer semesters during every year of enrollment. A suggested program course sequence can be found in the M.S. in School Psychology Program Handbook.

The culminating experience of the School Psychology program is a 1,500-hour internship in a school or clinic setting (at least 750 hours must occur in a public school). Students are eligible for internship only after they have completed all pre-requisite courses and obtained the approval of the program faculty. The internship must be completed under the supervision of a credentialed school psychology practitioner. The internship must take place over a period of no more than two calendar years with a minimum of 20 hours per week at any one site. During the course of internship, students demonstrate competencies in assessment, intervention, and consultation through successful completion of the national examination and a performance-based portfolio.

Only two (2) school psychology courses (up to six credits) may be taken prior to admission. Those prospective applicants who wish to take a course prior to applying or being admitted to the program may want to start with one of the following: HRD 668, SPY 671, SPY 674, SPY 676, or SED 540.

For prospective students interested in the Psy.D. in School Psychology please refer to the Psy.D. program sheet for admission information and program of study, or contact the Office of Graduate Admissions in Gorham.

Additional information about the School Psychology program can be found at:

www.usm.maine.edu/cehd/school-psychology

M.S. Course Requirements

Psychological Foundations (15 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

Educational Foundations (9 credits)

SED 540	Nature and Needs of Learners Who are Exceptional
SED 682	Special Education Law

One elective from the graduate education course offerings

Assessment (15 credits)

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

Interventions (9 credits)

HCE 626	Group Process and Procedures
SPY 603	Consultation in School Psychology
SPY 684	Advanced Applied Behavior Analysis

Research (6 credits)

EDU 600	Research Methods and Techniques (Note: must be taken within first year)
SPY 659	Clinical Research Methods

Professional School Psychology (18 credits)

SPY 609	Orientation to School Psychology
SPY 688	Internship in School Psychology (9 credits, 1,500 clock hours)
SPY 693	School Psychology Practicum 1
SPY 694	School Psychology Practicum 2