



Utah State
Board of
Education

Student
Services

School Psychology Program Overview

Updated March 2025

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Overview

School psychologists undergo rigorous training at the masters, specialist, and doctoral levels, equipping them with the skills to support students' academic, behavioral, and mental health needs. Training is typically guided by the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) Practice Model, ensuring competencies in areas such as data-based decision-making, academic and behavioral interventions, consultation, and legal and ethical practices. This structured preparation enables school psychologists to effectively collaborate with educators, families, and communities to foster safe, supportive, and equitable learning environments.

Master's Level

1. Master of Arts (M.A.)

Credit Hours

Less than 60 graduate semester hours; typically around 36 hours

Time to Graduation

Typically 2 years of full-time study at the graduate level

Internship Requirement

None

Standards for Graduate Preparation

No national or general model for Master's-level school psychology programs

2. Master of Science (M.S.)

Credit Hours

Less than 60 graduate semester hours; typically around 36 hours

Time to Graduation

Typically 2 years of full-time study at the graduate level

Internship Requirement

None

Standards for Graduate Preparation

No national or general model for Master's-level school psychology programs

3. Master of Education (M.Ed.)

Credit Hours

Less than 60 graduate semester hours; typically around 36 hours

Time to Graduation

Typically 2 years of full-time study at the graduate level

Internship Requirement

None

Standards for Graduate Preparation

No national or general model for Master's-level school psychology programs

Specialist Level

1. Education Specialist (Ed.S.)

Credit Hours

Minimum of 60 graduate semester hours (or 90 quarter hours)

Time to Graduation

Typically 3 years of full-time study at graduate level, including internship

Internship Requirement

- 1,200-hour internship full-time over one year or half-time basis over two consecutive years
- At least 600 hours must be completed in a school setting

Standards for Graduate Preparation

Programs must ensure candidates demonstrate competencies in **10 domains** outlined by the NASP Practice Model:

1. Data-Based Decision Making
2. Consultation and Collaboration
3. Academic Interventions and Instructional Supports
4. Mental and Behavioral Health Services and Interventions
5. School-Wide Practices to Promote Learning
6. Services to Promote Safe and Supportive Schools
7. Family, School, and Community Collaboration
8. Equitable Practices for Diverse Student Populations
9. Research and Evidence-Based Practice
10. Legal, Ethical, and Professional Practice

2. Certificate of Advanced Study (CAS) or Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study (CAGS)

Often awarded in conjunction with a master's degree

Credit Hours

Minimum of 60 graduate semester hours (or 90 quarter hours)

Time to Graduation

Typically 3 years of full-time study, including internship

Internship Requirement

- 1,200-hour internship full-time over one year or half-time over two years
- At least 600 hours must be completed in a school setting

Standards for Graduate Preparation

Programs must ensure candidates demonstrate competencies in **10 domains** outlined by the NASP Practice Model:

1. Data-Based Decision Making
2. Consultation and Collaboration
3. Academic Interventions and Instructional Supports
4. Mental and Behavioral Health Services and Interventions
5. School-Wide Practices to Promote Learning
6. Services to Promote Safe and Supportive Schools
7. Family, School, and Community Collaboration
8. Equitable Practices for Diverse Student Populations
9. Research and Evidence-Based Practice
10. Legal, Ethical, and Professional Practice

3. Specialist in Psychology (Psy.S.)

Credit Hours

Minimum of 60 graduate semester hours (or 90 quarter hours)

Time to Graduation

Typically 3 years of full-time study, including internship

Internship Requirement

- 1,200-hour internship full-time over one year or half-time basis over two consecutive years
- At least 600 hours must be completed in a school setting

Standards for Graduate Preparation

Programs must ensure candidates demonstrate competencies in **10 domains** outlined by the NASP Practice Model:

1. Data-Based Decision Making
2. Consultation and Collaboration
3. Academic Interventions and Instructional Supports
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5. School-Wide Practices to Promote Learning
6. Services to Promote Safe and Supportive Schools
7. Family, School, and Community Collaboration
8. Equitable Practices for Diverse Student Populations
9. Research and Evidence-Based Practice
10. Legal, Ethical, and Professional Practice

Doctoral Level

1. Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)

Credit Hours

Minimum of 90 graduate semester hours

Time to Graduation

Typically 5–6 years of full-time study, including internship

Internship Requirement

- 1,200–1,500-hour internship full-time over one year or half-time basis over two consecutive years
- At least 600 hours must be completed in a school setting
- Some doctoral internships provide up to 2,000 hours

Standards for Graduate Preparation

Programs must ensure candidates demonstrate competencies in **10 domains** outlined by the NASP Practice Model:

1. Data-Based Decision Making
2. Consultation and Collaboration
3. Academic Interventions and Instructional Supports
4. Mental and Behavioral Health Services and Interventions
5. School-Wide Practices to Promote Learning
6. Services to Promote Safe and Supportive Schools
7. Family, School, and Community Collaboration
8. Equitable Practices for Diverse Student Populations
9. Research and Evidence-Based Practice
10. Legal, Ethical, and Professional Practice

2. Doctor of Psychology (Psy.D.)

Credit Hours

Minimum of 90 graduate semester hours

Time to Graduation

Typically 5–6 years of full-time study, including internship

Internship Requirement

- 1,200–1,500-hour internship full-time over one year or half-time basis over two consecutive years
- At least 600 hours must be completed in a school setting
- Some doctoral internships provide up to 2,000 hours

Standards for Graduate Preparation

Programs must ensure candidates demonstrate competencies in **10 domains** outlined by the NASP Practice Model:

1. Data-Based Decision Making
2. Consultation and Collaboration
3. Academic Interventions and Instructional Supports
4. Mental and Behavioral Health Services and Interventions
5. School-Wide Practices to Promote Learning
6. Services to Promote Safe and Supportive Schools
7. Family, School, and Community Collaboration
8. Equitable Practices for Diverse Student Populations
9. Research and Evidence-Based Practice
10. Legal, Ethical, and Professional Practice

3. Doctor of Education (Ed.D.)

Credit Hours

Minimum of 90 graduate semester hours

Time to Graduation

Typically 5–6 years of full-time study, including internship

Internship Requirement

- 1,200–1,500-hour internship full-time over one year or half-time basis over two consecutive years
- At least 600 hours must be completed in a school setting
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Standards for Graduate Preparation

Programs must ensure candidates demonstrate competencies in **10 domains** outlined by the NASP Practice Model:

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