

Curriculum and Degree Completion Requirements

The **Doctoral Program in School Psychology** is a program of study typically requiring the successful completion of four years of post-baccalaureate study, including a 2000-hour doctoral internship. On average, candidates will enroll in 15 credit hours per semester.

A candidate must complete all courses for the degree with a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0. **The Doctoral Program in School Psychology requires 118 semester hours of graduate credit, including three years of practica, a capstone research project (the Directed Study), and a 2000-hour doctoral internship. All candidates enrolled in the doctoral program must complete at least 600-hours at the internship level in a P-12 setting.** These hours may be completed as part of the 2000-hour doctoral internship or as an elective internship in school psychology. The school psychology internship must be completed prior to degree conferral.

In addition, all candidates must pass each of the following required comprehensive examinations:

- Florida Teacher Certification Examination – Subject Area Test in School Psychology
- Praxis II School Psychologist Test (5402) (A passing score of 147 is required for graduation)

A candidate is expected to complete and to graduate from the doctoral program within no more than seven (7) years of the date of first enrollment unless granted a leave of absence or an extension by the Program Director.

Candidates who are not certified teachers and wish to obtain certification as a school psychologist may need to complete additional course work or to submit documentation as required by their respective state. For the state of Florida, this documentation will be organized in a systematic manner for the purpose of communicating and demonstrating the student's competencies in the required areas as specified in State of Florida statutes. Prior to degree conferral, candidates who are DOE Program Completers must complete and pass the Florida Teacher Certification Examination – General Knowledge (GK) Test, the Florida Teacher Certification Examinations – Professional Education (PEd) Test, the Florida Teacher Certification Examination – Subject Area (SAE) Test in School Psychology, the PRAXIS School Psychologist Test (5402), and any additional course work identified during the continued program accreditation process. As state mandates are subject to change, candidates should expect changes or modifications to the curriculum and degree requirements.

School psychology candidates may choose to complete a 600-hour or 1200-hour School Psychology Internship during their fourth year of graduate education in a school district under the supervision of a licensed psychologist. Candidates who do not hold a state credential in school psychology must complete 1200 hours in a PK-12 setting to be

considered a Florida Department of Education (DOE) Approved Program Completer. **All candidates are required to complete 600 hours in a P-12 setting prior to graduation and at the internship level. These hours may be completed as part of the 2000-hour doctoral internship.** The school psychology internship must be completed prior to degree conferral.

Certification/Licensure

Candidates who are not certified teachers and wish to obtain certification as a school psychologist may need to complete additional course work or to submit documentation as required by their respective state. For the state of Florida, this documentation will be organized in a systematic manner for the purpose of communicating and demonstrating the student's competencies in the required areas as specified in State of Florida statutes. Prior to degree conferral, candidates who are DOE Program Completers must complete and pass the Florida Teacher Certification Examination – General Knowledge (GK) Test, the Florida Teacher Certification Examinations – Professional Education (PEd) Test, the Florida Teacher Certification Examination – Subject Area (SAE) Test in School Psychology, the PRAXIS School Psychologist Test (5402), and any additional course work identified during the continued program accreditation process. As state mandates are subject to change, candidates should expect changes or modifications to the curriculum and degree requirements.

DOE PROGRAM COMPLETERS

The Doctoral Program in School Psychology (Psy.D.) holds Florida Department of Education (FDOE) Program Approval status. The FDOE approval process outlines standards and provides guidelines for the development and implementation of initial teacher education programs, under which school psychology programs fall.

Candidates meeting all the requirements of a FDOE approved program (referred to as program completers) are eligible for certification in the state of Florida. In addition to the curricular requirements for the doctoral program in school psychology, all candidates who wish to be DOE program completers will need to complete or to show documentation of having completed the following FDOE requirements:

- Florida Teacher Certification Examination – General Knowledge Tests
- Florida Teacher Certification Examination – Professional Education Test
- Florida Teacher Certification Examination – Subject Area Test in School Psychology
- 3-credit ESOL course or in-service equivalent
- Any education courses designated under the professional preparation requirement of Rule 6A-4.006(2), FAC
- Fingerprinting and background check

FDOE Program Approval standards are subject to change, and as the program incorporates new standards, modifications in the existing requirements may be made.

The program will work to keep any adjustments in the current curriculum or requirements to a minimum while ensuring that new standards are met.

Note: One route to certification in 31 states, including Florida, is a valid certificate as a Nationally Certified School Psychologist (NCSP) issued by the National School Psychology Certification Board. The doctoral program in school psychology holds program approval by the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP). Thus, program graduates are eligible to apply for the NCSP credential.

The curriculum of the doctoral program in school psychology (Psy.D.) meets the credentialing requirements of the Florida Department of Education (DOE) for certification in school psychology, as well as the criteria for licensure as a school psychologist and as a psychologist within the state of Florida, as delineated in Chapters 490 and 491 of the *Florida Statutes*. Certification allows graduates to be employed in the public or private schools, while licensure allows for independent practice or employment in hospitals and community agencies.

