

# SPECIALIST IN SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY (S.S.P.) MAJOR IN SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY

## Program Overview

The Specialist in School Psychology (S.S.P.) program is fully approved by the National Association of School Psychologists as a specialist-level degree that includes a 1200-clock-hour internship. The curriculum meets state and national standards for specialist-level training in school psychology. It includes didactic and experiential course work in data-based decision-making, problem solving, evidence-based interventions, and interactions among family, school, and community systems.

School psychology may not serve as a minor for other programs. Graduates of the program are eligible to apply for the following credentials: Licensed Specialist in School Psychology and/or Licensed Psychological Associate from the Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologists; and Nationally Certified School Psychologist from the National School Psychology Certification Board.

## Application Requirements

The items listed below are required for admission consideration for applicable semesters of entry during the current academic year. Submission instructions, additional details, and changes to admission requirements for semesters other than the current academic year can be found on The Graduate College's website (<http://www.gradcollege.txstate.edu>). International students should review the International Admission Documents webpage (<http://mycatalog.txstate.edu/graduate/admission-documents/international/>) for additional requirements.

- completed online application
- \$55 nonrefundable application fee
- or
- \$90 nonrefundable application fee for applications with international credentials
- baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited university
- official transcripts from **each institution** where course credit was granted
- minimum 3.0 GPA in your last 60 hours of undergraduate course work (plus any completed graduate courses)
- background course work in abnormal psychology, developmental psychology, and statistics (or equivalent courses)
- official GRE (general test only) with competitive scores in the verbal reasoning and quantitative reasoning sections
  - The GRE may be waived if the student holds a master's or doctoral degree from a regionally accredited U.S. institution. If the student holds a master's or doctoral degree (or the equivalent thereof) from an accredited international institution, the GRE may be waived on an individual basis.
- departmental application
- resume/CV including work and volunteer experience, organizations, interests and hobbies, and honors and awards
- statement of purpose (2–3 pages, double-spaced) addressing the following:\*

- professional goals
- rationale for pursuing training in School Psychology rather than in other mental health disciplines (e.g. school counseling, clinical psychology, marriage and family counseling)
- major strengths and weaknesses with respect to the School Psychology program and considering the application overall
- any elements of the application that do not meet the preferred criteria (e.g., GRE score, grade point average, etc.)
- three letters of recommendation

## TOEFL, PTE, or IELTS Scores

Non-native English speakers who do not qualify for an English proficiency waiver:

- official TOEFL iBT scores required with a 78 overall
- official PTE scores required with a 52
- official IELTS (academic) scores required with a 6.5 overall and minimum individual module scores of 6.0

This program does **not** offer admission if the scores above are not met.

## \*Additional Information

The statement of purpose will be evaluated for content, style, and quality.

## Degree Requirements

The Specialist in School Psychology (S.S.P) degree with a major in School Psychology requires 69 semester credit hours.

## Course Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Required Courses</b>		
SPSY 5300	Interviewing, Counseling, and Consulting in School Psychology	3
SPSY 5376	Psychoeducational Assessment	3
SPSY 5377	Social, Emotional, and Behavioral Assessment	3
SPSY 5387	Data-Based Decision-Making in Evaluation and Intervention	3
SPSY 5379	Child and Adolescent Psychopathology: Advanced Assessment and Interventions	3
SPSY 5380	Individual and Group Counseling Techniques for School Psychology	3
SPSY 5385	Ethics, Standards, and Procedures in Professional School Psychology	3
SPSY 5386	Consultation and Professional Issues in School Psychology	3
SPSY 5388	Psychometrics for School Psychologists	3
SPSY 5389	Practicum in School Psychology (Taken three times)	9
SPSY 5394	Multicultural Issues in School Psychology	3
SPSY 5396	Biological Bases of Behavior	3
SPSY 5398	Alternative Evaluation, Intervention, and Student Outcomes	3
SPSY 6301	Professional Internship in School Psychology	3
SPSY 6302	Professional Internship in School Psychology	3
<b>Composite Minor School Psychology</b>		
PSY 5370	Learning, Cognition, and Motivation	3

SPED 5375	Behavior Management: School Application of Applied Behavior Analysis	3
SPSY 5355	Assessment of Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Students	3
SPSY 5382	Program Evaluation in School Psychology	3
Choose 6 hours of advisor-approved electives		6
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>69</b>

## Comprehensive Examination Requirement

The School Psychology Program faculty do not limit how many times a student may retake the Praxis School Psychology Exam (comprehensive exam). However, in order to remain consistent with Graduate College policy on degree completion time limits, which are outlined in the Graduate Student Handbook, the exam a) cannot be taken until the student has completed at least 18 semester hours of graduate degree credit in the School Psychology program, b) may not be taken before the final term if the student has an Incomplete (I) in any course, c) cannot be taken unless the student is enrolled in at least one credit hour of course work when taking the comprehensive examination, and d) the exam must be passed within six years from date of initial enrollment in the School Psychology Training program.

