

SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY

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Website: <https://education.ucdenver.edu/academics/doctoral/detail/School-Psychology-PsyD> (<https://education.ucdenver.edu/academics/doctoral/detail/School-Psychology-PsyD/>)

Overview

The doctor of psychology (PsyD) degree in School Psychology is a 100 graduate semester-hour program that leads to eligibility for licensure as a school psychologist by the Colorado Department of Education and licensure as a psychologist by the Colorado State Board of Psychologist Examiners.

The PsyD program in School Psychology at CU Denver is accredited by the American Psychological Association (see the APA Accreditation website (<https://accreditation.apa.org/about-coa/>) for further details). The program is also approved by the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP).

The CU Denver School Psychology Program, guided by the belief that all children can learn, is dedicated to providing both breadth and depth of professional training in a theoretically integrated, research-based learning environment. Consistent with a practitioner-scholar model, the PsyD Program in School Psychology prepares professional school psychologists through rigorous academic study integrated with intensive supervised clinical practice. The program includes an emphasis on prevention and the ecological influences on behavior, as well as respect for all aspects of diversity. Students also receive substantial training and preparation to work in diverse environments and the program infuses the promotion of advocacy and social justice throughout training experiences.

Bilingual (Spanish/English) School Psychologist Concentration Option

This optional concentration provides School Psychology students with the knowledge and skills to effectively serve bilingual learners in the school setting. In addition to the two required courses and practicum component, the Bilingual School Psychologist concentration consists of language proficiency assessments to ensure that candidates are adequately proficient in Spanish to provide psychoeducational services. CU Denver provides one of the few bilingual school psychology concentration areas in the country making our graduates even more desirable to potential employers.

Optional NME Graduate Credential

The Neurosequential Model in Education™ (NME) is an evidence-based framework that brings a neurodevelopmental and trauma-informed approach to educational and clinical settings. It is informed by what is known about neurobiology and the impact of trauma on the brain and in its applicability. Students who complete the two required courses in the NME credential (<https://education.ucdenver.edu/academics/certificates-credentials-licenses-and-endorsements/detail/graduate-credential-in-neurosequential-model-in-education/>) will learn about basic brain structure and organization and the stress response system and how NME concepts can be applied in the classroom. Students will also receive

an official certificate of completion in NME from the Neurosequential Network (<https://www.neurosequential.com/>).

School of Psychology Admission Requirements

Successful applicants to the School Psychology (SPSY) program will have obtained a minimum 3.2 undergraduate GPA. Applicants will also submit a current resume or vita, a personal statement that outlines their reasons for pursuing a degree in School Psychology at CU Denver, and three letters of recommendation. The highest ranked applicants will be invited to a mandatory full-day virtual group interview that includes a program orientation and small group interviews. Interviewees will also complete a writing assignment. Individuals who are admitted to the program will be invited to an optional Admitted Students Gathering a few weeks after the interview.

Application materials are available at: <http://www.ucdenver.edu/admissions/> (<http://www.ucdenver.edu/admissions/Pages/>). All materials must be submitted online by December 1 for fall semester admissions. Application materials include the following:

- \$50 application fee for domestic students, \$75 application fee for international students (may be paid via credit card, e-check or by mailing in a check)
- letter of intent/personal statement
- resume or vita
- three letters of recommendation
- one official transcript from each higher education institution attended (in the original, sealed envelope)

Programs

- School Psychology, PsyD (<http://catalog.ucdenver.edu/cu-denver/graduate/schools-colleges-departments/school-education-human-development/school-psychology/school-psychology-psyd/>)

Faculty

Professors:

Franci Crepeau-Hobson PhD, NCSP, LP (<https://education.ucdenver.edu/about-us/faculty-directory/Crepeau-Hobson-Franci-UCD11028/>), University of Northern Colorado | Program Director

Bryn Harris PhD, NCSP, LP (<https://education.ucdenver.edu/about-us/faculty-directory/Harris-Bryn-UCD5349/>), Indiana University

Clinical Assistant Professor

Rachel Stein, PhD, NCSP, LP (<https://education.ucdenver.edu/about-us/faculty-directory/Stein-Rachel-UCD6000364190/>), University of California at Santa Barbara

School Psychology (SPSY) Courses

SPSY 5010 - Theoretical and Historical Influences in School Psychology (3 Credits)

Provides an overview of the history of psychology, including the dark side of psychology and its contributions to colonization and inequities. The course also covers a range of counseling and psychological theories applicable to school psychologists, children, and educational contexts, with an emphasis on socio-cultural contexts. Consideration is also given to the influence of history and theory on school psychological practice. Max Hours: 3 Credits.

