

# School Psychology, Ed.S.

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COLLEGE OF EDUCATION (<https://education.temple.edu>)

Learn more about the Education Specialist degree in School Psychology (<https://www.temple.edu/academics/degree-programs/school-psychology-eds-ed-scps-eds>).

## About the Program

The Ed.S. is a rigorous graduate degree program that meets the requirements for certification as a school psychologist in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Students who apply directly from a bachelor's degree can earn an M.Ed. after completion of 30 credits toward the Ed.S. In addition to required coursework, students must complete a portfolio, required practicum placements, and a 1,200-hour internship in a school setting.

**Time Limit for Degree Completion:** 4 years

**Campus Location:** Main

**Full-Time/Part-Time Status:** The program is designed to be completed in three years of full-time study, with the third year being a full-time internship.

**Accreditation:** The program is conditionally approved by the National Association of School Psychologists and accredited by the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

**Job Prospects:** Graduates are employed in public and private schools.

**Licensure:** Graduates can become Nationally Certified School Psychologists. Certification in School Psychology is awarded after completing the internship and passing the examinations required by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Some states will certify without the examinations.

**Non-Matriculated Student Policy:** Students may take up to, but not more than, 9 credits of graduate study in the program before being admitted to the program. The credits transfer into the program, if the student is admitted. ***Students completing non-matriculated courses before being admitted to the program are NOT guaranteed admission.***

**Financing Opportunities:** Financial support opportunities may include scholarships, tuition remission, and other financial aid such as grants, loans, and federal work study.

## Admission Requirements and Deadlines

### Application Deadline:

*Fall:* February 1

Applicants should submit all required admissions documents by the application deadline to receive priority consideration for admission and financial support.

*APPLY ONLINE to this graduate program.*

### Letters of Reference:

*Number Required:* 2

*From Whom:* Letters of recommendation should be obtained to provide insight regarding the applicant's academic competence. References from college/university faculty are recommended.

**Bachelor's Degree in Discipline/Related Discipline:** A bachelor's degree is required. A minimum UGPA of 3.0 is expected.

International applicants should also submit an official document that validates completion and conferral of a degree, diploma, and/or certificate. While not required, international applicants are encouraged to submit transcript(s) to the World Education Services (WES) for evaluation.

**Statement of Goals:** In two to three pages, indicate your goals and objectives in obtaining a specialist degree and certification as a school psychologist, as well as your reason for seeking certification with a specific focus on the career to which you aspire, your research and practice interests, and your academic and job-related experiences that are relevant to the program.

### Standardized Test Scores:

**GRE:** Scores from the general test taken no more than 5 years prior to application are required. Scores from the GRE Subject Exam in Psychology may also be submitted.

Applicants who earned their baccalaureate degree from an institution where the language of instruction was other than English, with the exception of those who subsequently earned a master's degree at a U.S. institution, must report scores for a standardized test of English that meet these minimums:

- TOEFL iBT: 79
- IELTS Academic: 6.5
- PTE Academic: 53

**Interview:** An interview with the faculty admissions committee may be required after a complete application is received.

**Resume:** Current resume required.

**Clearances:** A Pennsylvania criminal background check, a federal criminal history check, a child abuse clearance, and a TB test are required upon enrollment. Students must complete and upload documentation of clearances prior to the start of their program.

**Other Requirement:** Official undergraduate and graduate transcripts from all accredited institutions attended and/or from which credit was earned must be submitted.

## Program Requirements

### General Program Requirements:

*Number of Credits Required Beyond the Baccalaureate:* 65 (30 credits M.Ed.; 35 credits post-master's Ed.S.)