Students who do not successfully complete the requirements for the degree within the timelines specified will be dismissed from the program.

Master's level courses in Counseling, Leadership, Adult Education, and School Psychology: SPSY

## Courses Offered

### School Psychology (SPSY)

#### SPSY 5178. Independent Study.

This course includes individual problems or research topics designed to place emphasis on selected areas of study. It may be repeated for additional credit at the discretion of the department chair.

**1 Credit Hour. 1 Lecture Contact Hour. 0 Lab Contact Hours.**

**Grade Mode:** Credit/No Credit

#### SPSY 5300. Interviewing, Counseling, and Consulting in School Psychology.

This course includes acquisition of skills for conducting interviews, counseling, consulting, and collaborating with children, adolescents, and adults. The emphasis is upon the development of basic communication skills that can be applied by the school psychologist in a variety of multicultural contexts, with an emphasis on family-school collaboration. (MULT).

**3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.**

**Course Attribute(s):** Multicultural Content

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

#### SPSY 5355. Assessment of Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Students.

This course will focus on the psychoeducational assessment of students from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds for purposes of special education eligibility and for instructional decision making. A major emphasis is placed on learning nonbiased assessment methods and procedures to assess language proficiency, intelligence, academic skills and personality-behavioral functioning. (MULT) Restricted to students in the School Psychology SSP Program. Prerequisite: SPSY 5394 with a grade of "B" or better.

**3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.**

**Course Attribute(s):** Multicultural Content

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

#### SPSY 5356. Psycholinguistics of Second Language Acquisition.

This course will focus on the linguistic and psycholinguistic underpinnings of the bilingual brain. It will provide a comprehensive introduction to the foundations of bilingualism, covering language processing, and language acquisition. Topics will include simultaneous and sequential bilingualism, language selection and switching, cognitive consequences of bilingualism, and the bilingual brain. Prerequisite: SPSY 5355 and SPSY 5394 both with grades of "B" or better.

**3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.**

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

#### SPSY 5376. Psychoeducational Assessment.

This course focuses on the administration, scoring, and interpretation of individually administered standardized tests of intelligence, special abilities, and achievement. The theoretical and statistical bases of the tests used, integrative report writing, and learning disabilities are also covered. Prerequisite: Instructor approval.

**3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.**

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

#### SPSY 5377. Social, Emotional, and Behavioral Assessment.

This course covers the evaluation of personality, mental status, and behavior. This includes the theoretical bases, construction, administration, scoring, and interpretation of structured and projective personality tests with integrative report writing emphasizing the assessment of emotional disturbance and behavior disorders.

Prerequisites: PSY 5376 or its equivalent, with a grade of "C" or better, graduate standing, and consent of the instructor.

**3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.**

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

#### SPSY 5378. Problems - School Psychology.

This course includes individual problems not related to thesis or research problems. It is designed to place emphasis on selected areas of study. It may be repeated for credit.

**3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.**

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

**SPSY 5379. Child and Adolescent Psychopathology: Advanced Assessment and Interventions.**

This course includes the advanced investigation of personality dynamics and diagnosis of psychopathology through advanced projective techniques and structured instruments. Students practice comprehensive report writing emphasizing intervention recommendations. Prerequisites: PSY 5376 and PSY 5377, or the equivalents, all with a grade of "C" or better, graduate standing, and consent of the instructor.

**3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.**

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

**SPSY 5380. Individual and Group Counseling Techniques for School Psychology.**

This course focuses on the acquisition and practice of techniques used in counseling interventions with children and adolescents in school settings. Individual and group counseling techniques are emphasized, along with a review and refinement of techniques for interviewing and consulting with parents. Prerequisite: COUN 5307 and COUN 5368 and SPSY 5300 all with grades of "C" or better.

**3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.**

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

**SPSY 5382. Program Evaluation in School Psychology.**

This course introduces the theory and techniques of program evaluation with an emphasis on K-12 educational settings. It includes program evaluation conceptualization, planning, implementation, methodological and ethical issues, and analyzing and reporting results. Emphasis is placed on experimental and quasi-experimental methods commonly used in the evaluation of educational programs.

**3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.**

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

**SPSY 5385. Ethics, Standards, and Procedures in Professional School Psychology.**

This course includes the presentation of historical foundations, role and functions, and procedures used by psychologists in the school setting. Emphasis includes ethical and legal issues, professional standards, state and federal law, and organization and operation of the schools as applied to the mental health and education of exceptional learners.

**3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.**

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

**SPSY 5386. Consultation and Professional Issues in School Psychology.**

This course presents models of consultation as they apply to the professional development and ethical position of the school psychologist. The course emphasizes the consultative role in relation to school administrators, guidance and counseling personnel, teachers, parents, students, and referral sources. Prerequisite: SPSY 5300 and SPSY 5385 both with grades of "C" or better. Corequisite: SPSY 5389 with a grade of "C" or better.

