

# MA IN SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY

Total units required for MA: 45-46

## Program Description

The Master of Arts in School Psychology offers the opportunity to gain skills in working with preschool through grade 12 students, teachers, and parents in the school setting. Graduates of this degree who also complete practicum and fieldwork requirements (described in Pupil Personnel Services School Psychology Endorsement Credential) are eligible for the Pupil Personnel Services School Psychology Endorsement Credential, offered by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CCTC). Possession of the MA in School Psychology and the Pupil Personnel Services School Psychology Endorsement Credential also prepares an individual to meet the academic requirements for the Licensed Educational Psychologist (LEP) license administered by the California Board of Behavioral Science Examiners, Department of Consumer Affairs.

The program includes training in counseling techniques, the use of individual academic and psychological assessment tools, behavioral interventions in the school and the home, consultation skills, techniques of program development and evaluation, special education law, and instructional strategies.

**Note:** If students are to graduate under the provisions of this catalog, they must maintain continuous enrollment from the date of classification to the date of graduation. Students who are planning to be absent for more than one semester must file a Leave of Absence request and have it approved prior to the absence.

## Admission Requirements

Admission as a classified graduate student requires:

- a baccalaureate degree;
- a minimum 2.5 GPA in the last 60 units;
- proficiency in written English composition as demonstrated by either passing the Sacramento State Writing Placement for Juniors exam or equivalent, or passing ENGL 109W (or its equivalent) with a grade of C or better.

Applicants who have deficiencies in admission requirements that can be removed by specified additional preparation may be admitted with conditionally classified graduate status. Any deficiencies will be noted on a written response to the student's admission application.

## Admission Procedures

Prospective graduate students, including Sacramento State graduates, must file the following with the Office of Graduate Studies, Riverfront Center 215, (916) 278-6470:

- an online application, via Cal State Apply, for admission; and
- one set of official transcripts from all colleges and universities attended, *other than Sacramento State*.

For more admissions information and application deadlines, please visit the Office of Graduate Studies website (<http://www.csus.edu/gradstudies/>).

The graduate degree program is subject to general University and Departmental requirements. These requirements are explained in

the Graduate Degree Requirements (<http://catalog.csus.edu/graduate-degree-requirements/>) section of the University Catalog.

## Specific Additional Admission Requirements

In addition to the requirements specified above, admission as a classified graduate student in the Master of Arts in School Psychology, requires:

- a minimum 3.0 overall grade point average (if GPA is below 3.0, but at or above 2.5, the student may be accepted conditionally);
- Graduate Record Exam (GRE) scores;
- evidence of registration for, or CBEST passing score;
- Completion of the following prerequisite courses or their equivalents (contact a school psychology advisor for more information on equivalent experiences):

Code	Title	Units
	An Introductory Statistics course	3
EDUC 155	Introduction to Counseling	3
EDUC 156	Power, Privilege and Self Identity in Counseling	3
EDUC 100A & EDUC 100B	Educating Students with Disabilities in Inclusive Settings Educating Students with Disabilities in Inclusive Settings Lab <sup>1</sup>	3
EDUC 125A & EDUC 125B	Tutoring Children in Reading Tutoring Children in Reading Practicum <sup>2</sup>	3
PSYC 117	Drugs and Behavior	3
PSYC 168	Abnormal Psychology	3

<sup>1</sup> EDUC 100A and EDUC 100B must be taken concurrently.

<sup>2</sup> One (1) year of experience as a teacher in preschool through grade 12 settings, or two (2) years experience as a teacher's aide or substitute teacher in preschool through grade 12 settings may be used as an equivalency (contact a school psychology advisor for more information on equivalent experiences).

Applicants who have deficiencies in admission requirements that can be removed by specified additional preparation may be admitted with conditionally classified graduate status. Any deficiencies will be noted on a written response to the student's admission application.

## Specific Additional Admission Procedures

In addition to the procedures specified above, each applicant must complete a separate application for admission to the School Psychology Program (this application is typically available by October of each year, which is the start of the application cycle):

- the program's application is available online (<http://www.csus.edu/coe/apply/graduate.html>);
- two letters of reference (references will submit letters online);
- one set of transcripts;
- evidence of experience working or volunteering in schools and/or working with youth;
- evidence of strong written communication skills (obtained via writing samples);
- evidence of strong oral communication skills (obtained via an interview with a current school psychology graduate student, practicing school psychologist, and school psychology faculty member).