*Required Courses:*

| Year 1            |  | Credit Hours |
|-------------------|--|--------------|
| <b>Fall</b>       |  |              |
| SPSY 5667         | Introduction to Cognitive Assessment                       | 3            |
| SPSY 5672         | Personality and Psychotherapy                              | 3            |
| SPSY 5676         | Applied Behavior Analysis                                  | 3            |
| SPSY 8775         | Legal and Ethical Problems and Professional Responsibility | 3            |
| SPSY 9487         | Practicum in School Psychology                             | 1            |
| Term Credit Hours |  | 13           |
| <b>Spring</b>     |  |              |
| SPSY 5671         | Advanced Cognitive Assessment                              | 3            |
| SPSY 5674         | Social and Behavioral Assessment for Intervention          | 3            |
| SPSY 8621         | Academic Assessment and Intervention                       | 3            |
| SPSY 8777         | Psychotherapeutic Strategies                               | 3            |
| SPSY 9487         | Practicum in School Psychology                             | 1            |
| Term Credit Hours |  | 13           |
| <b>Summer</b>     |  |              |
| EPSY 5561         | Development and Learning Over the Lifespan                 | 3            |
| Term Credit Hours |  | 3            |
| <b>Year 2</b>     |  |              |
| <b>Fall</b>       |  |              |
| EDUC 5101         | Critical Understanding of Social Science Research          | 3            |
| SPSY 9487         | Practicum in School Psychology                             | 1            |
| SPSY 9587         | School Consultation  | 3            |
| SPSY 9687         | Clinical Supervision Seminar in School Psychology          | 3            |
| SPSY 9688         | Psychoeducational Clinic                                   | 3            |
| Term Credit Hours |  | 13           |
| <b>Spring</b>     |  |              |
| SPSY 8770         | Seminar: Special Topics in School Psychology               | 3            |
| SPSY 9487         | Practicum in School Psychology                             | 1            |
| SPSY 9687         | Clinical Supervision Seminar in School Psychology          | 3            |
| SPSY 9688         | Psychoeducational Clinic                                   | 3            |
| Term Credit Hours |  | 10           |
| <b>Summer</b>     |  |              |
| SPSY 9487         | Practicum in School Psychology                             | 1            |
| SPSY 9788         | Seminar on Children with Low Incidence Disabilities        | 3            |
| Term Credit Hours |  | 4            |

**Year 3****Fall**

|                     |  |    |
|---------------------|--|----|
| SPSY 9885           | Internship in School Psychology <sup>1</sup> | 9  |
|                     | Term Credit Hours                            | 9  |
| Total Credit Hours: |  | 65 |

<sup>1</sup> The 9 credits needed to meet the internship requirement may be taken throughout Year 3 in the Fall, Spring, and/or Summer terms.

**Internship:** For certification, an internship with a minimum of 1,200 hours in an approved setting must be completed. A minimum of 600 hours must be in a school setting. The internship can be full-time for a year or half-time over two years.

**Culminating Events:***Comprehensive Examination:*

The comprehensive examination is an essay examination that covers key areas of Psychology and School Psychology to determine the student's competence and ability to explain key concepts. The comprehensive exam is only required for a student whose GPA is below 3.5 at the completion of M.Ed. coursework.

*Portfolio Review:*

During the internship year, students must submit a portfolio of professional work for review by the advisor.

**Contacts****Program Web Address:**

<https://www.temple.edu/academics/degree-programs/school-psychology-eds-ed-scps-eds>

**Department Information:**

Dept. of Psychological Studies in Education  
College of Education  
1301 Cecil B. Moore Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19122-6091  
educate@temple.edu  
215-204-0999

**Submission Address for Application Materials:**

<https://apply.temple.edu/COE/>

**Department Contacts:***Admissions:*

Office of Enrollment Management  
educate@temple.edu  
215-204-0999

**Courses****SPSY 5667. Introduction to Cognitive Assessment. 3 Credit Hours.**

Intensive overview and training with diagnostic instruments of cognitive abilities. Practice with specific tests of intelligence, memory, and cognitive processing. Introduction to the assessment of adaptive behavior. Discussion of theories of cognitive functioning and research literature on intelligence testing.

**Level Registration Restrictions:** Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

**Student Attribute Restrictions:** Must be enrolled in one of the following Student Attributes: School Psy Clinical Clearance.

**Repeatability:** This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

**SPSY 5671. Advanced Cognitive Assessment. 3 Credit Hours.**

The purpose of this course is to develop advanced skills in the individual assessment of intelligence and cognitive functioning. One major component of the course will be learning additional tests of cognitive skills. The second major component will be assessment of children ages birth to six. The third major component will be assessment of children from a variety of cultural, language, and other backgrounds. Successful students will become familiar with test administration, scoring, and interpretation of a variety of instruments and techniques (including the DAS-II, SB5, Bayley-III, memory and nonverbal tests, and dynamic assessment and TPBA), as well as gain practice in demands analysis and integrating assessment findings. Students will also become familiar with issues of diagnosis in young children, issues of assessment of children from different cultural, ethnic, and language backgrounds, and issues in working with parents and families.

