SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY, EDS

The Educational Specialist (EdS) in School Psychology utilizes a scientist-scholar-practitioner model of professional training. Students prepare for positions as school psychologists in early childhood, elementary, and secondary schools, and with other organizations or agencies that focus on psychological services to children, youth, and families.

The areas of professional practice of school psychologists include psychological assessment and psychdiagnostic evaluation, prevention and intervention procedures, consultation and program planning, and research and evaluation. The progress requires study of applied behavior analysis, cognitive-behavior therapy, social-learning theory, and ecological-behavioral-systems theory. Students receive applied experience and training by completing practicum and internship experiences in individual and group work with children in general and special education, 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.

The Department of Educational Psychology also administers a PhD in School Psychology (https://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/educational-psychology/school-psychology-phd/).

ADMISSIONS

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/).

Requirements	Detail
Fall Deadline	December 1
Spring Deadline	This program does not admit in the spring.
Summer Deadline	This program does not admit in the summer.
GRE (Graduate Record Examinations)	Not required.
English Proficiency Test	Refer to the Graduate School: Minimum Requirements for Admission policy: https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1241 (https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1241/).
Other Test(s) (e.g., GMAT, MCAT)	n/a
Letters of Recommendation Required	3

Admission's criteria for the Educational Specialist (EdS) in School Psychology include:

1. A bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited US institution. International applicants must have a degree comparable to a regionally-accredited US bachelor's degree.
2. A minimum undergraduate grade-point average (GPA) of 3.00 on the equivalent of the last 60 semester hours (approximately two years of work) or a master's degree with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 is required. International applicants must demonstrate strong academic achievement comparable to a 3.00 for an undergraduate or master's degree.
3. Reasons for graduate study/statement of purpose.
4. Curriculum vitae or resume.
5. Unofficial transcripts from previous institutions.

FUNDING

FUNDING
GRADUATE SCHOOL RESOURCES

The Bursar's Office provides information about tuition and fees associated with being a graduate student. Resources to help you afford graduate study might include assistantships, fellowships, traineeships, and financial aid. Further funding information is available from the Graduate School. Be sure to check with your program for individual policies and restrictions related to funding.

PROGRAM INFORMATION

Students are eligible to compete for UW–Madison scholarships.

Students enrolled in this program are not eligible to receive tuition remission from graduate assistantship appointments at this institution.

A limited number of teaching and project assistantships are available within the department. Students can accept appointments and hourly positions up to a 33% appointment as long as they do not include tuition remission.

REQUIREMENTS

MINIMUM GRADUATE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

Review the Graduate School minimum degree requirements (https://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/#requirementstext) and policies (https://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/#policiestext), in addition to the program requirements listed below.

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS
MODE OF INSTRUCTION

Face to Face	Evening/Weekend	Online	Hybrid	Accelerated
Yes	Yes	No	No	No

Mode of Instruction Definitions

Accelerated: Accelerated programs are offered at a fast pace that condenses the time to completion. Students typically take enough credits aimed at completing the program in a year or two.

Evening/Weekend: Courses meet on the UW–Madison campus only in evenings and/or on weekends to accommodate typical business schedules. Students have the advantages of face-to-face courses with the flexibility to keep work and other life commitments.

Face-to-Face: Courses typically meet during weekdays on the UW-Madison Campus.

Hybrid: These programs combine face-to-face and online learning formats. Contact the program for more specific information.

Online: These programs are offered 100% online. Some programs may require an on-campus orientation or residency experience, but the courses will be facilitated in an online format.

CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS

Requirements	Detail
Minimum Credit Requirement	66 credits
Minimum Residence Credit Requirement	51 credits
Minimum Graduate Coursework Requirement	66 credits must be graduate-level coursework. Refer to the Graduate School: Minimum Graduate Coursework (50%) Requirement policy: https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1244 (https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1244/).
Overall Graduate GPA Requirement	3.00 GPA required. Refer to the Graduate School: Grade Point Average (GPA) Requirement policy: https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1203 (https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1203/).
Other Grade Requirements	n/a
Assessments and Examinations	No formal examinations are required. However, students complete a culminating portfolio.
Language Requirements	No language requirements.

