

Frequently Asked Questions

Educational Psychology PhD

School Psychology Track

1. I already have a master's degree, but I want to get a PhD and become a school psychologist. What do I need to do?

It's important to note that licensure as a school psychologist does not require a doctoral degree; however, you must obtain no less than 60 graduate hours of coursework and an internship in school psychology to be eligible to apply for licensure. We highly encourage individuals who are seeking licensure to apply to the school psychology master's program before applying to the doctoral program. Many of our students in the master's program already have a master's degree in another discipline.

2. If I am a licensed professional counselor, educational diagnostician, or school counselor, does that mean I am ineligible to apply for the school psychology track?

Not necessarily; however, beginning with the Fall 2026 application cycle, the program will give strong consideration to applicants who are already school psychologists. If you are accepted into the school psychology track and do not have a license to practice school psychology, you will follow a different course sequence that includes coursework included in the school psychology master's program. Additionally, you will later apply and be accepted into the master's program so that you can apply for licensure before your doctoral degree requirements are complete. In short, you would complete the school psychology master's program and the school psychology doctoral program concurrently.

3. Is the GRE required, and is there a cut-point for admission?

The Graduate School at Texas Tech University has waived the GRE for all graduate programs through Fall 2026. Applicants who have GRE scores must submit them to the university through ETS. There is no 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 their fit to our program.

4. Will any of my previous coursework transfer?

For coursework completed in related discipline programs, the Graduate School will allow up to 12 semester credit hours taken at an accredited institution to be transferred into a doctoral degree plan. Coursework earning less than a B will not be accepted, and coursework older than eight years requires a validity statement approved by the Graduate Dean.

5. Is this an online program?

No, the school psychology program is not 100% online. We are a hybrid program, and some of our classes have face-to-face requirements. A variety of course formats are integrated into the school psychology course sequence to ensure that all students can benefit from instruction and related experiences. Additionally, the program and course modality are structured in a way that accommodates individuals who work full-time and live outside of the Lubbock area.

6. Is it really possible to keep working full-time?

Although the course sequence is designed to accommodate full-time working individuals, the course load is intense. During the first two years, students enroll in 12 semester credit hours each long 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.

The second year of the program will be the most challenging because it requires 14 hours each week of practical experience in a school district under the supervision of a school psychologist who has been practicing without supervision for at least three years. Typically, the student does not get paid by the district during their practicum, but some students have successfully applied for positions in their current district or a nearby district to accommodate the practicum hours. **We highly discourage students from continuing their teaching positions during the practicum year.** Students who are diagnosticians, school counselors, ARD facilitators, or behavior specialists are usually able to negotiate their job duties to incorporate their school psychology practicum hours and experiences. We stress that the 14 hours each week should be relevant to the practice of school psychology and outside of the individual's normal job duties. The practicum year is critical because it prepares you for the internship, where you will be expected to practice more independently, albeit under the supervision of a school psychologist. It's not just about the number of hours, but it's about the quality of experiences. In addition to the field experience practicum hours, students are enrolled in a 3-credit hour practicum course through the program that meets virtually each week.

The final year of the program consists only of the internship. Students are enrolled in a 1-credit hour internship course through the program, but usually, students are employed by the district full-time as interns. Students can complete their internship nearly anywhere, provided they can gain a range of school psychological experiences under the supervision of a school psychologist who has been practicing for at least three years. Although the licensing board allows a part-time internship completed over the course of two years, our program mandates a full-time internship across one academic year.

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

It is possible; however, students are responsible for ensuring that their internship site meets the licensure requirements to become a licensed psychologist. Typically, this means that the site must have two licensed psychologists on staff, and there must be at least two doctoral interns completing their experience requirements at the same site. Licensure as a school psychologist requires an internship with a minimum of 1,200 hours of supervised experience (600 hours must be completed in a school setting); however, the requirements to be a licensed psychologist require a minimum of 1,750 pre-doctoral hours and 1,750 post-doctoral hours.

8. Is the program APA-accredited or NASP-approved?

No, the school psychology program at Texas Tech University is not accredited by APA or NASP. Students seeking a 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, and many of our graduates have secured faculty positions in other school psychology programs.

9. When is the deadline for applications, and how many students are admitted?

We use a cohort model and only admit students for the fall semesters. Applications for the school psychology track become available on October 1 and are due March 15 for the following Fall semester. Applicants who wish to be considered for university scholarships must submit applications by December 1 to meet the university deadline. The number of students admitted varies; however, the program is competitive and typically accepts 2-5 doctoral students each year.