



## **SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY PROGRAM STUDENT HANDBOOK**

*DEPARTMENT OF*

**Counseling, Leadership, Adult Education, & School Psychology**

**TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY**

A member of the Texas State University System

**SAN MARCOS, TX 78666**

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## **Table of Contents**

Introduction and Background	3
Training Model and Program Philosophy	4
Program Objectives for School Psychology	4
Application Procedures and Program Admission Requirements	7
Transfer of Graduate Credit	8
Respecialization in School Psychology	9
Residency Requirements	10
Faculty Advisement and Advanced Registration	10
Typical Degree Plan and Course Sequence	11
Practica and Internships in School Psychology	12
Bilingual and Autism Tracks	15
Comprehensive Exam in School Psychology	16
Certification and Licensure	17
Professional Organizations Related to School Psychology	18
Student Fitness and Performance	19
Appendices	23

# **THE SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY PROGRAM AT TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY**

## **INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

The School Psychology Program at Texas State University is a nationally approved, three-year, 69 credit hour program leading to the Specialist in School Psychology (SSP) degree. The completion of program academic requirements also leads to institutional recommendation for certification as a Nationally Certified School Psychologist (NCSP) from the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) and for licensure as a Licensed Specialist in School Psychology (LSSP) from the Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologists (TSBEP).

The Program serves a large geographical area in Central Texas commonly referred to as the Interstate 35 Corridor. The University is centrally located approximately 30 miles south of Austin, Texas, and 50 miles north of San Antonio, Texas.

Students represent a diversity of backgrounds and cultures including a mixture of African-American, Hispanic, Asian, and Anglo populations. A majority of students have undergraduate backgrounds in education, special education, and/or psychology. There are also students who have backgrounds in business, nursing and other health sciences. Most students attend school full-time (9-12 academic hours per semester) as individually negotiated with Program faculty. The Program admits cohorts each Fall semester, who generally proceed through the course sequence as a group.

Over 600 students have graduated from the Program since its inception in 1969 and its Graduate College recognition in 1971. More than 90% of the graduates of the Program have been employed as Licensed Specialists in School Psychology in Texas school districts. Graduates have also obtained school psychology positions in other states including Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Kansas, Massachusetts, New York, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, and Virginia. Some graduates have been employed as Licensed Psychological Associates with the Texas State Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation, Department of Human Resources, private and public psychiatric facilities, and other related agencies. Numerous graduates have completed doctoral degrees.

The School Psychology Program is part of the Department of Counseling, Leadership, Adult Education, & School Psychology (CLAS) in the College of Education. The Department of

CLAS also includes additional graduate programs in Educational Leadership, Professional Counseling, Adult and Developmental Education, and a doctoral program in Educational Leadership (with majors in School Improvement and Adult, Professional, and Community Education).

### **TRAINING MODEL AND PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY**

The School Psychology Program at Texas State University is dedicated to preparing highly skilled and competent professional school psychologists. The Program endorses the scientist-practitioner training model with the emphasis upon training students in methods of data collection, and in the understanding, prediction, and modification of behavior. The Program adheres to an ecological orientation that includes the indirect delivery of school psychological services through consultation, collaboration, and problem solving in all systems that affect the student. The ecological model includes the development of direct skills in assessment/evaluation, consultation with teachers and parents, individual and group counseling, crisis intervention, and academic and behavioral intervention and remediation.

The Program promotes respect for the individuality and worth of all people, particularly individuals from marginalized communities, through instruction, materials, and policies. Students in the program develop self-awareness and culturally competent practice as they attain educational competencies through coursework, practicum, and internship experiences.

The Program goals and objectives reflect the *Standards for Graduate Preparation of School Psychologists (2010)* published by the National Association of School Psychologists. The Program has been designed to provide substantial preparation in the areas of data-based decision-making, problem solving, evidence-based interventions, and interactions between family, school, and community systems. These knowledge-based foundations prepare students to develop professional skills in culturally diverse practicum and internship settings and reflect the candidate performance standards model of NASP, consistent with the Program goal for all graduates to become NCSPs and LSSPs.

### **PROGRAM OBJECTIVES FOR SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY**

The School Psychology Program at Texas State University adheres to the training standards developed by NASP. A brief outline of these standards is provided below.

## **I. PROGRAM CONTEXT/STRUCTURE**

1.1 The school psychology program is composed of integrated and comprehensive philosophy/mission, goals, objectives, program of study, and supervised practice.

1.2 Graduate preparation in the school psychology program is designed, delivered, and assessed by highly qualified faculty members who primarily are school psychologists.

1.3 SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY SPECIALIST LEVEL PROGRAMS ONLY: The specialist level program of study in school psychology consists of the following:

- A minimum of 3 years of full-time study at the graduate level, or the equivalent if part-time;
- At least 60 graduate semester hours or the equivalent, with at least 54 hours exclusive of credit for the supervised specialist-level internship experience;
- Institutional documentation of school psychology specialist-level program completion provided to graduates.

1.4 *Applies to doctoral programs*

1.5 If the school psychology program provides opportunities for respecialization, retraining, or other alternative approaches to prepare candidates for credentialing as school psychologists (e.g., for candidates who hold graduate degrees in related fields and are seeking graduate preparation and credentialing as school psychologists), the program ensures that its requirements for respecialization, retraining, or alternative credentialing approaches are consistent with these NASP graduate preparation standards. The program applies systematic evaluation procedures and criteria to grant recognition of candidates' prior courses/field experiences and to identify additional graduate courses and experiences necessary for candidates to meet school psychology program requirements.