Grading Basis: Letter Grade

SPSY 5100 - Introduction to the Neurosequential Model in Education™ (3 Credits)

Introduction to the core concepts of the Neurosequential Model™ (NM) that impact learning. Core concepts include basics of brain organization, brain development, understanding state-dependent learning, the stress response systems, and the impact of trauma and neglect on children. Typically offered: fall. Max hours: 3 Credits.

Grading Basis: Letter Grade

Typically Offered: Fall.

SPSY 5200 - Application of Neurosequential Model in Education™ (3 Credits)

Focuses on helping educators and other school personnel better understand and teach challenging children by offering practical strategies and classroom practices related to structuring classroom schedules, activities and interactions that can help all children (not just children impacted by trauma and adversity) learn in an optimal way. Prereq: SPSY 5100. Typically offered: spring. Max hours: 3 Credits.

Grading Basis: Letter Grade

Prereq: SPSY 5100.

Typically Offered: Spring.

SPSY 5800 - Workshop: Topics in School Psychology (1-6 Credits)

Repeatable. Max hours: 15 Credits.

Grading Basis: Letter Grade

Repeatable. Max Credits: 15.

SPSY 5840 - Independent Study: SPSY (1-4 Credits)

Repeatable. Max Hours: 9 Credits.

Grading Basis: Letter Grade

Repeatable. Max Credits: 9.

SPSY 5900 - Identity, Power, and Privilege in Educational and Mental Health Contexts (3 Credits)

The course is designed to foster students' understanding and appreciation of diverse identities within school psychology practice, educational and mental health contexts, and policy. This course will focus on advancing an understanding of integral concepts such as identity, power, privilege, race, ethnicity, gender, and socioeconomic status. Prereq: SPSY 6100. Max hours: 3 Credits.

Grading Basis: Letter Grade

Repeatable. Max Credits: 3.

Prereq: SPSY 6100

SPSY 6000 - Learning and Affective Aspects of Behavior in School Psychology & Education (3 Credits)

Reviews theories of learning and affect pertinent for school psychologists and explores their roles in human functioning. Content includes basic components of cognition, including attention, memory, and decision making and how this impacts learning and children. Restriction: Graduate level students. Max hours: 3 Credits.

Grading Basis: Letter Grade

Restriction: Graduate level students.

SPSY 6100 - Legal & Professional Foundations (3 Credits)

This course covers the application of legal and ethical practice in school psychology. Topics include developing an ethical mindset, landmark court cases, understanding legally compliant special education practices, legal and ethical decision making, and applying these ideas to school-based settings. Prereq: Admission to School Psychology Program. Max hours: 3 Credits.

Grading Basis: Letter Grade

Restriction: Restricted to SPSY majors within the School of Education and Human Development.

SPSY 6120 - Applications of Legal and Ethical Practice in School Psychology (3 Credits)

This course covers topics related to the legal and ethical practice of school psychology, including landmark legal rulings, best practices in special education, and ethical decision making. Practicum II in the schools is required while students are taking this course. Coreq: SPSY 6911. Restriction: Restricted to SPSY majors within the School of Education and Human Development. Max hours: 3 Credits.

Grading Basis: Letter Grade

Coreq: SPSY 6911 Restriction: Restricted to SPSY PsyD majors within the School of Education and Human Development

SPSY 6150 - Psychoeducational Assessment I (3 Credits)

Focuses on assessment of cognitive ability, cognitive processes, and achievement in children and adolescents. Topics include selection, administration, and interpretation of ability and achievement tests; psychological report writing, and psychometric, historical, theoretical, and cultural issues in assessment. Test administration required. Restriction: SPSY PsyD: Restricted to SPSY PsyD majors within the School of Education and Human Development. Max hours: 3 Credits.

Grading Basis: Letter Grade

Restriction: Restricted to SPSY majors within the School of Education and Human Development.

SPSY 6160 - Psychoeducational Assessment II (3 Credits)

Focuses on the assessment of adaptive behavior, personality, and social-emotional functioning in children and adolescents. Topics include selection, administration, and interpretation of these types of measures; cultural considerations in psychological assessment, psychological report writing, and developing interventions. Test administration required. Prereq: SPSY 6150. Max hours: 3 Credits.

Grading Basis: Letter Grade

Prereq: SPSY 6150.

SPSY 6170 - Applied Developmental Science and Assessment (3 Credits)

Examines theories and research in developmental psychology to provide a foundation for clinical services to children and families in applied settings. Includes coverage of developmental assessments and services for infants/toddlers. Prereq: SPSY 6150. Max hours: 3 Credits.

