

MASTER OF EDUCATION/EDUCATION SPECIALIST IN SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY



Program Description School

Psychology is a rapidly growing field requiring trained professionals with a master's or education specialist (Ed.S.) credential. School Psychologists typically work in elementary and secondary schools for carrying out assessments, designing and implementing interventions, making appropriate referrals on students and conducting consultations.

This 68-credit hour program combines coursework from both the Departments of Education and Psychology. Students completing this program will acquire knowledge, dispositions, and performances to function in school settings as licensed School Psychologists, and will be trained within the Pragmatic Method of School Psychology. It is the goal of the VU school psychology program to provide school psychology training in accordance with standards established by the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) and the Indiana Department of Education's Division of Professional Standards. At the conclusion of this integrated sequence of study, students will have earned both the Master's of Education in Education and Psychological Foundations and the Educational Specialist's degrees. Graduates of this program will also qualify for licensure as School Psychologists in the State of Indiana.

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Program of Study

The VU School Psychology Program is designed for completion in three years of full-time study. This includes two years of sequenced coursework, which includes summer months, plus the yearlong 1200 clock-hour internship that is

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 completed under the supervision of a licensed or credentialed school psychologist. Field-training requirements are integrated throughout the entire sequence of the program, and must typically be completed during hours in which elementary and secondary schools are in session.

Program Requirements The program consists of 35 credit hours to fulfill the M.Ed. requirement, and 33 credit hours to fulfill the Ed.S. requirement. Within the Ed.S. requirement, 6 credit hours are assigned to the internship year, and 6 credit hours to electives in education and psychology. Curriculum

M.Ed. Education and Psychological Foundations		33 credits
ED 528	Foundations of Literacy Development	3 cr
ED 617	Assessment & Management of the Learning Environment	3 cr
COUN 620	Human Development: Biological & Learned Bases of Behavior	3 cr
COUN 625	Social & Cultural Bases of Behavior	3 cr
SPSY 540	Learning Exceptionalities	3 cr
SPSY 600	Introduction to School Psychology & Educational Systems	3 cr
SPSY 610	Academic Achievement: Assessment for Intervention	3 cr
SPSY 630	Cognitive Ability: Assessment for Intervention	3 cr
SPSY 640	Professional Issues, Ethics, & Law for School Psychologists	3 cr
Elective		3 cr
One of the following:		
SPSY 660	Consultation in School & Community Settings	3 cr
COUN 575	Human Neuropsychology in Counseling & School Settings	3 cr
Ed.S. Education Specialist Component		35 credits
ED 610	Research in Education	3 cr
ED 612	Decision Making in Curriculum & Instruction	3 cr

COUN 660	Helping Relationships: Counseling Theories	3 cr
COUN 662	Helping Relationships: Counseling Processes	3 cr
SPSY 650	Socialization & Development of Life Skills	3 cr
SPSY 679/681	Practicum in School Psychology	6 cr
SPSY 683/684	Internship in School Psychology	0 cr
SPSY 688	Statistical Interpretation for School Program Evaluation	3 cr
Elective		3 cr
One of the following:		
SPSY 660	Consultation in School & Community Settings	3 cr
COUN 575	Human Neuropsychology in Counseling & School Settings	3 cr
Electives		6 credits

What can you expect? Graduate study at VU requires diligence and motivation. The School Psychology program is rigorous, both in its academic challenge and in its demand to prepare students to meet licensure requirements. Students work closely with both their faculty and peers. They are assigned faculty advisers who provide course selection and career guidance and who oversee practicum and internship training. Students quickly form peer networks and learning cohort groups with other education and psychology students, a process that enriches the learning experience and increases the overall resources of the group.

Criteria For Admission In addition to meeting the requirements for admission to The Graduate School, applicants should note the following requirements for both the M.Ed. and Ed.S. components of the program:

- Applicants are expected to have a background in psychology which includes one course in introductory psychology, one course in human growth and development, and one course on basic statistics. Applicants who do not meet these requirements may be admitted to the program with the understanding that they will complete these courses along with other requirements.

As part of the application process, students must provide:

- [Valparaiso University Graduate Application and School Psychology Supplemental Application](#);
- Official transcripts of all prior undergraduate and graduate coursework. If you have received an undergraduate or graduate degree from Valparaiso

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University, you are not required to submit an official transcript from Valparaiso University;

- Two letters of recommendation;
- Essay relating graduate study to professional goals. The essay should include a self-assessment of experience and education that would qualify one for undertaking work in school psychology. This essay substitutes for the general essay required for admission to the Graduate School;
- Application Fee: \$30.

Admission is usually offered only for the fall semester, with priority given to applications submitted by March 1. Preference is given to applicants who plan to complete the program through full-time coursework.

Financial Considerations Students may be surprised to discover the affordable graduate tuition rate at Valparaiso University. Tuition for the 2010-2011 academic year is \$530 per credit hour, highly competitive for a private institution of recognized national quality. Full-time graduate students pay a \$146 general fee each fall and spring semester. Part-time graduate students pay a \$95 general fee each fall and spring semester. Students are also responsible for annual fees associated with a Criminal Background Check and professional liability insurance, both required by the Department of Education. [Financial aid](#) is available through student loans. Most students are employed part- or full- time in social service and school settings in the surrounding community during their graduate study. Research and school assistantship opportunities have been available to students in the school psychology program

School Assistantships Each year, several school assistantships, awarded in conjunction with local school districts, may be awarded to 2-3 full-time students in the school psychology program. These assistantships provide a stipend of approximately \$5,200 and a 1 course tuition benefit each year. Responsibilities for assistants are worked out with each individual school district and usually require substitute teaching and other activities related to professional development in school psychology.

For more information about the Master of Education/Education Specialist in School Psychology program To learn more about the Master of Education/Education Specialist program, visit their department website at <http://www.valpo.edu/education/programs/schoolpsychology/index.php>. Interested students should [request an information packet](#) from the Graduate School through our website or by e-mailing Graduate.School@valpo.edu.

[Click here](#) to apply online!

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