Candidates contemplating licensure in states other than Florida or in any of the Canadian provinces are advised to remain abreast of academic and any other requirements for such licensure. Candidates should bear in mind that each state or Canadian province establishes its own regulations for licensure, and can change them with little or no notice.

The Psy.D. curriculum is developed and monitored on an ongoing basis by school psychology faculty to:

- 1) Be consistent with DOE, NASP, and APA accreditation requirements, and
- 2) Prepare graduates for the professional practice of school psychology.

The College of Psychology cannot guarantee that the curriculum completed will meet all states' and Canadian provinces' eligibility requirements for licensure at the time of your application, as each state requirements are subject to change.

MINIMUM LEVELS OF ACHIEVEMENT (MLA)

Following the conclusion of each semester, performance within coursework is reviewed and the program office is notified if a candidate has: a) failed to earn a grade of at least "B" in each of the courses in which they are enrolled and/or b) did not attain the MLA of 80% on each of the competencies assessed. A grade lower than "B" in a foundations or skills course does not satisfy curriculum requirements, and the course must be repeated. If a grade lower than "B" is earned in an elective course, the candidate has the option of repeating the course or taking another course that will satisfy the curriculum requirements. A grade lower than "B" in a practicum course, dismissal from the practicum, or otherwise being asked to leave a practicum site reflects inadequate performance and requires the candidate to repeat the practicum or an equivalent and to meet with the program director, the coordinator of practicum placements, and the practicum supervisor to develop a remediation plan. Student performance in the remediation plan is evaluated and noted in the candidate's file. Dismissal from or

otherwise being asked to leave a practicum likewise requires formal evaluation by the program director.

In the event that a candidate earns a grade below a “B” or fails to obtain the MLA in any area of competency assessed, a remediation process is initiated with the candidate, the program director, and the faculty member who evaluated the student’s performance to be unsatisfactory. The outcomes of all remediation processes are evaluated by the relevant faculty member/supervisor and the program director, and a summary notation is added to the student’s file.

During the Annual Review process, each candidate discusses his or her progress toward successful degree completion and eligibility to move to the next year of the program with the faculty mentor. Moreover, transcripts are reviewed and the attainment of the MLA for each of the competencies tracked is discussed.

Coursework

While the courses will generally be offered consistent with the model course sequence, exceptions do occur. The candidate should, therefore, not regard the sequence as inviolable. The candidate should exercise care to ensure that all prerequisites are met and should seek advisement from the appropriate administrator or faculty member as needed.

En-Route Master of Science in School Psychology

Candidates enrolled in the Psy.D. program in school psychology may earn as an intermediate degree, the Master of Science in school psychology. The curriculum for this degree consists of all courses (or their equivalents) including practicum and supervision in the first two years of the model doctoral curriculum (minimum of 73 credit hours). Courses transferred into Nova Southeastern University’s doctoral program do not count toward this degree.

Graduates with this degree will not have met the educational requirements for certification or licensure in the State of Florida and should not expect to provide psychological services as an independent practitioner. Rather, this degree should be utilized by the Psy.D. candidate to demonstrate master’s level achievement in psychology or to qualify for a master’s level of employment. Candidates completing the above requirements may complete a degree application form and pay the required fee; however, they may not participate in the master’s graduation ceremony.

En-Route Specialist Degree in School Psychology

Candidates admitted to and enrolled in the Psy.D. program in school psychology who have completed 73 credit hours in the Specialist Program (Psy.S.) in School Psychology at Nova Southeastern University may earn, as an intermediate degree, the specialist degree in school psychology. The curriculum for this degree consists of all courses (or their equivalents) in the specialist program in school psychology, additional requirements as

listed in the *Specialist Program in School Psychology Policies and Procedures Handbook*, and the successful completion of six (6) school psychology internship credits and a minimum of 1200 hours in a PK-12 school setting.

Comprehensive Examinations

To demonstrate mastery of subject area competencies in school psychology and as part of the degree requirements, all doctoral candidates must sit for and earn passing scores on the following written comprehensive examinations:

1. Florida Teacher Certification Examination – Subject Area Test in School Psychology (SAE) (required for certification in the state of Florida)*
(Complete during the Fall semester of Year 3)
2. Praxis School Psychologist Examination (5402) (required for school psychology licensure in the state of Florida and NCSP certification)
(Complete during internship)

Passing scores are required on all the above listed examinations in order to graduate. A minimum score of 147 is required on the Praxis (5402) Subject Area Exam. Further information will be provided to candidates at the appropriate time in their curriculum.

NOTE: All candidates, regardless of their route to admission (i.e., following completion of the bachelor's degree, 73 credit hours in the specialist program, or following completion of the specialist degree), are required to complete the Florida Teacher Certification Examination – Subject Area Test in School Psychology (SAE) and the Praxis School Psychologist Examination (5402) during matriculation in the school psychology doctoral program.