

School Psychology

School psychologists are uniquely qualified members of school teams that support students' ability to learn and teachers' ability to teach. They apply expertise in mental health, learning, and behavior, to help children and youth succeed academically, socially, behaviorally, and emotionally. School psychologists partner with families, teachers, school administrators, and other professionals to create safe, healthy, and supportive learning environments that strengthen connections between home, school, and the community.

They also help schools successfully:

- Improve Academic Achievement
- Promote Positive Behavior and Mental Health
- Support Diverse Learners
- Create Safe, Positive School Climates
- Strengthen Family-School Partnerships
- Improve School-Wide Assessment and Accountability
- Monitor Individual Student Progress in Academics & Behavior



Undergraduate Course recommendations:

- PY 211 Statistics
- PY 352 Developmental Psych
- PY 358 Abnormal Psych
- PY 361 Psych of Learning
- PY 461 Child Psych
- PY 470 Cognitive Psychology

Preparation for Graduate School:

- Relevant research experience
PY Developmental Faculty: Dr. Gilpin, Dr. Merrill, & Dr. Connors
PY Clinical Faculty: Dr. Tomeny & Dr. Jarrett
- Experience working with youth, like tutoring

Education Requirements:

- Bachelor's Degree in Psychology, Human Development, Sociology, or Education
- School psychologists typically complete either a specialist-level degree program (at least 60 graduate semester hours) or a doctoral degree (at least 90 graduate semester hours), both of which include a year-long 1200 hour supervised internship.
- States typically require a graduate degree and supervised experience in school psychology to work as a school psychologist.
- Applicants should apply to programs specifically titled "school psychology."
- Must hold the proper state-issued credential, which varies across states, to practice. Use the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP)'s resource for state credentialing information.

Salary:

Demand for school psychologists is exceptionally strong and on the rise!

Median: \$58,090

Entry level (0-5 yr) \$52,000

Mid-Career (5-10yr) \$60,000

Experienced (10-20yr) \$69,000

>20 yr \$76,000

Additional Resources and Further Reading:

<https://www.nasponline.org/about-school-psychology/who-are-school-psychologists>

<http://www.apa.org/action/science/teaching-learning/index.aspx>

National Association of School Psychologists:

<https://www.nasponline.org/>

UA College of Education- School psychology

<http://education.ua.edu/academics/esprmc/bsp/>