REQUIRED COURSES

School Psychology has a prescribed curriculum of 66 credits total, 10 credits beyond the masters' degree.

- All students will need to complete a portfolio that will serve as the culminating project. This project will need to be approved by all program faculty and clinical staff.
- All students are required to successfully complete the Year 3 internship.
- All program courses must be completed.
- No deviation from the required courses is allowed. Electives are not permissible.

Code	Title	Credits
Coursework		
ED PSYCH 506	Contemporary Issues in Educational Psychology	3
ED PSYCH 540	Introduction to Professional School Psychology	2
ED PSYCH 541	Applied Behavior Analysis in Classrooms	3
ED PSYCH 711	Current Topics in Educational Psychology	3
ED PSYCH 711	Current Topics in Educational Psychology	3
ED PSYCH/ COUN PSY 723	Developmental Processes Across the Life Span	3
ED PSYCH 740	Cognitive Assessment of Children in the Schools	3
ED PSYCH 741	Social, Emotional, and Behavioral Assessment	3
ED PSYCH 742	Assessment and Intervention for Academic Skill Problems	3
ED PSYCH 844	Childhood and Adolescent Psychopathology in Schools	3
ED PSYCH/ HDFS/NURSING/ SOC WORK 880	Prevention Science	3
ED PSYCH 942	Systems of Consultation in School Psychology	3
ED PSYCH 947	Evidenced-based Child and Adolescent Psychotherapy	3
Practicum		
ED PSYCH 828	Beginning Practicum in School Psychology	1
ED PSYCH 829	Clinic Practicum in School Psychology	3
ED PSYCH 830	Field Practicum in School Psychology	6
ED PSYCH 830	Field Practicum in School Psychology	6
Internship		
ED PSYCH 943	Internship in School Psychology	6
ED PSYCH 943	Internship in School Psychology	6
Total Credits		**66**

Sample 3-year Schedule

Code	Title	Credits
Fall I		
ED PSYCH 540	Introduction to Professional School Psychology	2
ED PSYCH 541	Applied Behavior Analysis in Classrooms	3
ED PSYCH 740	Cognitive Assessment of Children in the Schools	3
ED PSYCH 828	Beginning Practicum in School Psychology	1
ED PSYCH 844	Childhood and Adolescent Psychopathology in Schools	3
Spring I		
ED PSYCH 741	Social, Emotional, and Behavioral Assessment	3

ED PSYCH 742	Assessment and Intervention for Academic Skill Problems	3
ED PSYCH 828	Beginning Practicum in School Psychology	1
ED PSYCH 942	Systems of Consultation in School Psychology	3
ED PSYCH 947	Evidenced-based Child and Adolescent Psychotherapy	3
Summer I		
ED PSYCH/ COUN PSY 723	Developmental Processes Across the Life Span	3
ED PSYCH 829	Clinic Practicum in School Psychology	3
Fall II		
ED PSYCH 711	Current Topics in Educational Psychology ((DEI in Education and Psychology))	3
ED PSYCH 711	Current Topics in Educational Psychology ((Research Methods))	3
ED PSYCH 830	Field Practicum in School Psychology	6
ED PSYCH/ HDFS/NURSING/ SOC WORK 880	Prevention Science	3
Spring II		
ED PSYCH 506	Contemporary Issues in Educational Psychology ((School Safety and Crisis Response))	3
ED PSYCH 711	Current Topics in Educational Psychology ((Research Methods))	3
ED PSYCH 830	Field Practicum in School Psychology	6
Fall III		
ED PSYCH 943	Internship in School Psychology	4
Spring III		
ED PSYCH 943	Internship in School Psychology	4
Total Credits		**66**

Other Policy

Students in this program may not take courses outside the prescribed curriculum without faculty advisor and program director approval. Students in this program cannot enroll concurrently in other undergraduate or graduate degree programs.

POLICIES

GRADUATE SCHOOL POLICIES

The Graduate School's Academic Policies and Procedures (https:// grad.wisc.edu/acadpolicy/) serve as the official document of record for Graduate School academic and administrative policies and procedures and are updated continuously. Note some policies redirect to entries in the official UW-Madison Policy Library (https://policy.wisc.edu/). Programs may set more stringent policies than the Graduate School. Policies set by the academic degree program can be found below.

