EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY, M.S.

The Department of Educational Psychology offers the master of science and doctor of philosophy degrees in educational psychology. The programs for the M.S. and Ph.D. in educational psychology provide comprehensive knowledge of the field and intensive specialization in one of four areas of study and research: human development, learning sciences, quantitative methods, and school psychology.

The department provides for training in research. Many faculty members in the department conduct controlled research studies with human participants; schools and other agencies in the Madison area cooperate in facilitating such research projects. Principal research facilities include the School of Education's Wisconsin Center for Education Research, and the multidisciplinary Waisman Center.

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

- **Human Development**
  Advisors: Professors Bellmore, Brown, Enright, Hubbard, Kalish, Matthews, Vlach

  The program in human development adopts a life-span approach to individual change. Studying development in context is an important component of the program, so that research can make conceptual/theoretical contributions to the understanding of human behavior and can address practical concerns of educators, parents, and others concerned with the developing person. A course of study provides a breadth and depth of knowledge about human development and educational psychology and encourages more detailed study in specific interest areas. Early in the program, students are exposed to general theories and issues in human development; specific developmental processes in childhood, adolescence, adulthood, and old age; as well as associated statistical methods and research practices.

  In the latter part of the program, students exercise individual choice in selecting courses in subject matter that will broaden or deepen an understanding of human developmental processes. Such coursework may also extend to other programs of the university in which there is a research focus in human development.

- **Learning Sciences**
  Advisors: Professors Kalish, Nathan, Puntambekar, Rau, Shaffer

  This program area bridges learning sciences and educational practice. Scholarship encompasses the coordinated design and study of learning environments ranging from preschool to university education, and reaches outside of school to informal contexts for learning, like museums and after-school programs. Faculty interests include the design of technologies as tools for learning, prolonged longitudinal study of relations between teaching and learning, and the nature of knowledge in substantive domains of inquiry, like mathematics, science, and composition. The program of study emphasizes an apprenticeship model of scholarship with early engagement in substantive problems of learning and teaching. Students work in concert with faculty to develop research studies in each of the first two years of study. Courses are coordinated to promote the development of research and communication skills, so that students can become involved with important problems in educational research. As students progress in the program, they continue to work with faculty, both within and outside of the department, to craft systematic investigations of learning environments.

- **Quantitative Methods**
  Advisors: Professors Bolt, Kaplan, Kim, Steiner, Wollack

  Educational research has a strong tradition of employing state-of-the-art statistical and psychometric (psychological measurement) techniques. Researchers in all areas of education develop measuring instruments, design and conduct experiments and surveys, and analyze data resulting from these activities. Because of this tradition, quantitative methods has long been an area of specialization within educational psychology. Graduates in this area teach, serve as consultants to educational researchers, and conduct research on statistics and psychometrics in education-related fields. Within the program, the quantitative methods area offers the two major specializations of statistics and measurement.

  The study of quantitative methods takes advantage of the range of resources at the University of Wisconsin—Madison and includes coursework in statistics, mathematics, and computer sciences, and in other units of the School of Education.

- **School Psychology**
  Advisors: Professors Albers, Asmus, Garbacz

  Clinical Assistant Professor: Kelly

  The graduate program in school psychology leads to a Ph.D. in educational psychology with a scientist–scholar–practitioner model of professional training. Students prepare for positions as professors in colleges and universities, psychologists in elementary and secondary schools, and with other organizations or agencies that focus on psychological services to children, youth, and families. The program is fully accredited by the American Psychological Association and the National Association of School Psychologists.

  The areas of professional practice of school psychologists include psychological assessment and psychodiagnostic evaluation, prevention and intervention procedures, consultation and program planning, and research and evaluation. The program also requires study of applied behavior analysis, cognitive-behavior therapy, social-learning theory and ecological–behavioral–systems theory. Applied experience and training are provided in individual and group work with both typical classroom populations and special groups, including individuals with developmental disabilities and others with special education needs. Included in the practicum and internship experience is work with families, classroom peer groups, and community and school systems.

