

## 2023-25 Graduate Catalog

### Doctor of Philosophy Degree in School Psychology

The PhD in School Psychology is a full-time 114-semester credit hour program designed to prepare graduates for careers as scientist-practitioners and professional health service psychologists capable of contributing to the academic, emotional, and social-behavioral well-being of children and adolescents through direct and indirect services, as well as to the science that informs psychological practice. Students will demonstrate an understanding of basic content areas in psychology, as well as professional issues including ethical and legal principles, equity, cultural diversity, communication, and quality assurance principles necessary for professional competencies in assessment, intervention, consultation, and supervision of psychological services with diverse populations. Students will also demonstrate scientific knowledge and expertise in research methods and data analysis.

As part of the program, students will select one of three areas of specialization (behavior analysis; bilingual school psychology; or research and evaluation). Students also complete a full-time internship, school-based practicum where students gain experience providing a range of psychological services, specialized practicum experiences, and a doctoral dissertation based on original research.

#### Program Admission Requirements

The PhD in School Psychology is designed for students who aspire to practice psychology in educational settings, conduct research in the field, pursue faculty positions, and assume leadership and supervisory roles in school psychology. Admission to the program is limited and competitive. Meeting the minimum admission requirements does not guarantee acceptance into the program. Competitive applicants usually exceed minimum requirements.

In addition to UTSA's general graduate admission requirements, the minimum requirements for admission are:

1. Applicants must provide official transcripts indicating a Bachelor's degree in Psychology, Special Education, Curriculum & Instruction, Sociology, or closely related field from a regionally accredited college or university in the United States, or show proof of equivalent training at a foreign institution.
2. Acceptance to the PhD program is contingent on having a grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) in the last 60 semester credit hours of coursework for the baccalaureate degree, as well as in all graduate-level coursework taken (if applicable).
3. Applicants must submit an official score on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE; including the Verbal Reasoning, Quantitative Reasoning, and Analytical Writing tests).

**CREATING BOLD FUTURES.**

GRE scores cannot be more than five years old. Applicants must obtain a minimum score of 3.5 on the Analytical Writing test. There is not a cutoff score for the Verbal Reasoning or Quantitative Reasoning tests; rather, scores on these tests will be balanced with GPA and other criteria.

4. Applicants whose native language is not English must submit an official score on either the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the International English Language Testing System (IELTS). Minimum scores include a score of at least 600 on the TOEFL paper version, at least 100 on the TOEFL Internet version, or at least 7 on the IELTS.
5. Applicants must provide two letters of recommendation from professional references. Appropriate sources of letters include professors, supervisors, employers, and similar individuals with whom the applicant has a professional relationship. These letters should specifically address the applicant's academic and/or professional skills, and potential to succeed in a rigorous graduate program. Letters should not be submitted from personal references such as friends or family members.
6. Applicants must prepare a Statement of Purpose (approximately 500 words) which outlines the applicant's (1) reasons for pursuing the PhD degree in School Psychology, (2) experiences relevant to the field of psychology or education, and (3) career plans.
7. Selected applicants will complete an interview with program faculty. Following the interviews and review of all application materials, faculty will determine which students to admit for the academic year.
8. Applicants who lack appropriate academic background in psychology or a closely related field may be admitted conditionally, and specific leveling coursework will be required to address areas of deficiency. The hours of coursework required will be determined on a case-by-case basis between the student and the student's advisor and this coursework must be completed within the first year of study.

Selection decisions will be strongly influenced by applicants' writing ability as demonstrated by their Statement of Purpose and score on the GRE Analytical Writing test. Demonstration of writing skills is especially important because success in the field of School Psychology largely depends on these skills, and students will be required to complete a significant amount of writing throughout the School Psychology curriculum in addition to the dissertation.

### **Criminal History Policy and Acknowledgement**

The College of Education and Human Development (COEHD) prepares educators and professionals for fields which require fieldwork, internship, practicum, service-learning and/or clinical teaching. Placements occur in educational, clinical, health care facilities, hospital, and/or medical settings that require a criminal background check. The University of Texas at San Antonio is required to inform you of the requirements set forth by the Texas Occupation Code, Chapter 53, Sections 53.001 through 53.105.

All COEHD prospective students in a licensure or certification program are required to acknowledge that they have been made aware of these requirements and that they have read the COEHD Criminal History Policy. For more information and for completing the acknowledgement form, please visit the Office of Professional Preparation, Assessment, and Accreditation in the College of Education and Human Development.