**Level Registration Restrictions:** Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

**Repeatability:** This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

**Pre-requisites:**

SPSY 5667|Minimum Grade of C-|May not be taken concurrently.

**SPSY 5672. Personality and Psychotherapy. 3 Credit Hours.**

Covers major theories of personality and psychotherapy, and applications to counseling, assessment, and projective testing in the schools.

**Level Registration Restrictions:** Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

**Student Attribute Restrictions:** Must be enrolled in one of the following Student Attributes: School Psy Clinical Clearance.

**Repeatability:** This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

**SPSY 5673. Introduction to the Diagnostic Process. 3 Credit Hours.**

Discussion of the integration of data from case histories, observations, interview and tests in making differential diagnosis. Diagnosis using DSM-IV-TR and educational identification under special education law with both covered. Overview of major diagnostic categories found in schools. Comprehensive study of skills in interviewing, report writing, systematic observation of child behavior, and evaluation of teaching effectiveness. Major emphasis on conceptualizing and writing recommendations for educational remediation.

**Level Registration Restrictions:** Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

**Repeatability:** This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

**SPSY 5674. Social and Behavioral Assessment for Intervention. 3 Credit Hours.**

Intensive training with diagnostic instruments of personality and behavior. Discussion of educational planning and remedial techniques in relation to personality and behavioral dynamics of children. Emphasis also on theoretical constructs in understanding learning and behavioral difficulties in children.

**Level Registration Restrictions:** Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

**Repeatability:** This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

**SPSY 5676. Applied Behavior Analysis. 3 Credit Hours.**

Introduction to the functional analysis of behavior of children in the school setting. Includes behavior theory, assessment, interaction, and evaluation. A behavior-change program is conducted.

**Level Registration Restrictions:** Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

**Repeatability:** This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

**SPSY 5771. Physiological Psychology. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course is for graduate students in training to be psychologists. It introduces students to the biological bases of behavior, with a focus on brain-behavior relationships.

**Level Registration Restrictions:** Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

**Student Attribute Restrictions:** Must be enrolled in one of the following Student Attributes: School Psy Clinical Clearance.

**Repeatability:** This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

**SPSY 8621. Academic Assessment and Intervention. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course is intended to introduce pre-service school psychologists to the theories, skills, and ethical and legal considerations of academic assessment in school settings. The assessment class will be taught within the over-arching framework of an ecological, multi-tiered assessment model. The link between assessment and instructional decision-making will be emphasized throughout the course, with attention to assessment practices for learners with diverse needs and providing instructional support to teachers. Students enrolled in the course will learn how to select, design, administer, score, interpret, and report results for a variety of assessment approaches related to monitoring instructional efficacy and learner outcomes in a standard-aligned model. Assessment approaches will include: (a) authentic; (b) screening; (c) diagnostic; (d) formative; (e) benchmark; and (f) summative.

**Level Registration Restrictions:** Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

**Repeatability:** This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

**Pre-requisites:**

SPSY 5676|Minimum Grade of B|May be taken concurrently.

**SPSY 8770. Seminar: Special Topics in School Psychology. 3 Credit Hours.**

Advanced seminar considering the literature in a specific area of school psychology research.

**Level Registration Restrictions:** Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

**Repeatability:** This course may be repeated for additional credit.

**SPSY 8771. Social Psychology of Education. 3 Credit Hours.**

Discussion of principles of social psychology as applied to the school as an institution. Emphasis on the psychology of planned educational change. Theoretical bases of the process of change and innovation within the schools. Rationale for intervention strategies

**Level Registration Restrictions:** Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

**Student Attribute Restrictions:** Must be enrolled in one of the following Student Attributes: School Psy Clinical Clearance.