Grading Basis: Letter Grade

Prereq: SPSY 6150.

SPSY 6350 - School-Based Interventions: Children, Youth and Families (3 Credits)

Provides theoretical and practice-oriented introduction to child therapy in schools. Weaves together skills and techniques essential to theory and implementation of psychotherapeutic techniques. Course activities compliment the systemic and group-based interventions examined in SPSY 6400. Prereq: SPSY 5010. Max hours: 3 Credits.

Grading Basis: Letter Grade
Prereq: SPSY 5010.

SPSY 6400 - School-Based Interventions: Groups, Classrooms and Systems (3 Credits)

Provides students with advanced study of research on and techniques of classroom and small group interventions. Includes instruction on the evaluation of intervention effectiveness. Systemic, school-wide interventions are addressed. Prereq: SPSY 5010. Restriction: Restricted to SPSY majors within the School of Education and Human Development. Max hours: 3 Credits.

Grading Basis: Letter Grade

Prereq: SPSY 5010. Restriction: Restricted to SPSY majors within the School of Education and Human Development.

SPSY 6410 - Psychoeducational Assessment of Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Students (3 Credits)

Prepares students to provide psychoeducational assessments to children who are culturally and/or linguistically diverse. Content includes differentiation of language disorders versus language acquisition, and developing recommendations for accommodations and interventions to meet the unique psychoeducational needs of diverse children and youth. Prereq: SPSY 6150. Max hours: 3 Credits.

Grading Basis: Letter Grade
Prereq: SPSY 6150.

SPSY 6420 - Crisis Prevention, Planning and Intervention (3 Credits)

Introduces students to crisis theory, prevention research, and intervention strategies. The course is designed for school mental health professionals interested in developing advanced crisis counseling and intervention skills sufficient for use in school settings. The course emphasizes the importance of practical hands-on opportunities for skills development. Prereq: COUN 5010 or SPSY 5010. Max hours: 3 Credits.

Grading Basis: Letter Grade

Prereq: COUN 5010 or SPSY 5010

SPSY 6450 - Consultation and Data-based Decision-Making (3 Credits)

A wide range of traditional or emerging consultation models emphasizing practical application of empirically-based approaches to advance the social or academic competence of students, classrooms, schools and districts. Hands-on experience supplement course content as students develop, refine, and practice their own eclectic consultation approach. Prereq: SPSY 6100. Max hours: 3 Credits.

Grading Basis: Letter Grade
Prereq: SPSY 6100

SPSY 6500 - Case Conceptualization and Diagnosis (3 Credits)

This course provides advanced training in case conceptualization, psychopathology, and diagnosis. It includes the practical application of categorical classification using the DSM, with a focus on major childhood diagnostic categories and consideration of the client's cultural context. Restriction: Restricted to SPSY majors within the School of Education and Human Development or consent of the instructor. Max hours: 3 Credits.

Grading Basis: Letter Grade
Restriction: Restricted to SPSY majors within the School of Education and Human Development.

SPSY 6510 - Typical and Atypical Development and Mental Health and Wellbeing (3 Credits)

Covers theories, research, and key social-cultural concepts in typical and atypical child and adolescent development. Includes an emphasis on exploring adversity and atypical developmental trajectories in a variety of cultural contexts and how these impact well being. Restriction: Restricted to SPSY majors within the School of Education and Human Development. Max hours: 3 Credits.

Grading Basis: Letter Grade

SPSY 6550 - Academic & Behavioral Interventions in School Psychology (3 Credits)

Founded on a decision-making and accountability model, this course provides training in the investigation of theoretical and applied issues relevant to the design, implementation, and evaluation of academic and behavioral interventions for students in schools. Prereq: SPSY 6150. Max hours: 3 Credits.

Grading Basis: Letter Grade

Prereq: SPSY 6150.

SPSY 6600 - Social Influences on Development, Behavior, & Well Being for School Psychologists (3 Credits)

Examines the social influences on human behavior, development, and wellbeing. The course focuses on people's interactions together in varying sociocultural contexts, with an emphasis on children and educational contexts and areas most critical to school psychologists. Restriction: Restricted to SPSY majors within the School of Education and Human Development. Max hours: 3 Credits.

Grading Basis: Letter Grade

Restricted to SPSY-PSYD majors within the School of Education and Human Development.

SPSY 6700 - Advanced Seminar in School Psychology (3 Credits)

This course covers advanced topics related to the practice of school psychology including applying and interviewing for internship, certification/ licensure, capstone preparation and completion, and the development of a professional identity. Prereq: SPSY 6911. Restriction: Restricted to School Psychology majors. Max hours: 3 Credits.