Department applications are due by February for admission the following Fall Semester. Applications are only accepted and processed once per year, during spring semester for admission the following fall.

## Minimum Units and Grade Requirement for the Degree

Units required for the MA: 42-45

Minimum Cumulative GPA: 3.0. No single course in which a student receives a grade below 'B-' will be counted as credit toward the degree unless the student has petitioned for acceptance of the course, and the petition has been accepted and approved by the School Psychology faculty.

**Note:** A minimum of 21 of these units must be taken in residence at Sacramento State. Use of extension courses must be approved by the advisor. Enrollment in Special Problems will only be granted under exceptional circumstances.

## Advancement to Candidacy

Students working toward a Master's degree must file an application for Advancement to Candidacy, indicating a proposed program of study. This procedure should begin as soon as the classified graduate student has:

- been assigned an advisor;
- removed any deficiencies in admission requirements;
- completed 24 units of content knowledge elective units with a minimum 3.0 GPA; and
- satisfied the Writing Placement for Graduate Students (WPG) requirement within the first two semesters of coursework at California State University, Sacramento. Students may satisfy this requirement via a WPG waiver (see Office of Graduate Studies website for waiver requirements). If students do not satisfy this requirement via a WPG waiver, students must do the following:
  - Take the WPG Exam
    - If WPG Exam is passed, WPG requirement is satisfied;
    - If WPG Exam not passed, WPG requirement not satisfied, and student must:
      - Take ENGL 220W (offered through the College of Continuing Education) and pass with a grade of "B" or better; or
      - Take GRE/GMAT and score 4.5 or higher on the Analytical Writing portion and submit a waiver to the Office of Graduate Studies.

Advancement to Candidacy forms are available in the Department office and on the Office of Graduate Studies website. The student fills out the form after planning a degree program in consultation with a faculty advisor and approved by the Graduate Coordinator. The completed form is then returned to the Office of Graduate Studies for approval. Please note deadline dates posted by the Office of Graduate Studies for submission of this form.

The MA Seminar EDS 249 and Master's Project EDS 541 courses require students to file and have approved a Reservation Form for the courses the semester before intended registration. Registration for Special Problems (EDS 299) requires a Special Problems petition be filed the semester before intended registration. Enrollment in the culminating experience (Project/MA Seminar) may occur only after advancement to candidacy.

Please be aware that this program follows the guidelines provided by the *American Psychological Association's* (APA), most current edition,

for formatting of projects. The Office of Graduate Studies, River Front Center 215, (916) 278-6470, also publishes a two-sided form, Project Format Requirements, to refer to for the preparation and submission of the Master's Project. You can find this form and other Graduate Studies forms on the web on the Office of Graduate Studies website (<http://csus.edu/gradstudies/forms/>).

Prior to graduation, an application for graduation must be filed in the Office of Graduate Studies by the deadline and all coursework leading to this Master's degree (as well as to special education credentials) must be completed within a seven year period. Please note deadline dates posted by the Office of Graduate Studies for submission of this form.

## Program Requirements

First Semester		Units
EDC 210	Multicultural/Ethnic Counseling	3
EDS 231	Group Process in School Psychology	3
EDS 245	Psychology In The Schools	3
EDS 248	Human Development and Learning	3
EDS 201	Legal Aspects of Special Education	3
Units		15
Second Semester		Units
EDS 241	Counseling and Psychotherapy for School Psychologists	3
EDS 242A	Cognitive Assessment	3
EDC 250	Education Research	3
Units		9
Third Semester		Units
EDS 240	Functional Assessment of Behavior	3
EDS 244	Social, Emotional and Behavioral Assessment	3
EDS 246A	Preventive Academic Interventions	3
Units		9
Fourth Semester		Units
EDS 246B	Preventive Mental Health Interventions	3
EDS 247	Assessment of Special Needs	3
EDS 249 or EDS 541	Special Seminar: School Psychology or Master's Project: Education/School Psychology (Plan B)	3 - 6
Units		9-12
Total Units		42-45