## Degree Requirements

The PhD in School Psychology is a 114 credit hour degree program that includes 87 hours of coursework (including general core and specialization courses), 12 hours of practicum (including general core and advanced practicum), 6 hours of doctoral internship, and 9 hours of dissertation credit. Students pursuing the PhD in School Psychology will be required to pass a qualifying examination prior to admission to candidacy. All students will also be required to submit a scholarly contribution in the form of a dissertation as partial fulfillment of requirements for this degree.

Course List		
Code	Title	Credit Hours
A. General Core Courses		87
EDP 5003	Psychological Learning Theories	3
EDP 5033	Human Development across the Lifespan	3
EDP 5303	Principles and Techniques of Evaluation	3
EDP 5603	Psychology of Motivation	3
EDP 6033	Legal, Ethical and Professional Issues	3
EDP 6103	Introductory Statistics	3
EDP 6203	Quasi and Experimental Research Design	3
EDP 6213	School Based Counseling Theories	3
EDP 6233	Mental Health Services in the Schools	3
EDP 6243	Cognitive Assessment and Intervention	3
EDP 6253	Academic Assessment and Intervention	3
EDP 6263	Behavioral Assessment and Intervention	3
EDP 6293	Consultation in the Schools	3
EDP 6413	Applied Regression Analysis	3
EDP 6343	Social Emotional Assessment in the Schools	3
EDP 6643	Child and Adolescent Psychopathology	3
EDP 6703	Clinical Neuropsychology	3
EDP 6733	Multicultural Assessment and Intervention	3
EDP 6833	Practicum in School Psychology (repeated for 6 hours total)	6
SPE 5403	Survey of Special Education	3
EDP 7033	History and Systems of Psychology	3

EDP 7043	Systems Consultation and Prevention Science	3
EDP 7213	Supervision and Teaching in Psychology	3
EDP 7103	Multivariate Statistics	3
PSY 7103 or equivalent	Advanced Topics in Biopsychology	3
PSY 7123	Advanced Topics in Applied Social Psychology	3
EDP 7943	Doctoral Internship in School Psychology (doctoral level, repeated for 6 hours total)	6
<b>B. Specialization</b>		<b>18</b>
	12 semester credit hours of graduate electives from one of three areas of specialization (behavior analysis; bilingual school psychology; or research and evaluation). Courses are selected from graduate offerings throughout the University, and students must meet prerequisites for enrollment. Students work with their advisor to select specialization areas and coursework.	12
	6 semester credit hours of advanced practicum courses from one of three areas of specialization (behavior analysis; bilingual school psychology; or research and evaluation).	6
<b>C. Dissertation</b>		<b>9</b>
EDP 7991-3	Doctoral Dissertation (repeated for up to 9 hours total)	
<b>Total Credit Hours</b>		<b>114</b>

Students who enter the PhD program with only a baccalaureate degree receive an MA in Applied Educational Psychology upon completion of 36 hours in the PhD program. Students who enter the PhD program with a completed master’s degree, or with previous graduate coursework will have their transcripts examined to determine how many master’s level courses are required. Additional required coursework will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

## Standards and Procedures

In order to complete the PhD in School Psychology and to be eligible to take certification or licensing examinations, students must: maintain scholastic performance meeting or exceeding department standards; demonstrate the acquisition of, and ability to apply, skills necessary to work effectively with persons and systems having diverse needs; demonstrate professionalism in their interactions with others; and conform with the codes of ethics of relevant professional associations in psychology (e.g., National Association of School Psychologists, American Psychological Association) in addition to the ethical and legal regulations relevant to the

practice of psychology in the State of Texas (e.g., Texas Administrative Code, Rules and Regulations of the Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologists).

It is the duty of faculty members in the School Psychology program to evaluate all students according to these standards in all settings in which faculty members and students interact, including classes, practicum and internship sites, advising, and supervision. It is expected that students will respond to evaluations, formal or informal, in appropriate ways and will attempt to conform to professional standards as explained to them. Please refer to the program's Fitness to Practice policy for further guidance.

Admission to the doctoral program does not guarantee fitness to remain in the program to completion. Only those students who meet program standards will be allowed to continue in the program. If and when a student is judged not to meet program standards sufficiently to be allowed to provide psychological services to others, that student will be removed from continuation in the program.