

School Psychology Track at Texas Tech

Frequently Asked Questions—License Seeking

1. Is there a cut point for the GRE exam?

No, there is not a cut point for admission. Our holistic application review process allows us to consider all evidence of an applicant's readiness for graduate level work and his/her fit to our program.

2. Do I need to take the GRE psychology subject exam?

No, a score on the GRE psychology subject exam is not required.

3. Is this an online program?

No, the School Psychology Track is considered a face-to-face program, and quality, direct supervision of students is highly valued. However, a variety of course formats (*weekend face-to-face, summer intensive, and online courses; see below for details*) are integrated into the Track to ensure that all students have the opportunity to benefit from instruction and related experiences. Additionally, offering multiple course formats and times allow students to complete practicum hours and remain engaged in public schools during the school day.

Weekend face-to-face courses are offered across four scheduled Saturdays during a semester. In some semesters, six weekends are scheduled to accommodate two courses. These are intensive courses that are supported through electronic media between class sessions.

Summer intensive courses are offered full days for one week in the summer. When courses are related, the days may be divided into two courses for a total of two weeks (one week in June and a second in July). Summer intensive courses are typically theoretically focused courses or centered on research foundations.

Online courses comprise less than half of the required Track coursework. At each year of study, School Psychology students are required to complete at least one site and university supervised practicum. Therefore, online instruction is balanced with supervised practice.

4. What will my time commitment look like during a regular semester?

Students are consistently engaged in practicum experiences to support their application of content learning to practical settings and situations. Students should expect to spend 12 hours engaged in supervised practice each week. Typically, students enroll in a minimum of 9 hours of coursework each regular semester. Despite the method of course delivery, **students should expect to spend approximately three hours outside of class time for every hour of credit.** That is, a three-hour course would require approximately nine hours outside of direct contact with the instructor each week. When totaled, students should anticipate devoting 40 hours a week to their studies.

5. What will my time commitment look like during a summer term?

Most students complete coursework or practicum hours during the summer. Practicum hours may be completed during the summer; however, students should anticipate spending 40 hours a week at their practicum site during the shortened summer terms.

6. Do I have to complete my internship in Lubbock?

No, students may complete their internship in another location if it can be determined that the site offers both the breadth of service and high quality supervision. All internship sites should be approved by the program.

7. Does this program prepare me for licensure as a clinical or counseling psychologist?

No, in addition to training school psychologists using the NASP training model, the School Psychology Track focus is to develop students' interventions skills (social, emotional, and behavioral) in school settings, for instance, through social, emotional, and behavioral training and research.

8. Is the program APA or NASP approved?

Because the program is new, the School Psychology Track is currently in the process of collecting data to apply for NASP approval. The School Psychology Praxis Examination pass rate is 100% and an assessment plan is being followed.

9. How will the lack of APA accreditation or NASP approval affect me?

Although the program was designed to follow the NASP Training Model, the program has not been objectively evaluated to ensure its compliance and interpretation of the model. Students seeking licensure will need to refer to their state's licensure or certification requirements to determine their eligibility. In Texas, for example, students who graduate from non-accredited or non-approved programs must submit an application for licensure and provide specific documentation of their coursework.

Students seeking the Ph.D. to become graduate educators should recognize that some university programs will require or prefer applicants for faculty positions to have degrees from APA accredited or NASP approved programs. However, some programs will not. Although students' options for academic positions as graduate educators could be limited, students may also be competitive for academic positions in Educational Psychology and Special Education programs.

10. What are the deadlines for application?

The School Psychology Track uses a rolling admissions process which allows the review of completed applications the second week of each month. Even so, full admission to a Track cohort is awarded each fall and in some summer semesters. When beginning outside of a cohort, progress may be delayed as certain courses must be taken in sequence and are not always available each semester. Applicants who wish to be considered for scholarship/fellowship must submit applications by December 1 to meet the university deadline.

11. What percentage of applicants are admitted?

The Fall 2018 admission rate was close to 80%. As student positions have filled and the Track has approached the targeted 1:12 faculty to student ratio, applicants should expect this percentage to be somewhat smaller.

12. What funding is available?

Fellowship deadlines are in mid-February for the fall semester. However, smaller amounts of funding may be available each semester. Students may also apply for research assistantships, which are available on a rolling basis. Students are encouraged to apply for the research assistantship at the time of application.