## **II. DOMAINS OF SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY TRAINING AND PRACTICE**

School Psychology students will demonstrate entry-level competency in each of the following domains of professional practice:

Domain 1: Data-Based Decision-Making      Domain 2 Consultation and Collaboration

Domain 3: Academic Interventions and Instructional Supports

Domain 4: Mental and Behavioral Health Services and Interventions Domain 5: School-

Wide Practices to Promote Learning Domain 6: Services to Promote Safe and Supportive

Schools Domain 7: Family, School, and Community Collaboration Domain 8: Equitable Practices for Diverse Student Populations

Domain 9: Research and Evidence-Based Practice

Domain 10: Legal, Ethical, and Professional Practice

### **III. FIELD EXPERIENCES/INTERNSHIP**

School Psychology students will have opportunities to demonstrate, under conditions of appropriate supervision, their ability to apply their knowledge, develop specific skills, and integrate competencies that address the domains of professional preparation through:

- 3.1 Supervised practica and internships
- 3.2 Supervised internship in collaboration with appropriate field site
- 3.3 Timely completion of the internship per NASP and TSBEP standards
- 3.4 Field-based supervision per NASP and TSBEP standards
- 3.5 A written agreement between field site, intern, and the University

### **IV. PROGRAM RESOURCES AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

- 4.1 The school psychology program faculty members are assured adequate professional time for program responsibilities.
- 4.2 The school psychology program ensures adequate candidate support from and interaction with school psychology program faculty members.
- 4.3 The school psychology program faculty receives support for ongoing learning and professional experiences relevant to assigned graduate preparation responsibilities.
- 4.4 Candidates in the school psychology program receive ongoing support from the institution, or a unit of the institution, during graduate preparation.
- 4.5 Adequate physical resources are available to support faculty and candidates in the school psychology program.
- 4.6 For qualified candidates and faculty with disabilities, the school psychology program provides the following:
  - Reasonable accommodations for special needs;
  - Accessible academic programs and field experiences;
  - Equal opportunities for development and demonstration of competencies.
- 4.7 The institution provides adequate library resources to support instruction, independent study, and research relevant to the school psychology program.

4.8 The school psychology program provides for, collaborates in, or contributes to relevant continuing professional development opportunities for practicing school psychologists.

4.9 The school psychology program is located in an institution that is accredited, without probation or an equivalent status, by the appropriate institutional regional accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.

## **APPLICATION PROCEDURES AND PROGRAM ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

The School Psychology Program admits students once a year. The deadline for the fall School Psychology program is January 15. Applications that are completed by January 15 are given admission priority. Faculty will consider applications until all student openings are filled. Applications received after January 15 may be reviewed on a first-come, first-served basis, with no guarantees for admission consideration. In order to gain admission to the School Psychology Program, the student applicant must:

- A. Possess a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution of higher learning, preferably with a major in education, psychology, special education, or a closely related field.
- B. Document completion of undergraduate coursework in abnormal psychology (or equivalent course), developmental psychology (or equivalent course such as Lifespan Development), and statistics (or equivalent course) with a passing grade of a "B" or above).
- C. Submit three letters of recommendation (with at least two academic references preferred) regarding professional competence, character, and emotional stability to the School Psychology Program.
- D. Make application in writing on the approved form(s) to the School Psychology Program. Applicants must also complete an online Statement of Purpose. This written statement is evaluated for content, style, and quality. The School Psychology program's Statement of Purpose Form will ask you to respond to five mandatory prompts\* and one optional prompt (see below). **Please note:** responses to each prompt will be limited to no more than 500 words in length.

\*1. Why do you want to pursue training in School Psychology?

- \*2. Please describe the professional and academic experiences that have prepared you to pursue a graduate degree in school psychology (e.g., experience working in schools/with children; internships, etc.).
- \*3. Please describe the life experiences that have prepared you to pursue a graduate degree in school psychology (e.g., experience working in schools/with children; internships, etc.).
- \*4. Please describe your strengths and how these strengths will assist you with being successful in a school psychology program.
- \*5. Please describe your weaknesses (e.g., areas you would like to improve), and if accepted into the program, how you plan to address these weaknesses during your graduate studies.
- 6. If there are elements of your application that you would like us to consider (e.g., GRE scores, grade point average, background experience, etc.) please address them here, if not, you may skip this question.

E. Submit competitive scores for the general Graduate Record Exam (GRE).

F. Have a competitive GPA.

G. Gain admission to the Graduate College at Texas State University. Refer to the Graduate Catalog for additional information.

Notification process: The Texas State University Graduate College forwards student applications to the School Psychology Program Committee for review. The student is notified by the Graduate College of the action taken. If approval or conditional approval for School Psychology Program admission is granted, the applicant will receive information regarding pre-registration for coursework for the first semester. NOTE: It is the student's responsibility to inform the Program faculty of any changes of mailing/email addresses and/or phone number.

### **TRANSFER OF GRADUATE CREDIT**

All 69 hours of academic credit leading to the degree in school psychology are obtained by the successful completion of graduate level academic coursework. No undergraduate coursework may be applied toward the degree. If students with graduate coursework from other accredited institutions wish to transfer in a course to replace a required course, Program Faculty must be able to verify that it is equivalent to the course for which the substitute is requested and



as per Graduate College policy, the course cannot have been used for credit toward another degree. Student must provide the Graduate Advisor with a copy of the syllabus of the course taken elsewhere. Program faculty will then review it to check for content equivalency. Again, please be aware that any courses that were used as credit toward a degree that you have already earned, cannot be used toward another degree. As per Graduate College policy, students may transfer a total of 12 hours of graduate credit. Please note: You may find additional information about transferring credit here: <http://mycatalog.txstate.edu/graduate/registration-course-credit/course-c> Transfer credit must be earned at a grade of B or higher or a numerical equivalent. Acceptance of these semester credit hours is at the discretion of the Program faculty advisor and subject to the approval of the Department chairperson as well as the Dean of the Graduate College.

### **RESPECIALIZATION IN SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY**

Students who already hold a graduate degree in an area of psychology may apply to the respecialization program in school psychology at Texas State University. Completion of a respecialization program leads to institutional recommendation for certification as a Nationally Certified School Psychologist (NCSP) with NASP and for licensure as a Licensed Specialist in School Psychology (LSSP) with TSBEP. Graduate coursework previously completed by the respecialization applicant is carefully reviewed by Program faculty to ensure that the applicant's training will be sufficient to justify the institutional recommendation for internship and certification/licensure. The Texas State University program requirements may exceed the minimum requirements established by the TSBEP.

