 

**Frequently Asked Questions**

**School Psychology Doctoral Program**

**For Prospective Students**

**What degree is required for licensure as a School Psychologist?**

Per the Tennessee Board of Education, licensure as a School Psychologist requires completion of a graduate program at the Ed.S. (currently TSU offers programs in the M.S. or Ph.D. in school psychology) or Ph.D. level in school psychology consistent with the knowledge and skills required for licensure and National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) guidelines, full-time internship over one academic year of half-time internship over a period of two consecutive years.

**What is required for application?**

**Ph.D. School Psychology**

* TSU graduate application
* Official GRE or MAT scores sent directly to the graduate office
* Three letters of recommendation
	+ Recommendation forms are available online at [www.tnstate.edu](http://www.tnstate.edu)
* Transcripts from all previously earned degrees or course work
* Receipt of payment for $25 application fee\* (Paid to the Bursar’s Office)

\*subject to change, please check website for current fee(s) schedule

**What is the Deadline for Applicants?**

* The Ph.D. School Psychology concentration program only admits students once a year in the Fall.
* The application deadline is
	+ Fall: December 1

**Where do I send my application?**

Please send all application materials to the TSU Graduate School office. Application, receipt of payment for application fee, letters of recommendation (in envelope with signature across seal), should be submitted in one packed to the TSU graduate school office. GRE and MAT score must be sent to the TSU graduate school office by the respective test company.

**How will I know if I have been admitted to the program to which I applied?**

When the TSU Graduate School office has received a complete application it is sent to the School Psychology Program Coordinator for review by the School psychology Candidate Selection Advisory Council. The School Psychology Program Coordinator will contact applicants via email t o inform them of application status. An official letter will be sent to the applicant by the TSU Graduate School office.

**How long does it take to complete my degree?**

In order to obtain the Doctorate of Philosophy in Psychology in School Psychology a student must successfully complete the following:

1. A minimum of sixty three (63) semester hours of approved course work for the School Psychology concentration beyond the master’s degree.
2. A residency consisting of two (2) consecutive semesters of full time enrollment (a minimum of 9 credit hours per semester).
3. A written qualifying examination.
4. A written comprehensive examination
5. An approved internship
6. A dissertation

The program generally takes about four (4) years to complete, except if the student has a specialist degree, Ed.S., of which it takes two (2) years to complete.

**Can I work full-time and take classes at the same time?**

 The graduate programs at TSU are designed for students who are employed full-time. Classes are offered Monday-Thursday at 4:40 pm and 7:50 pm. Please note that practica and internships are exceptions. These classes require students to engage in field placements during the hours of 7:30 am until 4:40 pm.

**Is the job market favorable for School Psychologists?**

 Yes, the job market is very favorable for school psychologists.

**What do School Psychologists Do?**

* School psychologists work to find the best solution for each student and situation; they use different strategies to address student needs and to improve school and district-wide support systems.
* School Psychologists work with students individually and in groups. They also develop programs to train teachers and parents about effective teaching and learning strategies, techniques to manage behavior at home and in the classroom, working with students with disabilities or with special talents, addressing abuse of drugs and other substances, and preventing and managing crises.
* In addition, most school psychologists provide the following services: *Consultation, Evaluation, Intervention, Prevention, Research and Planning*

**Are there any classes offered on-line or on weekends?**

* Currently, classes are offered in the classroom only. Two classes are offered in a weekend session format.

**In which building are the school psychology offices located?**

* The Queen Washington Building- 2nd floor

**Are graduate assistantships available?**

 Graduate assistantships are available for students of the M.S and PhD concentrations. The TSU financial aid office is devoted to helping students identify scholarships and loans.

