

SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY M.A. AND CERTIFICATE

Degree: Certificate of Advanced Study and Master of Arts
<https://www.towson.edu/cla/departments/psychology/grad/psychology/school/>

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The 66-unit program, in which students earn a master's (M.A.) degree in Psychology and Certificate of Advanced Study in School Psychology, is fully approved by the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP). Students who earn both the M.A. and the C.A.S. are eligible for individual certification as Nationally Certified School Psychologists, pending successful completion of the national certification examination. Graduates of the program are also qualified for a variety of positions within the field of psychology and for entrance into doctoral programs.

The mission of the School Psychology program is to produce school psychologists who are well prepared to function independently in a growing and evolving profession. Graduate students in school psychology are trained to view themselves as part of the larger school system, and to make their contributions relevant to the goals of the institutions in which they are employed. The School Psychology master's and C.A.S program emphasize early intervention and the use of data-driven, systematic problem solving to address the needs of children and adolescents in the school setting. Students are trained to provide consultation to teachers, parents and administrators; to provide direct counseling and intervention to children and adolescents; to complete ecological assessments of classroom environments; and to administer and interpret a variety of psychological tests to assess intellectual functioning, academic achievement, adaptive behavior and social/emotional characteristics of students. Students are trained to complete multidimensional evaluations that address the specific reason for referral and that are directly linked to recommendations for intervention.

The program promotes the use of intervention and assessment techniques that are empirically sound and sensitive to the diverse population of students that school psychologists serve. Students are expected to display professional work characteristics that are critical to their ability to work effectively with peers, faculty and school-based personnel. These include respect for human diversity, effective communication skills, effective interpersonal skills, ethical behavior, adaptability, flexibility and independence.

The priority deadline for application is January 15th.

Requirements

Admission Requirements

Application deadlines and a full listing of materials required for admission can be found on the website.

Prerequisites for Admission

At least 21 undergraduate units in psychology, which include course work in each of the following areas (all of which must be completed with a grade of "C" or better)¹:

- Behavioral Statistics
- Abnormal Psychology or Psychopathology
- Social Psychology
- Course work selected from the following: Experimental Psychology, Experimental Design or Research Design
- Course work selected from the following: Child Development, Adolescent Development, Human Development
- Course work selected from the following: Educational Psychology, Behavioral Principles, Behavior Modification, Applied Behavior Management

¹ **NOTE:** These undergraduate prerequisites cannot be used to satisfy any part of the requirements of the master's degree and C.A.S. They must be completed prior to initiation of course work for the degree.

Degree and Certificate Requirements

Required Courses for the Master's Degree

Code	Title	Units
PSYC 605	COUNSELING TECHNIQUES	3
PSYC 625	FUNCTIONAL BEHAVIORAL ASSESSMENT	3
PSYC 651	INTERVENTIONS IN SCHOOL SETTINGS	3
PSYC 687	ADVANCED EXPERIMENTAL DESIGN I	3
PSYC 713	ROLE OF THE SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST	3
PSYC 720	ASSESSMENT OF INTELLIGENCE	3
PSYC 733	EXCEPTIONAL CHILD: ADVANCED ISSUES	3
PSYC 761	SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL AND BEHAVIORAL ASSESSMENT	3
PSYC 790	ETHICAL, LEGAL AND PROFESSIONAL ISSUES IN PSYCHOLOGY	3
PSYC 611	DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY	3
Total Units		30

Required Courses for the Certificate of Advanced Study

Code	Title	Units
PSYC 622	ADVANCED MULTICULTURAL PSYCHOLOGY	3
PSYC 678	SCHOOL-WIDE PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION SEMINAR	3
PSYC 703	PRESCHOOL ASSESSMENT	3
PSYC 730	ADVANCED CHILD AND ADOLESCENT PSYCHOTHERAPY	3
PSYC 731	SCHOOL BASED CONSULTATION	3
PSYC 735	DIRECT ASSESSMENT OF ACADEMIC SKILLS	3
PSYC 771	SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY PRACTICUM I	3
PSYC 773	SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY PRACTICUM II	3
PSYC 796	INTERNSHIP IN SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY II (Spring term)	4.5
PSYC 794	INTERNSHIP IN SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY I	4.5
PSYC 791	INTERNSHIP SEMINAR IN SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY	1.5

PSYC 792	INTERNSHIP SEMINAR IN SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY II	1.5
Total Units		36

NOTE: Students may elect to earn a graduate certificate in Family-Professional Collaboration by completing additional courses.

Field Experiences

Practicum

During the second year of the program, concurrent with other course work, students enroll in a full-year practicum course (fall and spring terms). The course includes a two-day per week placement in a local school system under the supervision of a certified school psychologist (arranged by the program faculty) and a weekly seminar on campus. During practicum, students engage in a carefully sequenced series of experiences suited to their level of professional training.

Internship

Following successful completion of the practicum and comprehensive examination, students are eligible to apply for internships. The 1,200-hour internship is considered a capstone experience and occurs after the completion of all course work. Internships are completed on a full-time basis over one year or on a part-time basis over two years. Students in local placements (approximately 75 percent of our students) attend a biweekly seminar on campus taught by the internship coordinator, who is a full-time school psychology faculty member.

Examinations

Comprehensive Examination

The Praxis II Examination in School Psychology serves as the comprehensive exam and must be successfully passed with a minimum score determined by school psychology faculty.

Portfolio Evaluation

All C.A.S. candidates are required to submit a professional portfolio during the last term of their internship. Specific contents and standards for portfolios are provided to students by their advisers.

Praxis II Examination

Praxis II Examination in School Psychology must be successfully passed with a minimum score determined by school psychology faculty as a requirement for graduation.

Learning Outcomes

Skills and Competencies of Graduates: It is our expectation that, upon graduation, students will demonstrate the following skills and competencies:

4. Plan and implement empirically sound interventions, and use data to evaluate the effectiveness of those interventions;
5. Address the mental health needs of students through individual, group, and crisis counseling; use data to provide evidence of the effectiveness of such counseling;
6. Provide individual and systemic consultation to families, teachers and administrators with a focus on improving professional/family relationships;
7. Serve as members of multidisciplinary problem-solving, special education, and crisis intervention teams and take leadership roles on those teams;
8. Develop awareness of and sensitivity to cultural differences among all clients, including parents, teachers and students; provide services that demonstrate this awareness and sensitivity;
9. Plan and conduct action research to answer specific questions within the school environment;
10. Provide in-service programs to assist school staff in understanding and applying psychological principles and techniques to improve the academic and behavioral functioning of students;
11. Serve as change agents to improve the quality of education for all students with whom they work;
12. Adhere to legal and ethical guidelines for our profession throughout training and practice.

1. Understand basic principles of psychology and human development contributing to normal and atypical development of children;
2. Understand and assess the culture and norms of schools in order to optimize entry into schools and make important contributions to the school system;
3. Conduct ecological evaluations of classroom and school environments as well as psychological evaluations of children and adolescents who present with academic, behavioral, social and/or emotional difficulties to assist in placement decisions and to provide recommendations that address the reason for referral;