**M.S. Degree Programs in Educational Psychology with Special Emphases**

Advisors: Professors Brown, Enright, Kalish

The special-emphasis master's degree program is designed for individuals who want to improve their knowledge base and skills for functioning in educational settings. The program is built around educator needs and offers a flexible blend of coursework, independent study, and practicum experiences. It is designed to provide the student with an individualized program of theoretical and applied training, tailored to his or her interests, needs, and professional goals.
M.S. NAMED OPTIONS
PROFESSIONAL EDUCATOR (MSPE)
The M.S. named option in Professional Educator (http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/educational-psychology/educational-psychology-ms/educational-psychology-professional-educator-mspe-ms/#text) (MSPE) is a 30-credit master's program designed with a teaching professional's schedule in mind. Courses in the MSPE program emphasize practical strategies and applications. Participants are part of a two-year cohort learning group, completing a master's degree through a combination of technology-enhanced distance learning during the academic year and summer on-campus coursework.

EDUCATIONAL SPECIALIST IN SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY
The M.S. named option in Educational Specialist in School Psychology (http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/educational-psychology/educational-psychology-ms/educational-psychology-educational-specialist-school-psychology-ms) will prepare Master of Science graduate students to become practitioners in the field of school psychology, enabling them to help children and adolescents succeed academically, socially, behaviorally, and emotionally within educational settings.

ADMISSIONS
Please consult the table below for key information about this degree program's admissions requirements. The program may have more detailed admissions requirements, which can be found below the table or on the program's website.

Graduate admissions is a two-step process between academic programs and the Graduate School. Applicants must meet the minimum requirements (https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/requirements) of the Graduate School as well as the program(s).

Once you have researched the graduate program(s) you are interested in, apply online (https://grad.wisc.edu/apply).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Detail</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall Deadline</td>
<td>December 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Deadline</td>
<td>The program does not admit in the spring.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summer Deadline</td>
<td>The program does not admit in the summer.</td>
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<tr>
<td>GRE (Graduate Record Examinations)</td>
<td>Required.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Proficiency Test</td>
<td>Every applicant whose native language is not English or whose undergraduate instruction was not in English must provide an English proficiency test score and meet the Graduate School minimum requirements (<a href="https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/requirements/#english-proficiency">https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/requirements/#english-proficiency</a>).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Test(s) (e.g., GMAT, MCAT)</td>
<td>n/a</td>
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<tr>
<td>Letters of Recommendation Required</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For admission to graduate work, the department does not require a specific undergraduate major. However, it is preferred that applicants have completed approximately 18 credits in courses that provide a relevant foundation for further study in educational psychology. Neither certification as a teacher nor teaching experience is required. An undergraduate grade point average of at least 3.0 (4.0 basis) based on the last 60 semester hours of undergraduate coursework is requisite.

Also essential are a statement of purpose, Graduate Record Exam (GRE) scores, and three letters of recommendation.

FUNDING

GRADUATE SCHOOL RESOURCES
Resources to help you afford graduate study might include assistantships, fellowships, traineeships, and financial aid. Further funding information (https://grad.wisc.edu/funding) is available from the Graduate School. Be sure to check with your program for individual policies and processes related to funding.

PROGRAM RESOURCES
Students are eligible to compete for UW–Madison fellowships. A limited number of teaching and project assistantships are available within the department, and prospective students are encouraged to refer to the instructions for fellowships and assistantships contained in the program application information.

REQUIREMENTS

MINIMUM GRADUATE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS
Review the Graduate School minimum academic progress and degree requirements (http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/#policiesandrequirementstext), in addition to the program requirements listed below.