In order to gain admission to the School Psychology Program for respecialization, the applicant should meet the following requirements:

1. Possess a graduate degree in psychology (the word "Psychology" specifically included in the degree title) from an accredited institution of higher learning;
2. Meet with the graduate advisor to review application to the program;
3. Submit transcripts of all previous graduate coursework that may be applied as credit toward respecialization (Note: catalogs, course descriptions and syllabi may also be requested; **See Appendix A for Respecialization Planning Form**);

4. Apply in writing on the Application for Admission to the School Psychology Program;
5. Apply to be admitted as a certification-only student to the Graduate College at Texas State University (see Graduate Catalog for admission deadlines).

### **RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS**

Most of the students in the School Psychology Program complete their coursework on a full-time basis. The Graduate College considers 9 to 12 hours during the fall and spring semesters equivalent to full-time status. During the summer, students may earn up to 12 hours, with 6 hours each summer session, which is considered full time. Students are advised to follow a full-time continuous residency and are expected to complete a minimum of 18 credit hours per calendar year and maintain a 3.0 grade point average.

Students are required to schedule an advisement session with a School Psychology Program faculty member if they obtain a grade lower than B in any required course or if their cumulative grade point falls below 3.0 on the 4.0 system. A GPA below 3.0 automatically places the student on academic probation with one semester given to raise the GPA above 3.0. Failure to do so results in suspension from the University for a minimum of 6 months.

### **FACULTY ADVISEMENT AND ADVANCED REGISTRATION**

Faculty advisement is an ongoing required component of a student's tenure in the Program. Students must receive Program faculty approval before registering in any coursework that leads toward the degree in school psychology. Faculty are responsible for advising students regarding their degree plans, coursework, practicum/internship assignments, certification and licensure requirements, Program policies and procedures, and for assisting students with their educational and career needs. While students may consult with any program faculty member, each semester every student is assigned a specific program faculty advisor. That advisor will meet with the student on a formal basis in the fall and spring semesters prior to the advanced registration period. It is the student's responsibility to schedule an appointment for these required advisement sessions. During individual advisement, the School Psychology Program Student Mid-Semester Progress Check (Appendix C) will be discussed with each student as a

means of ongoing, formative evaluation. Informal advisement may occur at any time throughout the calendar year by scheduling an appointment with a Program faculty member.

### **Registration and Advanced Registration**

. Advanced registration for upcoming semester coursework is completed online. Advanced registration for the spring semester is held during the preceding fall semester, and advanced registration for the summer and fall semesters are held during the preceding spring semester. Only students who are enrolled in the semester in which advanced registration is held are eligible to preregister. All others must participate in the regular registration or late registration process. It is important to note that online advanced registration for a course does not automatically grant the student admission to that course. The student is required to have completed or be completing any prerequisite coursework requirements, have had formal advisement with Program faculty, and must pay the registration fee by the deadline stipulated by the University.

### **TYPICAL DEGREE PLAN AND COURSE SEQUENCE**

<b>FALL SEMESTER _____</b>	
<b>SPSY 5385</b>	Ethics, Standards and Procedures in School Psychology
<b>SPSY 5300</b>	Interviewing, Counseling, and Consulting in School Psychology
<b>SPSY 5388</b>	Psychometrics for School Psychologists
<b>SPSY 5376</b>	Psychoeducational Assessment
<b>SPRING SEMESTER _____</b>	
<b>SPSY 5377</b>	Social, Emotional, and Behavioral Assessment
<b>SPSY 5380</b>	Individual and Group Counseling Techniques for School Psychology
<b>SPSY 5387</b>	Data-Based Decision-Making in Evaluation and Intervention
<b>SPSY 5389</b>	Practicum in School Psychology (Univ. clinic)
<b>SUMMER _____</b>	
<b>SPSY 5360</b>	Crisis Prevention, Intervention, and Response in the Schools
<b>SPSY 5394</b>	Multicultural Issues in School Psychology
<b>SPSY 5399</b>	Fostering Self-Care and Wellness in School Communities
<b>FALL SEMESTER _____</b>	
<b>SPSY 5355</b>	Assessment of Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Students
<b>SPSY 5389</b>	Practicum in School Psychology (1 <sup>st</sup> school)
<b>SPSY 5398</b>	Alternative Eval Alternative Evaluation, Intervention, and Student Outcomes

<b>SPSY 5390</b>	Applied Behavior Analysis for School Psychologists
<b>SPRING SEMESTER _____</b>	
<b>SPSY 5379</b>	Prevention and Treatment of Child and Adolescent Psychological Disorders: Individual, Group, and School
<b>SPSY 5386</b>	Consultation and Professional Issues in School Psychology
<b>SPSY 5396</b>	Biological Bases of Behavior
<b>SPSY 5389</b>	Practicum in School Psychology (2 <sup>nd</sup> school)
<b>SUMMER _____</b>	
<b>Elective #1</b>	
<b>Elective #2</b>	
<b>FALL/SPRING</b>	
<b>SPSY 6301</b>	Professional Internship in School Psychology
<b>SPSY 6302</b>	Professional Internship in School Psychology
<b>OPTIONAL RESEARCH COURSES</b>	
<b>SPSY 5181</b>	Independent Study (1 hr research credit)
<b>SPSY 5281</b>	Independent Study (2 hr research credit)
<b>SPSY 5381</b>	Independent Study (3 hr research credit)

## **PRACTICA AND INTERNSHIPS IN SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY**

### **Practicum in School Psychology**

The three practica in the School Psychology Program at Texas State University are viewed as an integral and a central component of the professional training. Practica are distinct from and occur prior to internship. They are intended to provide opportunities for students to become oriented to the educational process, build upon prerequisite course work, and to apply their knowledge and skills in a clinic-/field-based setting. Practicum experiences occur in our university-based clinic and in regional school districts with supervision by on-site and/or university supervisors. The practica experiences are completed during academic training and are organized to complement coursework in the sequence described in the degree plan. During school-based practica, program course assignments are frequently completed in conjunction with school-based practicum responsibilities. On-campus instruction and supervision are provided concurrently as a required part of the practica. Group-based didactic instruction may also be

provided by faculty or professionals representing appropriately related areas as part of the monthly school-based supervision. Students will register for a section of SPSY 5389 each semester of university- and school-based practicum.