Grading Basis: Letter Grade

Prereq: SPSY 6911 Restriction: Restricted to SPSY majors

SPSY 6911 - School Psychology Practicum (3 Credits)

Supervised practice in providing comprehensive psychological services to children in grades preschool to 12. Students are placed in public schools or affiliated school-related agencies and supervised by practicing, licensed school psychologists. Prereq: SPSY 5600, SPSY 6100, SPSY 6150, SPSY 6160 or consent of instructor. Repeatable. Max Hours: 6 Credits.

Grading Basis: Letter Grade with IP

Repeatable. Max Credits: 6.

Prereq: SPSY 5600, SPSY 6100, SPSY 6150, and SPSY 6160

SPSY 6915 - Practicum with Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Students (3 Credits)

This school psychology practicum experience is focused on developing multicultural competencies with culturally and linguistically diverse students through either a cultural immersion experience in Mexico or a local practicum placement in a culturally and linguistically diverse setting. Prereq: SPSY 6100 and SPSY 6150 and consent of the instructor. Repeatable. Max hours: 9 Credits.

Grading Basis: Letter Grade with IP

Repeatable. Max Credits: 9.

Prereq: SPSY 6100 and SPSY 6150.

SPSY 6917 - Advanced Practicum in Psychological Assessment (1 Credit)

Under faculty supervision provide psychological assessment services to clients in the UC Denver Student and Community Counseling Center. Prereq: SPSY 6150, SPSY 6160, and consent of the instructor. Max hours: 1 Credit.

Grading Basis: Letter Grade

Repeatable. Max Credits: 1.

SPSY 6918 - Clinical Externship (1-3 Credits)

Clinical experience under supervision of licensed mental health professionals. Students participate in assessment and/or intervention in a variety of settings. Note: All field placements must be approved by the SPSY Program Director in advance of registration. Prereq: SPSY 6911.

Repeatable. Max Hours: 6 Credits.

Grading Basis: Letter Grade with IP

Repeatable. Max Credits: 6.

Prereq: SPSY 6911

SPSY 6930 - School Psychology Internship (1-6 Credits)

Supervised experience in the practice of school psychology with children and adolescents in a school or clinic setting. Prereq: SPSY 5900, SPSY 6100, SPSY 6410, SPSY 6911, SPSY 6350, SPSY 6400, SPSY 6450, SPSY 6500, or instructor consent. Repeatable. Max hours: 6 Credits.

Grading Basis: Letter Grade with IP

Repeatable. Max Credits: 6.

Prereq: SPSY 5900, SPSY 6100, SPSY 6410, SPSY 6911, SPSY 6350, SPSY 6400, SPSY 6450, and SPSY 6500

SPSY 7500 - Biological and Neuropsychological Bases of Behavior (3 Credits)

Examines the biological basis of behavior emphasizing the relationship between the functions and structures of the brain including neuroanatomy, brain development, neurophysiology, neurochemistry, and psychopharmacology; and neuropsychological assessment principles. Prereq: SPSY 6150. Max hours: 3 Credits.

Grading Basis: Letter Grade

Prereq: SPSY 6150.

SPSY 7980 - Clinical Supervision & Admin of Psych Services (3 Credits)

Course prepares school psychologists to function in supervisory and administrative capacities in delivering mental health services. Content includes examination of clinical supervision theories, models, techniques; focus on development of skills for administrative roles, and understanding organizations from a systems perspective. Prereq: SPSY 6918. Max hours: 3 Credits.

Grading Basis: Letter Grade

Prereq: SPSY 6918 Restriction: Restricted to SPSY PsyD majors within the School of Education and Human Development

SPSY 8980 - School Psychology Doctoral Capstone Project (2 Credits)

The Capstone Project is a culminating component of the program. Production of a scholarly project that illustrates the student's understanding of relevant topics in school psychology, the scope of contemporary practice, and the various roles of the professional school psychologist. Prereq: SPSY 6911 and SPSY 6700. Restriction: Restricted to SPSY-PSYD majors within the School of Education and Human Development or consent of the instructor. Repeatable. Max hours: 4 Credits.

Grading Basis: Letter Grade with IP

Repeatable. Max Credits: 4.

Prereq: SPSY 6911 and SPSY 6700. Restriction: Restricted to SPSY-PSYD majors within the School of Education and Human Development.

Additional Information: Report as Full Time.

Typically Offered: Fall, Spring, Summer.