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

MODE OF INSTRUCTION

Mode of Instruction Definitions

Evening/Weekend: These programs are offered in an evening and/or weekend format to accommodate working schedules. Enjoy the advantages of on-campus courses and personal connections, while keeping your day job. For more information about the meeting schedule of a specific program, contact the program.

Online: These programs are offered primarily online. Many available online programs can be completed almost entirely online with all online programs offering at least 50 percent or more of the program work online. Some online programs have an on-campus component that is often designed to accommodate working schedules.

Take advantage of the convenience of online learning while participating in a rich, interactive learning environment. For more information about the online nature of a specific program, contact the program.

Hybrid: These programs have innovative curricula that combine on-campus and online formats. Most hybrid programs are completed on-campus with a partial or completely online semester. For more information about the hybrid schedule of a specific program, contact the program.

Accelerated: These on-campus programs are offered in an accelerated format that allows you to complete your program in a condensed time-frame. Enjoy the advantages of on-campus courses with minimal disruption to your career. For more information about the accelerated nature of a specific program, contact the program.
CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS

Requirements Detail

Minimum Credit Requirement
- Human development and quantitative methods track: 33 credits
- Learning sciences track: 36 credits
- School psychology track: 55 credits

Note: These tracks are internal to the program and represent different pathways a student can follow to earn this degree. Track names do not appear in the Graduate School admissions application, and they will not appear on the transcript.

Minimum Residence Credit Requirement
- Human development and quantitative methods track: 27 credits
- Learning sciences track: 33 credits
- School psychology track: 52 credits

Note: These tracks are internal to the program and represent different pathways a student can follow to earn this degree. Track names do not appear in the Graduate School admissions application, and they will not appear on the transcript.

Minimum Graduate Coursework Requirement
- Half of degree coursework must be completed graduate-level coursework; courses with the Graduate Level Coursework attribute are identified and searchable in the university's Course Guide (https://registrar.wisc.edu/course-guide/).

Overall Graduate GPA Requirement
3.00 GPA required.

Other Grade Requirements
- The Graduate School requires an average grade of B or better in all coursework (300 or above, not including research credits) taken as a graduate student unless conditions for probationary status require higher grades. Grades of Incomplete are considered to be unsatisfactory if they are not removed during the next enrolled semester.

Assessments and Examinations
- Contact the program for information on required assessments and examinations.

Language Requirements
- Contact the program for information on any language requirements.

REQUIRED COURSES

Human Development Track ¹

<table>
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<tr>
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<td>Seminar in Research in Educational Psychology</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>ED PSYCH 710</td>
<td>Seminar in Research in Educational Psychology II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ED PSYCH 720</td>
<td>Child Development</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>ED PSYCH 721</td>
<td>Adolescent Development</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>ED PSYCH 760</td>
<td>Statistical Methods Applied to Education I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ED PSYCH 761</td>
<td>Statistical Methods Applied to Education II</td>
<td>3</td>
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First Year Research Project

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Human Development area course

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Learning Sciences Track ¹

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</tr>
<tr>
<td>ED PSYCH 795</td>
<td>Introduction to Learning Sciences I</td>
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<tr>
<td>ED PSYCH 796</td>
<td>Introduction to the Learning Sciences II</td>
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Two classes (6 credits) in quantitative methods courses not including ED PSYCH 760 or its equivalent

One class (3 credits) in qualitative methods

One additional class (3 credits) in the Learning Sciences area

Current Issues in the Learning Sciences (1 credit per semester for two semesters)

Major Area Paper preparation class

¹ These tracks are internal to the program and represent different pathways a student can follow to earn this degree. Track names do not appear in the Graduate School admissions application, and they will not appear on the transcript.

Quantitative Methods Track ¹

The Quantitative Area of the Department of Educational Psychology is divided into two subareas: (1) Educational Statistics and Research Methodology; and (2) Educational Measurement. Below are listed the requirements in each of these subareas.