The first practicum occurs in the University Assessment Clinic at Texas State in the semester following the completion of SPSY 5376 Psychoeducational Assessment. This practicum provides students with opportunities to build upon prerequisite coursework and refine individual psycho-educational assessment techniques under the direct supervision of university faculty. Clients in the University Assessment Clinic typically include university students with learning issues that impact classroom performance and school-age students referred from the community who are experiencing learning difficulties.

The second practicum occurs upon the approval of faculty after the completion of required first-year academic coursework, including the University Assessment Clinic practicum. At this point, students have completed coursework in psychoeducational assessment, including intellectual and academic tests and measurement issues, as well as coursework covering statistics and ethics, standards, and procedures in school psychology. Students are usually in a public school setting during the first practicum where they are supervised by a Licensed Specialist in School Psychology (LSSP) or by another professional with a minimum of a master's degree and appropriate certification or licensure (e.g., licensed psychologist, licensed psychological associate). Among other skills building opportunities, the first school-based practicum provides the student with an opportunity for orientation to the operation and organization of schools as well as the role of the school psychologist. The specific skills and knowledge base practiced include, but are not limited to, assessment, consultation, observations of regular and special education programs and teacher instruction, and participation in interdisciplinary team meetings and parent conferences and interviews.

A second school-based practicum builds upon experience in the first school-based practicum and emphasizes, among other skills and experiences, evaluation and remediation of emotional, behavioral, developmental and learning difficulties; consultation with school or

agency staff; identification and contact with community resources; and direct interventions with individuals and/or groups. At this point students have usually completed coursework in personality assessment and school-based counseling techniques and are concurrently learning about the biological bases of behavior and data-based decision-making.

Concurrent with the school-based practica, students have the opportunity to participate in the Clinic for Autism Research, Evaluation and Support. This clinic provides students focused training in the evaluation of individuals who are suspected of having autism spectrum disorder. Students engage in evaluations under the direct supervision of program faculty in the College of Education Clinic facilities.

All students enrolled in practica are supervised by Program faculty who have a doctoral degree in school psychology, or a closely related field, and who may be licensed psychologists, Licensed Specialists in School Psychology, and/or Nationally Certified School Psychologists. Students are required to obtain and present documentation of professional student liability insurance for all practicum experiences. Refer to the Assessment Clinics Handbook and the Practicum Handbook for more information.

### **Internship in School Psychology**

The professional internship occurs at or near the end of formal training in school psychology. It is considered the culminating experience in the student's graduate preparation. The internship provides the student with an opportunity to integrate the knowledge and skills obtained throughout the training program and to apply them as a professional in a supervised setting. The two-semester professional internship sequence (SPSY 6301 and SPSY 6302) requires a full-time experience of 600 clock hours each semester for a minimum total of 1200 hours. The intern is considered a full member of the school/agency staff and participates with regular education and special education staff as a member of the interdisciplinary team.

Supervision and principal responsibility for the student intern's work and work products is with the field-based school or agency. Field-based internship supervisors are licensed specialists in school psychology with a minimum of three years post-licensure experience. They provide two hours per week of direct supervision for each intern. University School Psychology

Program internship supervisors also provide an ongoing relationship with the field-based supervisor and intern. The University supervisor is a licensed specialist in school psychology and/or a licensed psychologist.

The intern, with the support of Program faculty, is responsible for establishing a Memorandum of Agreement and contractual relationship between the intern and the internship site stipulating financial compensation, training objectives, supervision guidelines, the schedule of appointment, provision for participation in continuing education, and assurances that an appropriate work environment, including adequate supplies, material, office space, and services, will be provided. This agreement must be consistent with the Program goals and objectives, and it must meet state regulations and ethical guidelines. The intern is eligible for employment during this internship year under the TSBEP rules and regulations as a licensed specialist in school psychology intern. **This employment, however, in no way precludes the training aspect of the experience.**

The second semester of internship is usually a continuation of the supervised school-based experience, or, as allowed by TSBEP rules, placement may occur in an appropriate alternative setting (e.g., a child guidance clinic, etc.). The same standards that applied to the first semester internship also apply to the second semester, with the exception, if applicable, of that portion of the internship which is not in a school setting. If a portion of the internship is completed outside a public school system, supervision is provided by a licensed psychologist. A minimum of 600 clock hours, from the minimum total of 1200 clock hours, is required to be in a school setting. During the internship year, students are required to complete and submit assignments demonstrating their competence in areas including assessment, consultation, and counseling (among other areas). Refer to the Internship Handbook for more detailed information.

## **BILINGUAL AND AUTISM TRACKS**

### **Bilingual Track**

The bilingual track in the School Psychology program at Texas State University offers students an opportunity to become proficient bilingual practitioners. Once accepted into the program, interested students may be interviewed within their first year to determine their proficiency in a

language other than English. By taking additional coursework as electives and receiving bilingual supervision in their field placements, students will be able to conduct bilingual assessments in schools, meeting the needs of diverse families.

### **Autism Track**

Students in the School Psychology program who have an interest in gaining expanded knowledge and experience with students with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) can elect to follow the autism specialty track. In addition to completing core School Psychology program course work and two semesters in the CARES Assessment Clinic, students who wish to follow this specialty track must take two faculty-approved elective courses pertinent to working with students with ASD (e.g., Educating Students with ASD and Other Developmental Disabilities). Upon completion of the School Psychology program, eligible students will receive a certificate issued by the School Psychology program verifying their accomplishment.

### **COMPREHENSIVE EXAM IN SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY**

All candidates for the specialist degree in school psychology must pass a comprehensive examination. The school psychology program considers the Praxis School Psychologists (5402/5403) exam to be its comprehensive exam. Before or during the internship year, the school psychology student is expected to apply for, take, and pass the Praxis School Psychologist (5402/5403) exam administered by the Educational Testing Service (ETS). Students must obtain a passing score in order to graduate. Obtaining a passing score on the exam is also a required step in the student's pursuit of the Nationally Certified School Psychologist (NCSP) status and licensure as a Licensed Specialist in School Psychology (LSSP) in Texas. Information regarding application for this exam can be obtained from the ETS website (<https://www.ets.org/praxis/prepare/materials/5403>). Results of the NCSP exam, including domain scores, should be sent to the Texas State University School Psychology Program and the Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologists.

