DESCRIPTION

The Department of Counseling, Educational and School Psychology program offers the Specialist in Education (EdS) degree in school psychology. Students who have completed a master's degree in educational psychology or a directly related area may apply for admission to the EdS degree program in school psychology. Persons interested in school psychology at Wichita State University, but who are applying at the master's level, must apply for the master's degree program in educational psychology.

APPLICATION MATERIALS

The following materials must be submitted to the Graduate School whether applying at the master's or specialist level.

1. University transcripts, undergraduate and graduate
2. Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores

Once the Graduate School forwards the application to the Department, the chairperson will request:

3. References: The names and addresses of three persons from whom we may request letters of reference. These individuals must know you professionally or academically and have some basis for commenting on your probable success as an educational or school psychologist. Applicant’s responsibility is to complete the contact information at the top of each reference form. Select and sign whether to waive the right to see the reference; and return the forms to the department. (The department chairperson will send the reference forms to the indicated individuals, with an explanatory cover letter.)

4. Resume: A resume that includes the following parts: (1) Educational background, (2) Job experiences, with dates, (3) Relevant volunteer experiences, with dates, (4) Undergraduate/ Graduate extracurricular activities, (5) and Personal interests. Please include your e-mail address.

5. Goals and Research Interests Statement: A statement of your professional goals and research interests (typically 2-3 pages)
ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

An index score is computed using the GPA for your last 60 hours of undergraduate course work and the GRE Verbal and Quantitative scores, using the formula:

\[
\text{GPA} + \frac{\text{GRE Verbal} + \text{GRE Quantitative}}{400}
\]

Ordinarily, applicants' scores on this index will equal or exceed 5.5. The GPA and GRE index of 5.5 could be achieved by a student who attained a combined Verbal and Quantitative score on the GRE of 1000 and a B average over the last 60 hours of undergraduate course work.

Applicants to the M.Ed. in Educational Psychology as well as applicants to the EdS in School Psychology who did not complete a thesis in their master's programs are expected to have GRE Analytical Writing scores of 3.5 or higher on the 6-point scale.

Master's degree grade point averages for applicants to the EdS in School Psychology program should equal or exceed 3.5.

ADMISSION DECISION PROCESS

Review of applications for admission is made on an ongoing basis. The application review process requires 3-4 weeks. Applicants should take this into consideration when deciding on their date of preferred enrollment in initial courses.

Upon receipt of the application information (Graduate School application, university transcripts, GRE scores, references, resume, and goals/research statement), the departmental screening committee makes a recommendation concerning acceptance/rejection for the requested degree program.

Applicants who have been denied admission may appeal that decision by contacting the Department Chairperson and providing additional evidence the applicant views as relevant for reconsideration. The program faculty and the Chairperson review appeals and make decisions about them. If the appeal is unsuccessful, the Department Chairperson writes a letter telling the appellant the decision and offers suggestions for improving future admissions potential.

Standard recommendations made to denied applicants suggesting how they might improve their admission potential in the future include retaking the GRE, enrolling in remedial instruction in writing composition, or taking prerequisite courses. The specific recommendations are derived from the weaknesses identified in the appellant's application materials.
DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

*Educational Psychology 32 Semester Hours Master's Degree (for students preparing to be school psychologists)*

1. 32 semester hours (not including CESP 840)  (See specific course requirements.)
2. Master's thesis with oral defense of thesis
   a. Students must successfully complete CESP 701, CESP 704, CESP 728 and CESP 820. Students are strongly encouraged to take these courses early in the program.
   b. Following completion of these four courses, students must apply for admission to the thesis option and meet the following criteria: (a) recommendation of the program faculty; (b) a 3.25 GPA for the 12 hours of courses; and (c) successful performance on a technical writing assessment.
3. Student must file a plan of study with the Graduate School after the first 12 hours of enrollment.

*School Psychology Educational Specialist Degree*

1. 39 semester hours post masters  (See specific course requirements.)
2. Knowledge Examination must be passed prior to filing plan of study.
3. Student must file a plan of study with the Graduate School after the first 12 hours of enrollment.
4. Comprehensive exam must be passed prior to the school psychology practicum.

PROGRAM COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The semester in which courses are typically taught are listed after the course number and name. F indicates fall semester, SP indicates spring semester, and SU indicates summer semester. Students should consult the department=s course rotation schedule in planning their programs.