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| **Course #****School Psychology Doctorate of Philosophy – Course Offerings per Semester** | **Course Name** | **Credit Hours** | **Semester offered:****Fall, Spring, Summer** |
| EDCI 6300 | Multi-Cultural Education | 3 | Fall, Spring & Summer |
| PSYC 6430 | History and Systems of Psychology | 3 | Fall |
| PSYC 6900 | Role & Function of the School Psychologist  | 3 | Fall |
| PSYC 7136 | Statistics & Computer Applications | 3 | Fall |
| PSYC 7137 | Advanced Statistics & Research Methods | 3 | Spring |
| PSYC 7150 | Change Process – Theory, Research, & Efficacy | 3 | Spring |
| PSYC 7160  | Pre-Practicum | 1 | Fall |
| PSYC 7170 | Social Psychology | 3 | Summer |
| PSYC 7255 | Psychopathology | 3 | Summer |
| PSYC 7256 | Assessment of Psychopathology | 3 | Fall |
| PSYC 7260 | Practicum | 1 | Spring |
| PSYC 7465 | Doctoral Practicum in School Psychology | 3 | Fall |
| PSYC 7466 | Doctoral Practicum in School Psychology | 3 | Spring |
| PSYC 7555 | Individuals: Assessment, Theory, & Intervention | 3 | Spring |
| PSYC 7556 | Couples, Families & Systems: Assessment, Theory, & Intervention | 3 | Summer |
| PSYC 7557 | Supervision: Assessment, Theory, & Intervention (**PSYC 6470 Individual Assessment and Report Writing-PREFERRED**) | 3 | Fall/**Spring** |
| PSYC 6920orPSYC 7730 | Psychological Disorders in ChildrenorQualitative Research | 3 | Spring |
| PSYC 7710  | Psycho Educational Assessment | 3 | Spring |
| PSYC XXX | Specialty Guided Elective (PSYC **6940 Consultation in the School) Highly Recommended** | 3 | Spring |
| PSYC XXX | Specialty Guided Elective (**PSYC 6930 Alternatives to Standardized Assessment) Highly Recommended** | 3 | Fall |
| PSYC 8110 | Dissertation Research | 6-15 | Fall, Spring, Summer*\*Before you enroll in a summer session, make sure the faculty on your committee will be on campus in the summer.* |
| PSYC 8105, 8106, 8107 | School Psychology Doctoral Internship | 0 | Fall, Spring, Summer*\*Please ensure that summer hours are available at your placement site if you plan to enroll in a summer session* |

 

**Frequently Asked Questions**

**School Psychology Doctoral Program**

**For Current Students**

**When do I complete my Program of Study?**

 Typically, the program of study should be completed after a student has completed 9 hours of course work and before he or she completes 15 hours.

**When should I apply for the qualifying exam?**

* When you have completed between 12 and 21 semester hours

**When should I apply for the comprehensive exam?**

* When you have passed the Quals
* When you have completed both semesters of doctoral level statistics
* When you have completed all core courses,
	+ Completed 75% of major courses and 75% of elective courses

**When should I apply for Doctoral Practicum?**

* After you have taken the pre-practicum and practicum courses
* **How should I apply for practicum?**
	+ Process depends on where you conduct your practicum, different school districts may have different deadlines.
		- **Nashville Metropolitan School District (METRO)**
			* Email Lisa Long about your interest in conducting your practicum with Metro and they will mail you an app packet that you mail back, this should be done by March or April to start in the fall

**Internship (Ph.D.) Information**

* A 2000 hour (minimum) (1 year) pre-doctoral internship is required of the Ph.D. in the School Psychology concentration.
	+ Placement of our students in acceptable internships has traditionally occurred, however, obtaining an internship is based upon a national selection process and the University does not guarantee the availability of or selection for an internship.
* **Internship Eligibility**
	+ Successfully complete all field experiences
	+ Portfolio Reviewed and Passed
	+ Pass the PRAXIS 2
	+ Pass the EPPP practice exam
	+ To be eligible for internship, Ph.D. students must pass the PRAXIS 2 (Criteria set by Tennessee State Department of Education), pass the Program administered EPPP practice exams, have finished and passed all required field experiences and have their portfolio reviewed and passed.
	+ While we encourage all students to have all their coursework completed, it is possible for students to enroll in internship while taking one or two psycho-educational foundation courses. Additionally, while we encourage all students to have completed and successful defended their dissertation prior to enrolling in internship, with the approval of their advisor students may complete their dissertation while enrolled in internship.
* **Supervision**
	+ Ph.D. students must receive at least 2 hours of field-based supervision per week from a Ph.D. level Psychologist with appropriate credentials (i.e., licensed/certified). In order to meet licensure requirements this supervision should be provided by more than one credentialed psychologist.
* **Hours**
	+ Students must complete a 2000 hour internship. The experience may occur on a full-time basis over one academic year or a half-time basis over two consecutive academic years.
* **Setting**
	+ While the internship setting may include some work in non-school settings, at least 600 hours must be completed in school settings.

**What items are required for licensure?**

1. Educational Specialist Degree (EdS)- An EdS degree is the entry level degree for licensure as a school psychologist in the state of Tennessee. Currently TSU only offers the M.S. and Ph.D. programs

\*\*(Please note that a Masters degree is required for application to the Ph.D. program)\*\*

1. PRAXIS II exam in School Psychology- Successful completion of the PRAXIS II exam is required for licensure as a School Psychologist, per the state of Tennessee. To take the praxis tests, you must register online with Educational Training Service (ETS) or call ETS at 1-800-772-9476 for registration materials.

\*\*When registering for any Praxis testing for Tennessee, please provide ETS with your social security number. This will create a file of scores within the Tennessee Department of Education.\*\*

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