The School Psychology Program faculty do not limit how many times a student may retake the Praxis School Psychology Exam (5403) - comprehensive exam). However, in order to remain consistent with Graduate College policy on degree completion time limits, which are outlined on page 13 of the Graduate Student Handbook, a) the exam cannot be taken until the



student has completed at least 18 semester hours of graduate degree credit in the School Psychology program, b) may not be taken before the final term if the student has an Incomplete (I) in any course, c) cannot be taken unless the student is enrolled in at least one credit hour of course work when taking the comprehensive examination, and d) the exam must be passed within six years from date of initial enrollment in the School Psychology Training program.

## **CERTIFICATION AND LICENSURE**

### **Nationally Certified School Psychologist**

The Nationally Certified School Psychologist (NCSP) credential may be awarded by successful completion (graduation) of the 69-hour program, passing the Praxis School Psychologist exam administered by Educational Testing Service, and successful application to the National Board of Certified School Psychologists.

### **Licensed Specialist in School Psychology**

The licensed specialist in school psychology (LSSP) credential may be awarded by the Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologists (TSBEP) after graduation as well as passing the Praxis exam and the Texas Jurisprudence Examination administered by the TSBEP.

### **Licensed Psychological Associate**

Licensure as a psychological associate (LPA) is obtained by making application to the Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologists (TSBEP). The graduate must pass the Examination for the Professional Practice of Psychology (EPPP) and the Texas Jurisprudence Examination administered by the TSBEP. At least six (6) semester credit hours of practicum, internship, or other structured experience are also required within the graduate degree program, while under the supervision of a licensed psychologist. Additional information about the LPA can be found on the TSBEP website: <https://www.tsbep.texas.gov/how-to-become-licensed>.

## **PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS RELATED TO SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY**

Students in the School Psychology Program are strongly encouraged and mentored to consider membership in one or more of the professional organizations related to the field. In addition to providing professional journals, newsletters, and networking opportunities, organizational membership provides students eligibility for low cost professional liability insurance. Among the many professional associations and affiliates for which students may be eligible are:

National Association of School Psychologists (NASP)

Texas Association of School Psychologists (TASP)

International School Psychology Association (ISPA)

American Psychological Association (APA)

Texas Psychological Association (TPA)

Counsel for Exceptional Children (CEC)

American Education Research Association (AERA)

### **Association of School Psychology Students (ASPS)**

The Association of School Psychology Students (ASPS) is an organization founded and administered by and for Texas State University school psychology students. The ASPS is an official Texas State University student organization with the purpose of providing educational seminars, social and professional networking opportunities, and support among current and past school psychology students. ASPS officers are elected on an annual basis and the organization has provided a variety of services to school psychology students, including community service projects, book exchanges, sponsorship of field trips and guest lectures, carpooling to national conventions and conferences, tutorial groups for specific courses, program mentoring, and holiday and graduation parties. For information and applications regarding ASPS, students should contact ASPS members or the ASPS faculty program advisor.

## **STUDENT FITNESS AND PERFORMANCE**

### **Program Standards**

Students enrolled in all academic programs in the Graduate College and the Department of CLAS, including School Psychology, must maintain high scholastic standards and develop a mastery of the knowledge and methods of their respective discipline. Students are expected to demonstrate emotional and mental fitness in their interactions with others, use skills and techniques that are generally accepted by others in the profession, and conform to the codes of ethics of relevant professional entities (i.e., American Psychological Association, National Association of School Psychologists, Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologists). A student's admission into the School Psychology Program does not guarantee his or her fitness to remain in the program. The faculty is responsible for ensuring that only those students who continue to meet program standards are allowed to continue in the program.

### **Academic Honesty**

Students in the School Psychology Program are expected to adhere to University standards of academic honesty (see Appendix B). When academic dishonesty becomes a concern, Program faculty follow University procedures.

### **School Psychology Program Attendance Policy**

Attendance and punctuality are professional competencies reinforced in this program. Regular attendance is expected at all class meetings for all courses. Instructors must be notified of absences in advance, if possible. When advance notice is not possible, students should notify the instructor of the reason for the absence as soon as is feasible. Following the second absence from any class, the student will be required to attend a meeting within one week with the professor of the missed class as well as with the program coordinator. At this meeting, faculty and the student will engage in a problem-solving discussion to mitigate the impact of the student's absences, as well as to attempt to prevent future absences, if possible. A professional improvement plan may be the result of this meeting. Excessive absences in a course may result in a grade of Incomplete, reduction of the final course grade by one letter grade, or in additional projects or papers to complete, which will be at the instructor's discretion to assign.

### Assignment Grading Policy

Assignments are expected to be completed by the due date. Assignments submitted four (4) days after the due date will not be accepted. For every day the assignment is late after the assignment is due, the earned assignment score will be reduced by one letter grade.

### **Evaluating Student Fitness and Performance**

Members of the faculty, using their professional judgment, evaluate student fitness and performance continuously. The criteria used by the faculty to make such judgments include instructors' observations of student performance in class or in activities related to courses, evaluations of student performance on practica/internship, site supervisors' evaluations of student performance in practica/internship, and the codes of ethics noted above. Appendix F includes a summary table of performance appraisal methods used throughout the Program. Students who are not making satisfactory progress or who are not meeting program standards should consider withdrawing from the program. In this context, the term "satisfactory progress" refers to an academic judgment made regarding the student's fitness and performance. It is a judgment that the student has failed to meet program standards rather than a judgment made on the basis of the student's violation of valid rules of conduct. Disciplinary matters are referred to Student Justice.

Students for whom concerns have been identified (such as during monthly faculty meetings) may be further evaluated with respect to academic skills, practice competencies, and professional/ethical conduct using the Student Mid-Semester Progress Check form developed by program faculty (Appendix C), which may be used to provide feedback to the student during an academic advising appointment with their academic advisor. Students who are not making satisfactory progress or who are not meeting Program standards may be asked to complete an improvement program and, if necessary, to withdraw from the Program. The School Psychology Student Improvement Plan form (see Appendix E) will be completed in cases where a student is asked to complete an improvement program, and additional assessment using the Student Performance Improvement Evaluation form developed by program faculty (Appendix D) may be completed to document progress as part of this process.