MAJOR-SPECIFIC POLICIES

PRIOR COURSEWORK

Graduate Credits Earned at Other Institutions

With program approval, students are allowed to transfer no more than 15 credits of graduate coursework from other institutions. Coursework earned ten or more years prior to admission to an educational specialist degree is not allowed to satisfy requirements.

Undergraduate Credits Earned at Other Institutions or UW-Madison

With program approval, students are allowed to transfer no more than 7 credits of coursework numbered 300 or above taken as a UW–Madison University undergraduate student. With program approval, students may transfer credits taken at other institutions. Coursework earned ten or more years prior to admission to an educational specialist degree is not allowed to satisfy requirements.

Credits Earned as a Professional Student at UW-Madison (Law, Medicine, Pharmacy, and Veterinary careers)

The program does not transfer credits earned as a professional student at UW-Madison.

Credits Earned as a University Special Student at UW–Madison

With program approval, students are allowed to transfer no more than 3 credits of coursework numbered 300 or above taken as a UW–Madison University Special student. However, these credits are not allowed to count toward the 50% graduate coursework minimum unless numbered 700 or above or are taken to meet the requirements of a capstone certificate and has the "Grad 50%" attribute. Coursework earned ten or more years prior to admission to an educational specialist degree is not allowed.

PROBATION

Refer to the Graduate School: Probation (https://policy.wisc.edu/library/ UW-1217/) policy.

ADVISOR / COMMITTEE

Refer to the Graduate School: Advisor (https://policy.wisc.edu/library/ UW-1232/) and Graduate School: Committees (Doctoral/Master's/MFA) (https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1201/) policies.

CREDITS PER TERM ALLOWED

15 credit maximum. Refer to the Graduate School: Maximum Credit Loads and Overload Requests (https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1228/) policy.

TIME LIMITS

Refer to the Graduate School: Time Limits (https://policy.wisc.edu/library/ UW-1221/) policy.

GRIEVANCES AND APPEALS

These resources may be helpful in addressing your concerns:

- Bias or Hate Reporting (https://doso.students.wisc.edu/bias-or-hate-reporting/)
- Graduate Assistantship Policies and Procedures (https://hr.wisc.edu/ policies/gapp/#grievance-procedure)
- Hostile and Intimidating Behavior Policies and Procedures (https:// hr.wisc.edu/hib/)

- Office of the Provost for Faculty and Staff Affairs (https://facstaff.provost.wisc.edu/)
- Employee Assistance (http://www.eao.wisc.edu/) (for personal counseling and workplace consultation around communication and conflict involving graduate assistants and other employees, post-doctoral students, faculty and staff)
- Employee Disability Resource Office (https://employeedisabilities.wisc.edu/) (for qualified employees or applicants with disabilities to have equal employment opportunities)
- Graduate School (https://grad.wisc.edu/) (for informal advice at any level of review and for official appeals of program/departmental or school/college grievance decisions)
- Office of Compliance (https://compliance.wisc.edu/) (for class harassment and discrimination, including sexual harassment and sexual violence)
- Office Student Assistance and Support (OSAS) (https://osas.wisc.edu/) (for all students to seek grievance assistance and support)
- Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards (https://conduct.students.wisc.edu/) (for conflicts involving students)
- Ombuds Office for Faculty and Staff (http://www.ombuds.wisc.edu/) (for employed graduate students and post-docs, as well as faculty and staff)
- Title IX (https://compliance.wisc.edu/titleix/) (for concerns about discrimination)

School of Education Grievance Policy and Procedures

The following School of Education Student Grievance Policy and associated procedures are designed for use in response to individual student grievances regarding faculty or staff in the School of Education.

Any individual student who feels they have been treated unfairly by a School of Education faculty or staff member has the right to file a grievance about the treatment and receive a timely response addressing their concerns. Any student, undergraduate or graduate, may use these grievance procedures, except employees whose complaints are covered under other campus policies. The grievance may concern classroom treatment, mentoring or advising, program admission or continuation, course grades (study abroad grade complaints are handled through International Academic Programs (https://studyabroad.wisc.edu/)), or issues not covered by other campus policies or grievance procedures.

