

# Education Specialist: School Psychology Degree Program (Education Specialist)

The Education Specialist Degree is composed of approved units beyond the Masters degree consisting of 700-level course work in school psychology and education, supervised field experiences, a pre-internship capstone examination, and a scholarly project in School Psychology. Completion of the degree creates eligibility for the Nationally Certified School Psychologist credential. The degree is designed for advanced graduate students who already possess the masters degree from an accredited program in school psychology and who desire a proficiency that will enable them to assume a role of leadership based on a considerable depth of understanding and applied competency in their work. In the first year of the two-year program, students spend a minimum of 600 hours at a local public school district in a practicum school psychology placement, while completing complementary course work in advanced intervention and prevention competencies and further educational and psychological foundations. Students must pass the ETS Praxis II examination in School Psychology during the first year. In the second year, students must complete a minimum 1200-hour supervised internship in School Psychology. Students must initiate a written Specialist Project in the first year and bring it to completion prior to their final semester of internship.

## **Program Coordinator:**

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## **Additional Admission Requirements:**

All applicants must possess a Masters Degree in School Psychology from a NASP - accredited institution or an institution that trains at an equivalent standard. The Coordinator, in consultation with the School Psychology committee, will determine if this requirement has been met.

All applicants must submit three letters of recommendation from appropriate persons (such as former professors or work supervisors) who are familiar with the applicant's academic and personal qualifications for advanced graduate study in school psychology. In lieu of the letters, the "Endorsement to Proceed to

the Educational Specialist Degree,” approved by the UW-Whitewater School Psychology Committee, must be submitted by all UW-Whitewater applicants.

## **Admission Timeline:**

The Education Specialist Program admits students only in the spring of the year for classes beginning the following fall term. Admitted students are also free to take summer term classes. All application materials including the Graduate Studies application and all additional application requirements must be received by February 15.

Following the February 15 deadline, the School Psychology Committee will review packets and inform all applicants as to their admission status by mail. Applicants with complete application packets who are requesting early admission consideration due to competing deadlines should inform the Program Coordinator with a written request.

## **Degree Requirements:**

The Education Specialist degree is composed of approved units beyond the Masters degree consisting of 700-level course work in school psychology and education, field experience, a pre-internship capstone examination, and a scholarly project.

A grade point average of 3.00 must be maintained throughout the degree sequence.

All students must be in full-time residence (at least nine unit hours) for the first year of the degree sequence. The degree must be completed within seven years following the earliest credited course.

Students must complete a written Specialist Project and present their project to the faculty who will determine if it meets all of the Specialist Project “Standards for Competency.” Continuous enrollment in PSYCH 797 Specialist Project Research is required.

Students must maintain and present to the faculty on a semester basis a portfolio of academic progress and accomplishments.

Students must pass the ETS Praxis II examination in School Psychology prior to entrance into the internship sequence. The examination may be repeated as necessary.

## **EDUCATION SPECIALIST DEGREE (Ed.S.)**

- PSYCH 762 ACADEMIC INTERVENTIONS

- PSYCH 766 COGNITIVE-BEHAVIORAL THERAPY WITH CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS
- PSYCH 769 CONSULTATION AND PREVENTION
- PSYCH 785 ADVANCED CHILD DEVELOPMENT
- PSYCH 786 MENTAL HEALTH DELIVERY IN SCHOOLS: APPLIED PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY
- PSYCH 787 SOCIAL CONTEXT AND DIVERSITY IN THE SCHOOL SETTING
- PSYCH 793 PRACTICUM SCHOOL PSYCH
- PSYCH 796 SPECIAL STUDIES
- PSYCH 797 SPECIALIST PROJECT RESEARCH

## **PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION**

COURES FROM CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION, EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATIONS, AND SPECIAL EDUCATION SELECTED IN CONSULTATION WITH THE STUDENT'S ADVISER TO ADDRESS PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS AND SPECIFIC STUDENT INTERESTS

- PSYCH 795 INTERNSHIP IN SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY

Note: Upon completion of all program requirements, including internship, Specialist Project, and a passing score on the ETS Praxis II examination in School Psychology, and a successful culminating portfolio review, students receive the Education Specialist Degree in School Psychology (Ed.S.)