

## **School Psychology Track at Texas Tech**

### **Frequently Asked Questions—Licensed Cohort**

#### **1. Do I have to retake the GRE?**

If your GRE score is older than 5 years, you will need to retake the test. GRE scores are required as they provide some evidence of an applicant's verbal reasoning, quantitative reasoning, analytical writing, and critical thinking skills. We understand that your completion of a graduate degree as well as success as a licensed professional provide evidence of these skills. However, we accept students at all levels but use a single application process; therefore, the exam is required of all students.

#### **2. 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.

#### **3. Do I need to take the GRE psychology subject exam?**

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

#### **4. 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 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.

#### **5. What will my time commitment look like during a regular semester?**

Most fall and spring semesters include a balance of course formats, with students taking an online course and at least one weekend course. Students may also complete independent study as well as practicum and/or internship hours. A three-hour course typically meets over four predetermined Saturdays from 8 AM to 5 PM. 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.

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

Summer intensive classes are taught from 8 AM to 6 PM for one week during a summer term. Students may also take advantage of specialized practicum opportunities as they fit within their summer schedules.

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

No, the School Psychology Track licensed cohort focus on training doctoral level school psychologists that is aligned with the NASP model. The Track focus is to support students' development of interventions skills (social, emotional, and behavioral) in school settings, for instance, through ABA training and research.

**8. Is the program APA accredited 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 of school psychologists 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 of school psychologists 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. Will my coursework transfer? Will my coursework transfer if it was completed more than 7 years ago?**

Students may transfer up to 30 hours of coursework if it was completed in the last 7 years with a grade of “B” or better. If coursework is older than 7 years and the licensed student has maintained continuing education in the domain, then it may be considered. Coursework completed at a NASP approved or APA accredited program is accepted if a match can be made to a comparable Texas Tech course. Coursework completed outside of a NASP approved or APA accredited program that matches a comparable Texas Tech course can be considered for transfer if a syllabus is submitted and course requirements are consistent with NASP training guidelines.

**12. Is it really possible to keep my full-time position as an LSSP?**

Current students have been able to maintain their school psychology practice and progress successfully through the program. This is possible due to the applied research focus of the program. That is, students engage in course and research projects that involve their school practice. Prospective students should recognize that current students were carefully selected and their fit to the program considered in the application process. The demands of practicing school psychology vary and the demands of a Ph.D. program are high; therefore, prospective students are strongly encouraged to honestly evaluate the time they have available to devote to their studies. Prospective students may also request to visit with current students to learn more about the personal investment and sources of support.