**Repeatability:** This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

**SPSY 8772. Seminar: Role and Function of the School Psychologist. 3 Credit Hours.**

Analysis of role and functions of school psychologists. Study of relevant research dealing with varied roles the school psychologist can play within the school system and in other settings. Consideration of legal and ethical practices in school psychology.

**Level Registration Restrictions:** Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

**Repeatability:** This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

**SPSY 8773. Challenges to Development: Child and Adolescent Psychopathology. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course will look at child psychopathology from a development perspective, covering typical social-emotional and cognitive development and then examining how this gets disrupted or otherwise altered to result in child and adolescent psychopathology. We will examine classification systems and models of diagnosis and disease, as well as alternatives to the more traditional "medical model" such as examining risk, resilience and the role of psychosocial and cultural factors. The course will aim to teach students to identify potential mental/behavioral health issues in children and adolescents, and then understand and be able to explain to others what the implications of this might be for a given child or teen. Students will think critically about the ethics and issues of controversy around child and adolescent mental health.

**Level Registration Restrictions:** Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

**Repeatability:** This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

**SPSY 8774. Professional Issues and Literature in School Psychology. 3 Credit Hours.**

Doctoral seminar in professional issues and the research literature in school psychology. Required for School Psychology Ph.D. students.

**Level Registration Restrictions:** Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

**Repeatability:** This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

**SPSY 8775. Legal and Ethical Problems and Professional Responsibility. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course familiarizes advanced graduate students in psychological studies with ethical principles and codes of conduct as well as legal requirements and legislative outcomes to guide our practice as psychologists and pupil services employees/administrators. The APA Ethical Principles and Code of Conduct and NASP Professional Conduct Manual will be perused, as well as PA Law governing the licensure and practice of psychologists. Also covered in this course will be federal and state law related to regular and special education, civil rights, and gifted education. Case law surrounding these issues will be explored.

**Level Registration Restrictions:** Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

**Student Attribute Restrictions:** Must be enrolled in one of the following Student Attributes: School Psy Clinical Clearance.

**Repeatability:** This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

**SPSY 8776. History and Systems of Psychology. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course is for graduate students in training to become psychologists. It introduces students to the history of psychology and the theoretical schools of psychology practice. It is required for students in the School Psychology PhD program.

**Level Registration Restrictions:** Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

**Repeatability:** This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

**SPSY 8777. Psychotherapeutic Strategies. 3 Credit Hours.**

A study of the application of psychotherapeutic techniques, with an emphasis on group techniques, in the school setting.

**Level Registration Restrictions:** Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

**Student Attribute Restrictions:** Must be enrolled in one of the following Student Attributes: School Psy Clinical Clearance.

**Repeatability:** This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

**SPSY 8780. Topical Seminar in School Psychology. 1 to 6 Credit Hour.**

Special topics of interest to the school psychologist. Topics may include therapeutic problems, school discipline problems, parenting and remediation strategies. Topics may vary.

**Level Registration Restrictions:** Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

**Repeatability:** This course may be repeated for additional credit.

**SPSY 8787. Seminar on Verbal Behavior. 3 Credit Hours.**

Advanced course in applied behavior analysis with an emphasis on verbal behavior. Designed to provide students with an overview of verbal behavior (as defined in the field of applied behavior analysis) and an overview of its practical application in teaching language to children with diagnosed language delays.

**Level Registration Restrictions:** Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

**Repeatability:** This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

**Pre-requisites:**

SPSY 5676|Minimum Grade of B-|May not be taken concurrently.

**SPSY 9487. Practicum in School Psychology. 1 to 3 Credit Hour.**

Practicum in School Psychology that is not included in one of the established practicum courses.

**Field of Study Restrictions:** Must be enrolled in one of the following Fields of study: School Psychology.

**Level Registration Restrictions:** Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

**Student Attribute Restrictions:** Must be enrolled in one of the following Student Attributes: School Psy Clinical Clearance.

**Repeatability:** This course may be repeated for additional credit.

**SPSY 9587. School Consultation. 3 Credit Hours.**

Extensive school practicum (practicum of 3 hours per week) consulting with teachers regarding behavior change, instructional consultation, and mental health consultation. Includes assessing treatment integrity.

**Level Registration Restrictions:** Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

**Student Attribute Restrictions:** Must be enrolled in one of the following Student Attributes: School Psy Clinical Clearance.