• Educational Statistics and Research Methodology subarea

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<td>ED PSYCH 761</td>
<td>Statistical Methods Applied to Education II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ED PSYCH 762</td>
<td>Introduction to the Design of Educational Experiments</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ED PSYCH 763</td>
<td>Regression Models in Education</td>
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Two courses in the quantitative area (chosen in consultation with advisor)

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• Educational Measurement subarea
NAMED OPTIONS (SUB-MAJORS)

A named option is a formally documented sub-major within an academic major program. Named options appear on the transcript with degree conferral.

View as list


POLICIES

GRADUATE SCHOOL POLICIES

The Graduate School's Academic Policies and Procedures (https://grad.wisc.edu/acadpolicy) provide essential information regarding general university policies. Program authority to set degree policies beyond the minimum required by the Graduate School lies with the degree program faculty. Policies set by the academic degree program can be found below.

MAJOR-SPECIFIC POLICIES

GRADUATE PROGRAM HANDBOOK

A Graduate Program Handbook containing all of the program's policies and requirements is forthcoming from the program.

PRIOR COURSEWORK

Graduate Work from Other Institutions

With program approval, students are allowed to count no more than 9 credits of graduate coursework from other institutions. Coursework earned five or more years prior to admission to a master's is not allowed to satisfy requirements.

UW–Madison Undergraduate

No credits from a UW–Madison undergraduate degree are allowed to count toward the degree.

UW–Madison University Special

With program approval, students are allowed to count no more than 9 credits of coursework numbered 300 or above taken as a UW–Madison University Special student. Coursework earned five or more years prior to admission to a master's degree is not allowed to satisfy requirements.

PROBATION

The Graduate School regularly reviews the record of any student who earned grades of BC, C, D, F, or Incomplete in a graduate course (300 or above), or grade of U in research credits. This review could
result in academic probation with a hold on future enrollment or in being suspended from the Graduate School.

**ADVISOR / COMMITTEE**

Every graduate student is required to have an advisor. To ensure that students are making satisfactory progress toward a degree, the Graduate School expects them to meet with their advisor on a regular basis.

An advisor generally serves as the thesis advisor. In many cases, an advisor is assigned to incoming students. Students can be suspended from the Graduate School if they do not have an advisor. An advisor is a faculty member, or sometimes a committee, from the major department responsible for providing advice regarding graduate studies.

A committee often accomplishes advising for the students in the early stages of their studies.

**CREDITS PER TERM ALLOWED**

15 credits

**TIME CONSTRAINTS**

Master's degree students who have been absent for five or more consecutive years lose all credits that they have earned before their absence. Individual programs may count the coursework students completed prior to their absence for meeting program requirements; that coursework may not count toward Graduate School credit requirements.

**OTHER**

n/a

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

**GRADUATE SCHOOL RESOURCES**

Take advantage of the Graduate School's professional development resources (https://grad.wisc.edu/pd) to build skills, thrive academically, and launch your career.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

1. Acquire a strong foundation in current and past theories, research findings, and methodologies in their program area.
2. Become acquainted with the implications of human diversity (in terms of individual abilities and orientations and sociocultural backgrounds) for research and practice in their chosen field of study.
3. Learn the fundamentals of research design, data collection, and data analysis through participating in ongoing research or conducting their own research project(s).
4. Identify key features of high-quality research or program implementation/evaluation in their chosen field.
5. Develop writing and oral skills needed to effectively communicate results of scientific research to academic, professional/practitioner, and lay audiences.
6. Learn how to conduct research or program implementation/evaluation in accordance with ethical standards established in their field of inquiry.

**PEOPLE**

Faculty: Professors Asmus, Bellmore, Bolt, Brown, Enright, Kaplan, Kim, Nathan, Puntambekar, Quintana, Shaffer, Wollack (chair); Associate Professors Albers, Garbacz, Kilgus, Matthews, Rau, Vlach; Assistant Professors Eklund, Hubbard, Short; Clinical Assistant Professor Kelly