### **Student Retention Policy**

Students must attain a course grade of "B" or better in all required letter-graded courses for the degree. For required practicum and internship courses, students must attain a course

grade of “CR.” A student who receives a grade below a “B” (or does not receive a grade of “CR” for practicum/internship) will be required to retake the course and achieve a grade of “B” or better (or “CR” for practicum/internship), and they may not register for courses that have the course they are retaking as a prerequisite until they have achieved a grade of “B” or better (or “CR” for practicum/internship) in that course.

If a student’s cumulative grade-point average falls below 3.0 during any semester of enrollment at Texas State, this will result in the student being placed on academic probation by the Graduate College. In the student’s next semester of enrollment, they must raise their cumulative graduate school GPA to 3.0 or above, or risk suspension by the Graduate College. When the student has achieved a GPA of at least 3.0 at the end of their semester of probation, they will be notified by the Graduate College that they have been removed from probation status. If suspended, following suspension status for six months, a student may petition the Graduate Advisor and the Dean of the Graduate College for permission for re-admission. Each re-admission decision is made on an individual basis. If a student is re-admitted after they have been suspended, they must maintain a GPA of 3.0 in each semester of enrollment.

#### Academic Appeal Policy

An individual course grade may be changed when the involved faculty member certifies to the university registrar that an error was made in computing the original grade. The grade change must be approved by the Department Chair, the Dean of the College of Education, and/or the Dean of the Graduate College. Students who wish to appeal a grade should first discuss the issue with the course instructor. If no resolution is reached, the student may then appeal to or discuss a concern with the department chair. If no satisfactory conclusion can be reached at this level, then the student may appeal to the college dean. The dean's decision is final.

#### **Student Review Policy and Appeal Process**

If a faculty member believes that a student is not making satisfactory progress or meeting Program standards, that faculty member will discuss the situation with the student. If the faculty member believes that the student’s performance cannot improve to acceptable standards, the faculty member may refer the student to the Program Standards Committee (PSC). This committee, comprised of three full-time faculty, will provide the student, in writing, with concerns regarding non-satisfactory progress, and provide the student an opportunity to

meet with the PSC to discuss those concerns. After considering the matter, and within 10 working days of meeting with the student, the PSC will report its recommendation for remediating the concerns to the student and the Department Chair. Remediation plans will include activities designed to provide the student an opportunity to demonstrate competency and skill in the identified areas of concern. Possible recommendations include, but are not limited to, additional supervision, written assignments, personal counseling, or retaking classes. In severe cases where remediation is not successful, suspension or dismissal from the program may be warranted. Within 10 days of the receipt of the PSC's notification, the student will either accept the PSC recommendation or appeal the PSC recommendation by notifying the Chair of the Department of Counseling, Leadership, Adult Education, and School Psychology. Lack of notification by the student is taken to mean acceptance. Noncompliance with a remediation plan may lead to dismissal from the program.

If the student appeals the decision, the Department Chair will review the Program Standards Committee's decision and either uphold or deny the appeal. The Department Chair will offer to meet with the student, the faculty member who originated the concern, and the PSC as needed, prior to making a determination. The Chair's decision on the appeal will be provided to the student in writing.

A student who is dissatisfied with the Department Chair's decision may appeal to the Dean of the College of Education. For an appeal to be considered, the student must submit a written notice for an appeal to the Department Chair within ten working days of receiving the Department Chair's decision and follow the appeal process as noted on the College of Education website (<https://www.education.txst.edu/stu/students.html>). The Dean will consider the matter and notify the student of their decision within ten working days of receipt of the appeal. NOTE: For the official policy on the appeals process, refer to the Graduate College Catalog (<http://mycatalog.txstate.edu/graduate/education/counseling-leadership-adult-school-psychology/>).

**APPENDIX A**  
 Respecialization Plan for  
 Licensed Specialist in School Psychology  
 Department of CLAS  
 Texas State University

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **ID#:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ **E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Graduate Degree in Psychology:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date Conferred:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**University:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Transcripts Attached:** \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Texas State Required Coursework</b>	<b>Coursework Credit</b>	<b>Univ. Year</b>
SPSY 5385 Eth, Stand, Pro Sch Psy	_____	_____
SPSY 5300 Intrv, Coun, Consult Sch Psy	_____	_____
SPSY 5388 Psychometrics	_____	_____
SPSY 5376 Psychoed Assessment	_____	_____
SPSY 5398 Alternative Evaluation	_____	_____
SPSY 5355 CLD Assessment	_____	_____
SPSY 5360 Crisis Intervention	_____	_____
SPSY 5387 Data based Decision Making	_____	_____
SPSY 5380 Ind Counseling Techniques	_____	_____
SPSY 5377 Soc/Emo/Beh Assessment	_____	_____
SPSY 5390 Applied Beh Analy Sch Psy	_____	_____
SPSY 5389 Practicum (Clinic-based)	_____	_____
SPSY 5394 Multicultural Issues Sch Psy	_____	_____
SPSY 5396 Biological Bases of Behavior	_____	_____
SPSY 5389 Practicum (School-based #1)	_____	_____
SPSY 5379 Prev Treat Child Ado Psy Dis	_____	_____
SPSY 5386 Consultation Prof Issues Sch Psy	_____	_____
SPSY 5389 Practicum (School-based #2)	_____	_____
SPSY 6301 Professional Internship	_____	_____
SPSY 6302 Professional Internship	_____	_____
Elective	_____	_____
Elective	_____	_____

**Coursework Needed:**

[illegible]

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Applicant	Date
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School Psychology Advisor
Date

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School Psychology Coordinator	Date
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## **APPENDIX B**

### **Honor Code**

Students in the School Psychology Program are expected to adhere to the University Honor Code. When a student is suspected of academic dishonesty, Program faculty follow University procedures.

1) All faculty, staff and students are responsible for supporting the principles of conscientiousness, respectfulness and honesty and demonstrating a commitment to the university's Academic Honor Code. Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty undermine the very purpose of the university and diminish the value of an education. Specific expectations for academic integrity and sanctions for academic dishonesty are outlined on the Honor Code website: <https://policies.txst.edu/university-policies/07-10-01.html>

2) As members of a community dedicated to learning, inquiry and creation, the students, faculty and administration of our university live by the principles in this Honor Code. These principles require all members of this community to be conscientious, respectful and honest.