**3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.**

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

**SPSY 5387. Data-Based Decision-Making in Evaluation and Intervention.**

This course covers advanced techniques for assessment of special populations, including early childhood, and integration of information from a variety of sources for the development of educational interventions. A problem solving approach that focuses on linking evaluation and intervention processes will be utilized throughout the course. Prerequisite: SPSY 5376 with a grade of "C" or better.

**3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.**

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

**SPSY 5388. Psychometrics for School Psychologists.**

This course includes theoretical and empirical aspects of psychological measurement, scale development and testing for school psychologists. Topics include the statistical foundations of psychological measurement; stimulus and response-based measurement; social, legal, and ethical implications of testing; test and item bias; score reliability and validity; factor analysis; generalizability theory; and item response theory.

**3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.**

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

**SPSY 5389. Practicum in School Psychology.**

Three practicum experiences occur in a school or agency setting with supervision by on-site and university supervisor. This course must be repeated for a total of nine credit hours. Prerequisite: SPSY 5376 and SPSY 5385 both with grades of "C" or better and instructor approval.

**3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.**

**Course Attribute(s):** Exclude from 3-peat Processing

**Grade Mode:** Credit/No Credit

**SPSY 5391. Research Seminar.**

This course provides students with knowledge of the nature and techniques of social science research. Students will develop research literacy through critical reading and examination of both quantitative and qualitative research. Additional emphasis is given to the relationship and application of science to professional practice.

**3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.**

**Course Attribute(s):** Exclude from 3-peat Processing

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

**SPSY 5394. Multicultural Issues in School Psychology.**

The course provides a broad overview of the psychosocial, psychoeducational and multicultural issues surrounding the delivery of psychoeducational services to students in school systems. The course will help the student develop cross-cultural sensitivity when conducting assessments, providing consultation and performing other interventions. (MULT).

**3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.**

**Course Attribute(s):** Multicultural Content

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

**SPSY 5395. Basic Psychopharmacology.**

This course introduces knowledge of psychopharmacology with children and adolescents, including brain-behavior relationships, psychopathology, and research methods, with application to childhood disorders for which medication is often prescribed. Emphasis is placed on informed consultation with parents, teachers, and medical professionals regarding children prescribed psychotropic medications. Prerequisite: SPSY 5300 and SPSY 5376 and SPSY 5377 and SPSY 5382 and SPSY 5385 all with grades of "B" or better.

**3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.**

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

**SPSY 5396. Biological Bases of Behavior.**

This course covers atypical disorders of brain development or function, particularly those likely to be encountered in the practice of school psychology. It includes an overview of neuropsychological and other tests with emphasis on development of a comprehensive assessment and intervention model through interpretation and critique or case studies. Prerequisite: SPSY 5376 and SPSY 5377 both with grades of "C" or better and instructor approval.

**3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.**

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

**SPSY 5398. Alternative Evaluation, Intervention, and Student Outcomes.**

This course introduces students to the practice of curriculum based assessment in the context of a problem solving model of psychological services in the schools. Lectures, assignments, and activities develop competencies in the areas of non-traditional assessment, development of academic interventions, and the evaluation of student outcomes.

**3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.**

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

**SPSY 5399A. Crisis Prevention, Intervention, and Response in the Schools.**

This course provides core knowledge related to fostering school safety and healthy learning environments, preventing school violence, preparing for crisis events that may impact the school community, and responding to school crises. It emphasizes research that informs best practices and provides information to promote leadership on school safety teams.

**3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.**

**Course Attribute(s):** Exclude from 3-peat Processing|Topics

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

**SPSY 5399B. Essentials for the Assessment of Autism.**

This course will focus on evidence-based practices in the assessment of autism spectrum disorder. This is an experiential course in which students will apply relevant assessment skills under faculty supervision in a clinic-based setting [i.e., Clinic for Autism Research, Evaluation and Support (CARES)]. Prerequisite: Instructor approval.

**3 Credit Hours. 1 Lecture Contact Hour. 2 Lab Contact Hours.**

**Course Attribute(s):** Exclude from 3-peat Processing|Topics

**Grade Mode:** Credit/No Credit

**SPSY 6301. Professional Internship in School Psychology.**

Professional internship may be a continuation of the supervised school based experience or a placement in an appropriate alternative setting with supervision by a licensed psychologist. A minimum of 600 clock hours of experience is required.

**3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.**

**Grade Mode:** Credit/No Credit

**SPSY 6302. Professional Internship in School Psychology.**

Professional internship may be a continuation of the supervised school based experience or a placement in an appropriate alternative setting with supervision by a licensed psychologist. A minimum of 600 clock hours of experience is required.

**3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.**

**Grade Mode:** Credit/No Credit