School Psychology:
MA+Specialist Certificate & PhD

Department of Educational Psychology
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
What Is a School Psychologist?

- Members of school teams that support students' ability to learn and teachers' ability to teach.
- Apply expertise in behavior, learning, and mental health to help children and youth succeed academically, socially, behaviorally, and emotionally.
- Partner with families, teachers, school administrators, and other professionals to create safe, healthy, and supportive learning environments that strengthen connections between home, school, and the community.

http://www.nasponline.org/about-school-psychology/who-are-school-psychologists
What is School Psych at the UMN?

We seek to prepare school psychologists who will be local and national leaders in our field through **socially just**, **contextually responsive**, **innovative** practice, scholarship, and systems change.
Our Vision

Recruit exceptional students and provide a supportive climate for their graduate education

Prepare change agents who will respond to the needs of systems, families, and students through an antiracist, social justice lens*

Promote socially just, contextually responsive, innovative practice, scholarship, and systems change

*We hope(expect that students will continually co-construct this with us.)
Our Faculty – Doctoral Advisors

Faith Miller
Associate Professor
• Behavior management
• Screening and interventions for behavioral, social, and emotional functioning

Amanda Sullivan
Professor, Program Coordinator
• Education and health disparities
• Effectiveness of psychoeducational policies and practices for diverse learners

Lisa Aguilar
Assistant Professor
• Indigenous youth, families, and communities
• Decolonizing school psychology
• Indigenizing educational spaces

Kirsten Newell
Assistant Professor
• Academic assessment of dual-language learners
• Biliteracy assessment and intervention
• Educators’ use of data within multi-tiered systems of support

University of Minnesota
Our Faculty – Specialist Advisors and Instructors

Annie Hansen-Burke
- Senior lecturer
- Embedded Site Supervisor

Jessie Kember
- Assistant Teaching Professor
- Fieldwork Coordinator
- Specialist Advisor

Mollie Weeks
- Lecturer
- Embedded Site Supervisor
- Specialist Advisor

Sarah Wollersheim Shervey
- Lecturer
- Specialist Advisor

Alisha Wackerle-Hollman
- Associate research professor
- Instructor
School Psychology Degrees

**MA+Specialist Certificate**
- 3-4 year program; 60 credits
- 1,200-hour Internship
- Applied research & research consumerism
- Assessment
- Prevention and Intervention
- Consultation

**PhD**
- 5-6 year program; 97 credits
- 1,500-hour Internship
- Research
- Supervision
- Higher Ed Instruction & Mentoring
- Assessment
- Prevention and Intervention
- Consultation
Career Opportunities

**MA+ Specialist Certificate**
- Eligible for state and national certification as a school psychologist
- Can also work in building, district, and state administration
- Mean 9-month salary $64,000-71,000
- 11% growth expected through 2022
- 100% employment rate among UMN grads

**PhD**
- Same opportunities as specialist certificate PLUS
- Eligible for licensure to practice psychology and research or faculty positions
- Decades long shortage of faculty means more openings than eligible applicants
- Mean 9-month salary of faculty: $78,000
- 100% employment rate among UMN grads
Why Choose Our Program

Why We Stand Apart:

• Our students and alumni are in high demand.
• Program is long-standing leader in the field.
• Committed to training antiracist school psychologists.
• Continually evolving curriculum and professional learning experiences.
• Support for students as whole people.
• Consistently among top producers of researchers and faculty.
• Access to additional degree and professional learning options (e.g., MA in ABA).

We DO NOT prepare school counselors or therapists. We focus on preparation for MTSS and evidence-based practice.
Why Choose Our Program

What Students Can Expect:

• Immersion in coursework and fieldwork from first semester.
• Innovative research and applied training for the future of school psychology, including preparation to be antiracist school psychology practitioners, researchers, and faculty.
  – Co-creation of program spaces alongside students
• Strong foundations in prevention, intervention, assessment, and systems work via multitier systems of support for academic and social-emotional development.

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What Do We Look for In Students?

- Desire to engage in school practices centered on justice and antiracism
- Aspirations to advance knowledge, educator capacity and/or educational systems.
- Commitment to research and research-based practice.
- Interest in becoming a leader in the local, regional, or national professional communities.
- Interest in training within the Twin Cities

We don’t have set pre-reqs or expectations for applicants (no required coursework or minimum GPA, GRE scores).
Application Process

- Due December 1. Reviewed by beginning of December. Interviews and admissions decisions by mid-January.
- Important webpages:
  - https://www.cehd.umn.edu/edpsych/academics/schoolpsych/
  - https://www.cehd.umn.edu/edpsych/future-students/school-psych/
- Application Materials:
  - Program application
  - Transcripts
  - 3 letters of recommendation
  - Personal statement
  - Critical issues essay
  - CV
- Optional: diversity statement; statement of extenuating circumstances, essays for consideration for fellowships
Visit http://www.cehd.umn.edu/edpsych/programs/schoolpsych/frequently-asked-questions/
QUESTIONS?