**WE ARE CONSCIENTIOUS.** We complete our work on time and make every effort to do it right. We come to class and meetings prepared and are willing to demonstrate it. We hold ourselves to doing what is required, embrace rigor and shun mediocrity, special requests and excuses.

**WE ARE RESPECTFUL.** We act civilly toward one another and we cooperate with each other. We will strive to create an environment in which people respect and listen to one another, speaking when appropriate, and permitting other people to participate and express their views.

**WE ARE HONEST.** We do our own work and are honest with one another in all matters. We understand how various acts of dishonesty, like plagiarizing, falsifying data and giving or receiving assistance to which one is not entitled, conflict as much with academic achievement as with the values of honesty and integrity.

3) Honor Code: All students are required to abide by the Texas State University Honor Code. The pledge for students states:

Students at our university recognize that, to insure honest conduct, more is needed than an expectation of academic honesty, and we therefore adopt the practice of affixing the following pledge of honesty to the work we submit for evaluation: I pledge to uphold the principles of honesty and responsibility at our university.

The complete University Honor Code may be found at:  
<http://www.txstate.edu/effective/upps/upps-07-10-01.html> and  
<http://www.txstate.edu/honorcouncil/>.

Specific examples of dishonesty include, but are not limited to the following:

- Sharing/comparing answers/files for homework assignments, projects, etc. is considered academic dishonesty. Working together or tutoring (explaining to another student how to get the answer) is not dishonesty; however, telling another student the answer is dishonesty.
- Having your cell phone or other recording device out during exams or while reviewing exams is considered academic dishonesty.
- Turning in a project or other homework as your work when you did not calculate/enter/type all of the data entries yourself is dishonesty.
- Letting another student or students turn in a project(s) or homework as their work, when you did part or all of the calculations, data entries, or information gathering is dishonesty.
- You must do all the data entries yourself; watching a friend type/enter the data and printing out two copies is dishonest. Working together is acceptable. Printing multiple copies from one file and the only difference being the name of the student is cheating.
- Copying another student's file, making minor changes, and turning the work in as entirely your own is also cheating.
- Signing the attendance log for another student who is not in the classroom is dishonest.

### **Procedures for Student Complaints**

Students with complaints or grievances should follow University policy:

UPPS No. 07.10.06. <https://policies.txst.edu/university-policies/07-10-06.html>

01.03 Texas State's general policy regarding complaints, including student complaints, appears as part of the university's "Compact with Texans" that can be accessed at <https://www.txst.edu/about/compact.html> . The specific section regarding student complaints provides this information:

- “1. University policy indicates that customer complaints should be directed to the specific office(s) involved in the complaint. If the complaint cannot be resolved at that level, then the complainant is instructed to contact the next-higher office in the chain of command. Currently enrolled Texas State students may also address complaints to the Dean of Students Office, where ombudsman services are provided by Mr. Vincent E. Morton, Assistant Dean of Students. The Dean of Students Office provides ombudsman services for Texas State's primary customers, the students. The function of this service is to assist currently enrolled students in achieving satisfactory resolutions to university related problems. Additionally, the Dean of Students Office makes referrals to appropriate campus departments/offices for various other customer complaints which cannot be resolved within the Dean's Office.
2. Ombudsman services are also available to Texas State faculty. Dr. Patricia Pattison, currently serves as Faculty Ombudsman.

01.03 A student who believes that specific actions, practices, or decisions regarding academic or non-academic matters have been made or carried out in an arbitrary, discriminatory, inequitable, or inconsistent manner, as stated by appropriate university policy statements, can initiate a complaint.

**APPENDIX C**  
**School Psychology Program**  
**Student Mid-Semester Progress Check**

Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Year in Program: 1<sup>st</sup>      2<sup>nd</sup>      3<sup>rd</sup>

Completed by: Student or Faculty \_\_\_\_\_ Date Completed: \_\_\_\_\_

Rating Scale				
N – Not applicable/No opportunity to observe				
0 – Never/Seldom				
1 – Usually/Frequently				
2 – Consistently/Always				
<b>Knowledge &amp; Core Competencies</b>				
1. The student demonstrates understanding of foundational concepts, principles, and theories in the discipline as evidenced by assignments, assessments, and contributions to class discussions.	N	0	1	2
2. Based on completion of course assignments and assessments to date, the student is on track to pass (i.e., grade of B or better) all current classes.	N	0	1	2
3. The student demonstrates competence in writing (e.g., written assignments, assessment reports).	N	0	1	2
<b>Interpersonal &amp; Communication Skills</b>				
1. The student maintains positive interactions with peers and faculty.	N	0	1	2
2. In observed interactions in recorded coursework assignments, university clinic, and/or practicum/internship, the student is able to establish a positive rapport with children and families. [Note: May not be applicable during 1 <sup>st</sup> year, 1 <sup>st</sup> semester]	N	0	1	2
3. The student participates and is engaged in class.	N	0	1	2
<b>Legal, Ethical, &amp; Professional Responsibility</b>				
1. The student displays knowledge and understanding of and adherence to ethical and legal guidelines for practice, including (but not limited to) maintaining client/student confidentiality, maintaining the security of assessment measures, refraining from misuse of assessments or interventions, and working within the boundaries of competence.	N	0	1	2
2. The student receives, integrates, and utilizes constructive feedback from teachers, supervisors, and peers in a non-defensive manner.	N	0	1	2
3. The student maintains good attendance and arrives to meetings/class on time.	N	0	1	2
4. The student completes and submits work by the established due dates.	N	0	1	2
5. The student refrains from using electronic devices during class time for purposes unrelated to the class (e.g., completing work for another class, using social media).	N	0	1	2

**Other Activities:**      \_\_\_\_\_ **Involvement in discipline-related service activities**  
                                  \_\_\_\_\_ **Involvement in research**  
                                  \_\_\_\_\_ **Author/co-author of conference presentation (e.g., poster)**  
                                  \_\_\_\_\_ **Author/co-author of manuscript (submitted, in press, or published)**

**Comments:**

**APPENDIX D**  
**School Psychology Program**  
**Student Performance Improvement Evaluation**

Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Year in Program: 1<sup>st</sup>      2<sup>nd</sup>      3<sup>rd</sup>

