

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Educational Psychology PhD

### School Psychology Track

#### **1. What type of licensure is most appropriate for the school psychology track?**

The school psychology track is designed to train school psychologists as leaders in the field. Ideally, applicants already have a license to practice school psychology and have been practicing in the field for at least three years. Individuals who do not have a license to practice school psychology are highly encouraged to complete the school psychology master's program before applying to the doctoral program.

#### **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 individuals who have already completed a specialist or master's degree in school psychology, we will request a block transfer of 30 credit hours to be applied towards a doctoral program. For coursework completed in other 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 my full-time position as a school psychologist?**

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 was 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.

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

No, the school psychology track no longer includes an internship, and therefore, you would not meet the requirements to apply for licensure as a licensed psychologist. In the past, the school psychology track offered a consortium for students to complete their internship under the supervision of a licensed psychologist. The consortium was discontinued after Spring 2025.

**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.