For grievances regarding discrimination based on protected bases (https://compliance.wisc.edu/eo-complaint/) (i.e., race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, etc.), contact the Office of Compliance (https://compliance.wisc.edu/eo-complaint/).

For grievances or concerns regarding sexual harassment or sexual violence (including sexual assault, dating/domestic violence, stalking, and sexual exploitation), contact the Sexual Misconduct Resource and Response Program (https://compliance.wisc.edu/titleix/) within the Office of Compliance.

For grievances that involve the behavior of a student, contact the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards in the Dean of Students Office at https://conduct.students.wisc.edu/).

For grievances about, or directed at, faculty or staff in a School of Education department, unit, or program, students should follow these steps:

1. Students are strongly encouraged to first talk with the person against whom the concern is directed. Many issues can be settled informally at this level. If students are unable to resolve concerns directly or without additional support, step 2 or 3 should be pursued.
2. If unresolved after taking or considering step 1:
   a. If the concern is directed against a teaching assistant (TA), and the student is not satisfied, the student should contact the TA's supervisor, who is usually the course professor. The course professor will attempt to resolve the concern informally.
   b. If the concern involves a non-TA instructor, staff member, professor, academic department, or School of Education office or unit, the student should contact the chair of the department or the director of the office or unit, or their designee. The chair or director, or their designee, will attempt to resolve the concern informally. If the concern is about the department chair or office/unit director, the student should consult the School of Education Senior Associate Dean for guidance.
3. If the concern remains unresolved after step 2, the student may submit a formal grievance to the chair or director in writing within 30 business days[1] of the alleged unfair treatment. To the fullest extent possible, a formal written grievance shall contain a clear and concise statement of the issue(s) involved and the relief sought.
4. On receipt of a written grievance, the chair or director will notify the person at whom the grievance is directed with a copy of the written grievance. The person at whom the complaint is directed may submit a written response, which would be shared with the student.
5. On receipt of a written grievance, the chair or director will refer the matter to a department, office, or unit committee comprised of at least two members. The committee may be an existing committee or one constituted for this purpose. The committee, or delegates from the committee, may meet with the parties involved and/or review any material either party shares with the committee.
6. The committee will provide a written description of the facts of the grievance and communicate recommendations to the department chair or office/unit head regarding how the grievance should be handled.
7. The chair or director will offer to meet with the student who made the grievance and also will provide a written decision to the student, including a description of any related action taken by the committee, within 30 business days of receiving the formal grievance.

[1] For the purpose of this policy, business days refers to those days when the University Offices are open and shall not include weekends, university holidays, spring recess, or the period from the last day of exams of fall semester instruction to the first day of spring semester instruction. All time limits may be modified by mutual consent of the parties involved.

If the grievance concerns an undergraduate course grade, the decision of the department chair after reviewing the committee's recommendations is final.

Other types of grievances may be appealed using the following procedures:

1. Both the student who filed the grievance or the person at whom the grievance was directed, if unsatisfied with the decision of the department, office or unit, have five (5) business days from receipt of the decision to contact the Senior Associate Dean, indicating the intention to appeal.

2. A written appeal must be filed with the Senior Associate Dean within 10 business days of the time the appealing party was notified of the initial resolution of the complaint.

3. On receipt of a written appeal, the Senior Associate Dean will convene a sub-committee of the School of Education's Academic Planning Council. This subcommittee may ask for additional information from the parties involved and/or may hold a meeting at which both parties will be asked to speak separately (i.e., not in the room at the same time).

4. The subcommittee will then make a written recommendation to the Dean of the School of Education, or their designee, who will render a decision. The dean or designee's written decision shall be made within 30 business days from the date when the written appeal was filed with the Senior Associate Dean. For undergraduate students, the dean or designee's decision is final.

Further appealing a School of Education decision – *graduate students only*

Graduate students have the option to appeal decisions by the School of Education dean or designee by using the process detailed on the Graduate School's website (https://grad.wisc.edu/documents/grievances-and-appeals/).

Questions about these procedures can be directed to the School of Education Dean's Office, 377 Education Building, 1000 Bascom Mall, 608-262-1763.