Completed by: Student or Faculty \_\_\_\_\_ Date Completed: \_\_\_\_\_

Rating Scale				
N – Not applicable/No opportunity to observe 0 – Never/Seldom 1 – Usually/Frequently 2 – Consistently/Always				
<b>Knowledge &amp; Core Competencies</b>				
1. Based on observation of performance in related courses, the student demonstrates knowledge and understanding of measurement and statistics.	N	0	1	2
2. Based on observation of performance in related courses, the student demonstrates competencies in administering and scoring assessments.	N	0	1	2
3. Based on observation of performance in related courses, the student demonstrates competencies in interpreting assessments and using assessment data for case conceptualization and decision-making.	N	0	1	2
4. Based on observation of performance in related courses, the student demonstrates knowledge and effective application of evidence-based practices and interventions and the ability to evaluate intervention efficacy.	N	0	1	2
5. Based on observation of performance in related courses, the student demonstrates competencies in providing consultation supports to teachers, administrators, and families in response to student needs or goals.	N	0	1	2
6. The student demonstrates competence in writing (e.g., written assignments, assessment reports).	N	0	1	2
<b>Interpersonal &amp; Communication Skills</b>				
1. The student maintains positive interactions with peers and faculty.	N	0	1	2
2. The student works effectively with other students on collaborative projects.	N	0	1	2
3. The student remains calm and voices thoughts in a manner that encourages discussion and problem-solving when angry or frustrated	N	0	1	2
4. In observed interactions in recorded coursework assignments, university clinic, and/or practicum/internship, the student is able to establish a positive rapport with children and families.	N	0	1	2
5. The student demonstrates competence in oral communication (e.g., class discussions, oral presentations).	N	0	1	2
6. The student participates and is engaged in class.	N	0	1	2
<b>Legal, Ethical, &amp; Professional Responsibility</b>				
1. The student displays knowledge and understanding of and adherence to ethical and legal guidelines for practice (e.g., maintaining client/student confidentiality, maintaining the security of assessment measures, refraining from misuse of assessments or interventions, respecting the fundamental rights, dignity and	N	0	1	2

worth of all people).				
2. The student acknowledges the boundaries of their particular competencies and provides only those services and applies only those techniques for which they are qualified by education, training and experience within the context of a defined professional relationship.	N	0	1	2
3. The student receives, integrates, and utilizes constructive feedback from faculty, supervisors, and peers in a non-defensive manner.	N	0	1	2
4. The student demonstrates recognition of personal/professional strengths and weaknesses and takes responsibility for actively addressing areas in need of improvement.	N	0	1	2
5. The student exhibits self-assurance and confidence in their own ability appropriate to their level of training.	N	0	1	2
6. Based on written self-reflections and observation of performance in related courses, the student demonstrates knowledge and awareness of their own diversity and attitudes, the ways in which culture and diversity shape behaviors across settings, and the ability to sensitively integrate culture and diversity considerations in practice.	N	0	1	2
7. The student maintains good attendance and arrives to meetings/class on time.	N	0	1	2
8. The student completes and submits work by the established due dates.	N	0	1	2
9. The student responds to email communications in a timely manner.	N	0	1	2
10. The student refrains from using electronic devices during class time for purposes unrelated to the class (e.g., completing work for another class, using social media).	N	0	1	2

**Comments:**

**APPENDIX E**  
**School Psychology Student Improvement Plan**

Student \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Faculty Advisor \_\_\_\_\_  
University Practicum/Internship Supervisor (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_  
Site Supervisor (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Directions: The Student Improvement Plan is to be developed cooperatively by the student, the student's faculty advisor, and when applicable, the university and site supervisors of practicum or internship. This form is completed when the student's overall performance is considered to be less than satisfactory according to the School Psychology Program, CLAS Department, and Graduate College performance standards. The plan is to assist the student in achieving a satisfactory assessment and to improve his or her potential to be a successful LSSP.

- I. Specific area(s) of concern:
  
- II. Behavioral description of the student's difficulties:
  
- III. Objectives for performance improvement:
  
- IV. Plan for meeting objectives:
  
- V. Implementation timeline:
  
- VI. Assistance/resources to be provided by the program faculty (and when applicable the practicum/internship supervisor):
  
- VII. Assessment criteria & procedures:
  
- VIII. Date for re-evaluation:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Faculty advisor signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
University supervisor signature (if applicable)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Site supervisor signature (if applicable)

## School Psychology Student Improvement Plan Follow-Up

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Action taken by the student (provide documentation, if applicable):

The student's performance is:

\_\_\_\_\_ Satisfactory

\_\_\_\_\_ Unsatisfactory

If unsatisfactory, describe further actions to be taken:

Student will:

Advisor/Program Faculty will:

Field-based Supervisor will (if applicable):

University Supervisor will (if applicable):

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Faculty advisor signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
University supervisor signature (if applicable)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Site supervisor signature (if applicable)

## APPENDIX F

### TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY Performance Based Assessment Plan School Psychology Program

Admissions	Year One		Year Two			Year Three	Post-Graduate Follow-up
Application to the Program	Coursework and Assessment	Advising Student Evaluation	Coursework and Assessment	Three Practica	Advising Student Evaluation	Internship	Exams, Applications, Licensure
Written application including:  Letters of recommendation  GRE  Writing Sample  GPA  Work and other experiences  Prerequisite courses	Ongoing progress in courses  Pre-practicum project evaluation  Maintain 3.0 GPA for all courses	Meet with advisor to review:  Academic  Practice  Professional and ethical conduct	Ongoing progress in courses  Maintain 3.0 GPA for all courses	Evaluations completed by field supervisors  University and field supervision  University supervisor site visit and evaluation of school-based practicum student competence and progress	Meet with advisor to review:  Academic  Practice  Professional and ethical conduct	Praxis Exam  Evaluations completed by field supervisors  University and field supervision  Professional work characteristics/ dispositions evaluation  University supervisor site visit and evaluation of intern competence and progress	NCSP and State Licensure Exams Applications:  State Jurisprudence Exam  Final applications for NCSP and State License  Obtain NCSP and State license