**Repeatability:** This course may be repeated for additional credit.

**SPSY 9687. Clinical Supervision Seminar in School Psychology. 3 to 12 Credit Hours.**

Case studies by the student in the Psychoeducational Clinic (taken concurrently) are reviewed in depth. Assessment, observations, interviews, diagnosis, educational identification, and remedial strategies are covered. Open only to matriculated school psychology students.

**Level Registration Restrictions:** Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

**Student Attribute Restrictions:** Must be enrolled in one of the following Student Attributes: School Psy Clinical Clearance.

**Repeatability:** This course may be repeated for additional credit.

**SPSY 9688. Psychoeducational Clinic. 3 Credit Hours.**

A practicum course providing supervised training in psychoeducational assessment and counseling of children with learning problems. Open only to matriculated school psychology students.

**Level Registration Restrictions:** Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

**Student Attribute Restrictions:** Must be enrolled in one of the following Student Attributes: School Psy Clinical Clearance.

**Repeatability:** This course may be repeated for additional credit.

**SPSY 9787. Practicum on Children with Low Incidence Disabilities. 3 to 6 Credit Hours.**

Supervised experience in schools or related settings assessing students with a variety of disabilities.

**Level Registration Restrictions:** Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

**Student Attribute Restrictions:** Must be enrolled in one of the following Student Attributes: School Psy Clinical Clearance.

**Repeatability:** This course may be repeated for additional credit.

**SPSY 9788. Seminar on Children with Low Incidence Disabilities. 3 Credit Hours.**

Training and supervision on special tests, rating scales, and observational assessment of children who are blind, deaf, or have disabilities such as mental retardation, autism, orthopedic disabilities, or multiple disabilities.

**Level Registration Restrictions:** Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

**Student Attribute Restrictions:** Must be enrolled in one of the following Student Attributes: School Psy Clinical Clearance.

**Repeatability:** This course may be repeated for additional credit.

**SPSY 9876. Supervision in School Psychological Services. 3 Credit Hours.**

This course will prepare school psychologists to conduct effective, ethical clinical supervision. Issues of administrative supervision and evaluation of school psychological services will also be addressed. Both theory and practice will be emphasized.

**Level Registration Restrictions:** Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

**Student Attribute Restrictions:** Must be enrolled in one of the following Student Attributes: School Psy Clinical Clearance.

**Repeatability:** This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

**Pre-requisites:**

(SPSY 8772|Minimum Grade of B-|May not be taken concurrently

AND SPSY 9687|Minimum Grade of B-|May not be taken concurrently)

**SPSY 9885. Internship in School Psychology. 3 to 12 Credit Hours.**

Supervised internship as a full-time school psychologist in an approved school system, intermediate unit, or consortium.

**Level Registration Restrictions:** Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

**Student Attribute Restrictions:** Must be enrolled in one of the following Student Attributes: School Psy Clinical Clearance.

**Repeatability:** This course may be repeated for additional credit.

**SPSY 9982. Independent Study in School Psychology. 1 to 6 Credit Hour.**

Intended to meet the needs of students in school psychology who desire to carry on an individual investigation.

**Level Registration Restrictions:** Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

**Repeatability:** This course may be repeated for additional credit.

**SPSY 9986. Internship in School Psychology. 1 to 12 Credit Hour.**

Supervised internship as a school psychologist in an approved school system, intermediate unit, or consortium.

**Level Registration Restrictions:** Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

**Student Attribute Restrictions:** Must be enrolled in one of the following Student Attributes: School Psy Clinical Clearance.

**Repeatability:** This course may be repeated for additional credit.

**SPSY 9999. Doctoral Dissertation. 1 to 6 Credit Hour.**

Registration limited to candidates for the doctorate who have successfully completed the minimum number of semester hours required for the degree and the preliminary examination. Continuous registration during the fall and spring terms is required until the dissertation has been completed, successfully defended, and accepted by the Graduate School.

**Level Registration Restrictions:** Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate.

**Student Attribute Restrictions:** Must be enrolled in one of the following Student Attributes: Dissertation Writing Student, School Psy Clinical Clearance.

**Repeatability:** This course may be repeated for additional credit.