Resources

- Office of Compliance (https://compliance.wisc.edu/) (for discrimination based on protected classes, including misconduct) 179A Bascom Hall, 608-262-2378
- Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards (https://conduct.students.wisc.edu/) (for conflicts between students, or academic integrity violations) 70 Bascom Hall, 608-263-5700
- Bias or Hate Reporting (https://doso.students.wisc.edu/bias-or-hate-reporting/) (for students who experience or observe bias or hate incidents) 70 Bascom Hall, 608-263-5700
- Graduate School (https://grad.wisc.edu/) (for graduate students who need informal advice at any level of review; for official appeals of program/departmental or school/college grievance decisions, see Graduate Assistant Policies and Procedures (https://hr.wisc.edu/policies/gapp/)) 217 Bascom Hall, 608-262-2433
- Ombuds Office for Faculty and Staff (http://www.ombuds.wisc.edu/) (for UW–Madison employees, including graduate students) 523-524 Lowell Center, 608-265-9992
- Employee Assistance (http://www.eao.wisc.edu/) (for conflicts involving graduate assistants and other employees) 256 Lowell Hall, 608-263-2987
- Office of Human Resources (https://kb.wisc.edu/ohr/policies/search.php?cat=4506) for policies and procedures to address workplace conflict) 21 N Park Street Suite 5101, 608-265-2257

- Office of Student Assistance and Support (https://osas.wisc.edu/) (OSAS) (for any students needing advice or support) 70 Bascom Hall, 608-263-5700
- School of Education, Office of Student Services (https://education.wisc.edu/about/student-services/) (for students, particularly undergraduates, in the School of Education) 139 Education Building, 608-262-1651
- School of Education, Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (https://education.wisc.edu/about/diversity-inclusion/) (OEDI) 145 Education Building, 608-262-8427

OTHER

n/a

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Acquire a strong foundation in current and past theories, research findings, and methodologies in their program area.
2. Apply knowledge and skills related to addressing issues of diversity and equity for individuals within specific contexts and in all professional activities.
3. Develop critical thinking skills that promote rigorous evaluation of strengths and limitations in existing theory and research.
4. Apply the fundamentals of research design, data collection, and data analysis through participating in ongoing research or conducting their own research project(s).
5. Identify key features of high-quality research or program implementation / evaluation in their chosen field.
6. Demonstrate writing and oral skills needed to effectively communicate results of scientific research to academic, professional/practitioner, and lay audiences.
7. Communicate effectively in collaborative work or consultation settings with professional colleagues.
8. Become skilled communicators of issues in their research and program area for learners in formal classroom and informal learning settings.
9. Uphold the highest standards of ethical conduct.
10. Conduct research or program implementation/evaluation in accordance with ethical standards established in their field of inquiry.

ACCREDITATION

ACCREDITATION

National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) (https://www.nasponline.org/standards-and-certification/graduate-program-approval-and-accreditation/)

Accreditation Status: Accredited. Next accreditation review: 2028.

CERTIFICATION/LICENSURE

CERTIFICATION/LICENSURE

Students are required to take the School Psychology Praxis exam (https://www.ets.org/praxis/nasp/requirements/).

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION/LICENSURE DISCLOSURE (NC-SARA)

The United States Department of Education (via 34 CFR Part 668 (https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-34/subtitle-B/chapter-VI/part-668/?toc=1)) requires institutions that provide distance education to disclose information for programs leading to professional certification or licensure. The expectation is that institutions will determine whether each applicable academic program meets state professional licensure requirements and provide a general disclosure of such on an official university website.

Professional licensure requirements vary from state-to-state and can change year-to-year; they are established in a variety of state statutes, regulations, rules, and policies; and they center on a range of educational requirements, including degree type, specialized accreditation, total credits, specific courses, and examinations.

UW-Madison has taken reasonable efforts to determine whether this program satisfies the educational requirements for certification/licensure in states where prospective and enrolled students are located and is disclosing that information as follows.

Disclaimer: This information is based on the most recent annual review of state agency certification/licensure data and is subject to change. All students are strongly encouraged to consult with the individual/office listed in the Contact Information box on this page and with the applicable state agency for specific information.

The requirements of this program meet certification/licensure requirements in the following states:
Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming, District of Columbia; American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands

The requirements of this program do not meet certification/licensure requirements in the following states:
Not applicable

Updated: 1 June 2025