*Prerequisite (MEd and EdS programs)*

All students preparing to become school psychologists must take CESP 840(3): Psychology of Exceptional Children during their first year unless they have taken CESP 840 or equivalent graduate course work before entering the degree program. (CESP 840, or its graduate equivalent, should be listed as a prerequisite, not degree course work, on a student's Plan of Study.)
Master's Degree Course Work

Students preparing to become school psychologists must have the following courses (or their approved equivalents) at the master's level:

- CESP 701(3): Introduction to Educational Research (F, SP, SU)
- CESP 704(3): Introduction to Educational Statistics (F, SP)
- CESP 728(3): Theories of Human Development (F, SP, SU)
- CESP 808(3): School Psychology Professional Issues (F)
- CESP 819(3): Social Psychology of Education (F)
- CESP 820(3): Learning Theory and Instruction (SP)
- CESP 823(3): Experimental Design in Educational Research (SP)
- CESP 834(3): Biological Principles and Psychological Functioning (F)
- CESP 860(1): Seminar on Research Problems (F, SP, SU)
- CESP 875(2): Master's Thesis (F, SP, SU)
- CESP 876(2): Master's Thesis (F, SP, SU)

Choose one:
- CESP 811(3): Educational Measurement and Evaluation (F)
- CESP 822(3): Assessment in Counseling (SP)

Specialist Degree Course Work

- CESP 803(3): Counseling Theory (SP)
- CESP 824(3): Techniques of Counseling (F, SP)
- CESP 835(3): Psychopathology and the DSM-IV (F)
- CESP 853(3): Law, Ethics, and Multicultural Issues for School Psychologists (S)
- CESP 855(3): Individual Intelligence Testing (F)
- CESP 856(3): Counseling Practicum (F, SP, SU)
- CESP 858(3): Diagnostic Testing (SP)
- CESP 859(3): School-Based Interventions (F)
- CESP 914(3): Consultation Techniques (SP)
- CESP 934(3): Personality Assessment (F)
- CESP 946(6): Practicum in School Psychology (F, SP)

Choose a methods class for children at risk or with disabilities, such as:
- CI 724(3): Methods 1: Academic and Cognitive Skills, Mild Exceptionalities (F & SU)
- CI 740(3): Intro to Early Childhood Special Education (SP)
- CI 810(3): Methods 2: Social Skills for Mild Exceptionalities (SP & SU)

Post-Degree Course Work

Students are eligible to be recommended for conditional license as a school psychologist when they have received their EdS degree. In order to be recommended for full license, students must complete CESP 977: Internship in School Psychology for a total of four (4) credit hours. One credit hour of CESP 977 is awarded for each 300 contact hours. In other words, four credit hours of CESP 977 represents one school year full-time or 1200 contact hours.
Students who have previously completed a Master's degree without having completed a thesis must complete a thesis equivalent. CESP 862(2) is substituted for CESP 875 and 876 for students doing the thesis equivalent. Students normally enroll in thesis equivalent courses in the following order: CESP 860 (1), CESP 862 (1), CESP 862 (1)—only two credit hours of CESP 862 may count toward the program. In the semester immediately following their enrollment in CESP 860, students enroll in CESP 862 for either one or two hours. Once they have taken two hours of CESP 862, students must enroll in CESP 862 for two credit hours for audit every semester (excluding summer if the student is NOT requiring time of the thesis advisor) until the thesis equivalent is completed. Students carry an incomplete in CESP 860 until they pass the preliminary hearing on their proposal. A grade is issued in CESP 860 once students pass the proposal hearing. Students are given incompletes in all enrollments in CESP 862 until they pass the final hearing and submit the final draft (including a bound copy for the department) to the faculty member supervising the thesis equivalent.

Course Sequences

The Graduate Bulletin and the Schedule of Courses contain the prerequisites for all courses. Students should be alert to the following sequences of courses:

1. CESP 701, 704, 728 and 820 must be completed with a mean GPA for the four courses of at least 3.25 before a student can enroll in CESP 860 to begin work on the thesis.
2. CESP 860 must be taken before the master's student enrolls in CESP 875 and before the EdS student doing a thesis equivalent enrolls in CESP 862.
3. CESP 822 or 811 must be taken before CESP 855. CESP 855 must be taken before CESP 858 and 934. CESP 858 and 934 may be taken in either order.
4. CESP 803 must be taken before CESP 824. CESP 856 must be taken no later than one year after the student completes CESP 824.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR QUESTIONS

For more information about the master's program in educational psychology, contact: Dr. Marlene Schommer-Aikins, Graduate Coordinator, Educational Psychology; (316) 978-6386, marlene.schommer-aikins@wichita.edu.

For more information about the specialist program in school psychology, contact: Dr. Nancy McKellar, Graduate Coordinator, School Psychology, (316) 978-6385, nancy.mckellar@wichita.edu.