

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 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 must pass the comprehensive examinations as well as the research requirement as part of their degree completion requirements. A candidate is expected to complete and to graduate from the doctoral program within no more than seven years from the date of first enrollment.

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. Prior to degree conferral, candidates must complete and pass the Florida Teacher Certification Examination – Subject Area (SAE) Test in School Psychology, the PRAXIS School Psychologist Test (5402), and any additional course work/examinations 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.

Certification/Licensure

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.

Please be advised that in accordance with state and federal regulations, NSU is required to provide the following information to applicants and students completing their coursework outside of the state of Florida, including field experiences (e.g., internships, practica, clinical placements), when their program of study customarily leads to professional licensure.

Nova Southeastern University, College of Psychology, Doctoral Program in School Psychology program meets the credentialing requirements of the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) and the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) National Certification in School Psychology (NCSP). In addition, the curriculum meets 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.

Certification and licensure requirements for school psychologists vary by state and these requirements can change frequently and often without notice. At this time, the College of

Psychology cannot confirm whether its Doctor of Psychology in School Psychology degree meets all of the licensure and certification requirements in a student's state of residence. Students should refer to their state licensing and certification body for further information.

We advise you to contact your state's credentialing body to ensure the degree will meet requirements for certification and/or licensure in the state in which you seek to be licensed or certified. School psychology credentialing requirements by state may be found on the NASP website through the following link: <https://www.nasponline.org/standards-and-certification/state-school-psychology-credentialing-requirements>. Information regarding licensure to practice psychology by state may be found on the Association of State and Provincial Boards (ASPPB) and through the following link: <https://www.asppb.net/page/ReqPsych>.

If you have trouble obtaining the information you need, or if you have any other questions, please contact Dr. Sarah Valley-Gray at (954) 262-5826.

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. As a result, the curriculum is subject to change in response to modifications to accreditation/certification standards.

Coursework

The curriculum of the program is presented on the next several pages, including a model course sequence. While the courses will generally be offered in the sequences shown, 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.

Dissemination of Research Competency

Candidates must demonstrate the competency to evaluate and to disseminate research or other scholarly activity via at least one peer-reviewed publication as first author or a professional presentation as first presenter at the local (within the university), state, national, or international level. All candidates must submit a proposal as the primary presenter of a paper session, poster session, or symposium at a psychology conference. Publications as first author in a peer-reviewed journal or other peer-reviewed publication will serve to meet this criterion.

It is strongly encouraged that each candidate present at one or more of the following conference: the Florida Association of School Psychologists (FASP), the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP), the American Psychological Association (APA), or the International School Psychology Association (ISPA). If the candidate seeks to present at a different conference, he or she must submit information regarding the conference to the program director. The director, in collaboration with the core school psychology faculty, will make a determination as to whether

the conference is appropriate, and if deemed appropriate, will be included on a list of approved conferences for the purpose of meeting this dissemination requirement for future candidates.

If a candidate does not present at one of these approved conferences and is not first author on a peer-reviewed publication, she or he may schedule a session to conduct a research-based presentation at the School-related Psychological Assessments and Clinical Interventions (SPACI) clinic weekly didactic seminar or a similar College of Psychology venue. The candidate should present the results of his or her Directed Study and include any major conclusions and recommendations. The rubric that will be utilized by the SPACI clinic directors and/or other faculty members can be found in the *Directed Study Guidelines* handbook.

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.

