SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY, PH.D.

School Psychology

The University of Alabama School Psychology Program is designed to provide exemplary graduate training in research, application and practice related to learning, development and mental health of children and youth, as well as their families, educators and other professionals who work with them. The School Psychology Program admits candidates to the master’s (MA), educational specialist (EdS) and PhD graduate degree programs. The degrees in school psychology prepare candidates for direct school-based practice and, for PhD candidates, careers in academic and other settings as faculty members, researchers, and practitioners. The degree programs in school psychology focus on the provision of school psychology services that are based on a strong foundation of research and application related to learners and learning processes. The school psychology degree programs include an integrated and sequential program of study with comprehensive coursework and supervised field experiences. Candidates participate in courses and seminars in assessment and data collection; interventions and decision making, prevention and consultation, professional school psychology, sociocultural foundations, psychological foundations, human development, educational foundations, statistics and research and other areas. Candidates are required to participate in extensive practicum, internship and research experiences.

The PhD program is an on-campus option only; there is no distance learning option.

Admission Requirements

Prospective students for the PhD program are encouraged to complete their applications by January 15 for admission the following fall semester. Statement of purpose, vita/resume, and letters of recommendation consistent with goals of the program, GRE score of 300 or above and a GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale are needed for regular admission. Applicants may also be considered for admission in some special circumstances if they meet either the GPA requirement OR the GRE score requirement, but not both. Note that a prior graduate degree or educator certification is NOT required for admission to our on-campus PhD degree program.

Certification

Requirements for certification and licensure in school psychology vary from state to state. Students are expected to determine the requirements in the state or states in which they are interested in practicing before beginning the program. The degrees from the School Psychology program may lead to state and national credentials:

- Graduates of the NASP-approved (main campus) program, who obtain the EdS and PhD degrees in the School Psychology, are eligible for the National Certification in School Psychology (NCSP), following successful completion of the national school psychologist Praxis assessment and internship. The NCSP is used by over 30 states, including Alabama, as one possible route to grant state certification in school psychology.

Requirements for the Graduate School (Degree Requirements) and the College of Education (Master’s, Professional Certification, EdS, Doctoral) are detailed in other sections of this catalog. For specific program requirements visit the College of Education website or for a student handbook and additional information, email or call: Program Coordinator, School Psychology, The University of Alabama, College of Education, Box 870231, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0231; phone (205) 348-7575; fax (205) 348-0683; program office, 306 Carmichael Hall. http://education.ua.edu/academics/esprmc/bsp