SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY

Graduate Program Head  
James Diperna

Program Code  
SPSY

Campus(es)  
University Park (Ph.D., M.S., M.Ed.)

Degrees Conferred  
Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)
Master of Science (M.S.)
Master of Education (M.Ed.)
Dual-Title Ph.D., M.S., and M.Ed.
in School Psychology and
Comparative and International
Education

The Graduate Faculty  
View (https://secure.gradsch.psu.edu/gpms/index.cfm?searchType=fac&prog=SPSY)

Admission Requirements

Applicants apply for admission to the program via the Graduate School application for admission (http://gradschool.psu.edu/prospective-students/how-to-apply). Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-300 Admissions (http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies).

Only those students who anticipate a doctoral degree will be admitted. Students are selected within the limitations of program facilities. Priority is given to applicants with work experience with children.

An undergraduate major emphasizing work in psychology and/or education is preferred, but students with fewer than 20 upper-division credits in psychology, educational psychology, or special education may be admitted with limited deficiencies to be fulfilled concurrently with their graduate work. Requirements for admission include:

- a minimum of one-third of graduate credits of A quality;
- undergraduate GPA of B or higher;
- satisfactory recommendations from two or more professors, preferably psychologists; and
- a score of 1000 or higher on the two general sections or a score of 1500 or higher, including the analytical or an advanced test, of the Graduate Record Examination.

Exceptions may be made for students with special backgrounds, abilities, and interests.

Degree Requirements

Master of Education (M.Ed.)

Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-700 Professional Degree Requirements (http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies).

Students qualifying for a certificate to practice in the schools must meet standards specified by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. These include, but are not limited to,

- a master’s degree,
- about 60 graduate credits,
- practicum experiences, and
- successful completion of precertification tests.

Master of Science (M.S.)

Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-600 Research Degree Requirements. (http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies)

Students entering the program with a bachelor’s degree complete the M.S. as prescribed by the Graduate School.

Students qualifying for a certificate to practice in the schools must meet standards specified by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. These include, but are not limited to,

- a master’s degree,
- about 60 graduate credits,
- practicum experiences, and
- successful completion of precertification tests.

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)

Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-600 Research Degree Requirements. (http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies)

Students may be admitted with a master’s degree from school psychology programs from other institutions or from related programs in this or other universities. The doctoral program includes:

- a predissertation research requirement;
- the core program described here (which qualifies the candidate for a school psychology certificate);
- a special proficiency of 6 to 18 credits;
• an internship; and
• a dissertation.

Students completing the School Psychology Core Program will have courses in:
• the biological bases of behavior,
• the cognitive bases of behavior,
• the social bases of behavior,
• personality theory or abnormal psychology,
• human development,
• professional ethics and standards,
• research design and methodology,
• statistics,
• psychometrics,
• counseling theory,
• educational foundations,
• educational administration,
• the education of exceptional children, and
• curriculum.

Dual-Titles
Dual-Title M.Ed., M.S., and Ph.D. in School Psychology and Comparative and International Education
Requirements listed here are in addition to requirements listed in GCAC-208 Dual-Title Graduate Degree Programs (http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-200/gcac-208-dual-title-graduate-degree-programs).

Admission Requirements
Students must apply and be admitted to the graduate program in School Psychology and The Graduate School before they can apply for admission to the dual-title degree program. After admission to their primary program, students must apply for admission to and meet the admissions requirements of the Comparative and International Education dual-title program. Refer to the Admission Requirements section of the Comparative and International Education Bulletin page (http://bulletins.psu.edu/graduate/programs/majors/comparative-international-education). Doctoral students must be admitted into the dual-title degree program in Comparative and International Education prior to taking the qualifying examination in their primary graduate program.

Degree Requirements
To qualify for the dual-title degree, students must satisfy the degree requirements for the degree they are enrolled in School Psychology. In addition, students must complete the degree requirements for the dual-title in Comparative and International Education, listed on the Comparative and International Education Bulletin page (http://bulletins.psu.edu/graduate/programs/majors/comparative-international-education).

The qualifying examination committee for the dual-title Ph.D. degree will be composed of Graduate Faculty from School Psychology and must include at least one Graduate Faculty member from the Comparative and International Education program. Faculty members who hold appointments in both programs’ Graduate Faculty may serve in a combined role. There will be a single qualifying examination, containing elements of both School Psychology and Comparative and International Education. Dual-title graduate degree students may require an additional semester to fulfill requirements for both areas of study and, therefore, the qualifying examination may be delayed one semester beyond the normal period allowable.

In addition to the general Graduate Council requirements for dissertation committees (http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-600/phd-dissertation-committee-formation), the dissertation committee of a School Psychology and Comparative and International Education dual-title Ph.D. student must include at least one member of the Comparative and International Education Graduate Faculty. Faculty members who hold appointments in both programs’ Graduate Faculty may serve in a combined role. If the chair of the dissertation committee is not also a member of the Graduate Faculty in Comparative and International Education, the member of the committee representing Comparative and International Education must be appointed as co-chair. The Comparative and International Education representative on the student’s dissertation committee will develop questions for and participate in the evaluation of the comprehensive examination.

Students in the dual-title program are required to write and orally defend a dissertation on a topic that is approved in advance by their dissertation committee and reflects their original research and education in School Psychology and Comparative and International Education. Upon completion of the doctoral dissertation, the candidate must pass a final oral examination (the dissertation defense) to earn the Ph.D. degree. The dissertation must be accepted by the dissertation committee, the head of the graduate program, and the Graduate School.

Student Aid
Graduate assistantships available to students in this program and other forms of student aid are described in the Tuition & Funding (http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-funding) section of The Graduate School’s website. Students on graduate assistantships must adhere to the course load limits (http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gsad/gsad-500/gsad-501-credit-loads-graduate-assistants) set by The Graduate School.

Courses
Graduate courses carry numbers from 500 to 699 and 800 to 899. Advanced undergraduate courses numbered between 400 and 499 may be used to meet some graduate degree requirements when taken by graduate students. Courses below the 400 level may not. A graduate student may register for or audit these courses in order to make up deficiencies or to fill in gaps in previous education but not to meet requirements for an advanced degree.

School Psychology (SPSY) Course List (https://bulletins.psu.edu/university-course-descriptions/graduate/spsy)
## Contact

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<td>Program Website</td>
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