

CSUS School Psychology Program

Frequently Asked Questions

Last Updated April 2024

Q: What are the prerequisites for the CSUS school psychology program?

Prerequisites represent areas/domains of study, rather than specific courses. For the school psychology program, there are seven (7) areas/domains of study:

1. A basic understanding of abnormal psychology (e.g., PSY 168)
2. Knowledge of special education and the education of exceptional learners (e.g., EDUC 100A)
3. Experience with exceptional learners in a special education setting (e.g., EDUC 100B)
4. Knowledge of descriptive statistics (e.g., STAT 1)
5. An introduction to the counseling profession (e.g., EDUC 155)
6. Instruction regarding issues of diversity (e.g., EDUC 156)
7. Instruction and/or experiences teaching school-aged youth (e.g., EDUC 125A and EDUC 125B)

To help you determine whether courses you have taken meet the seven domains of study, please thoroughly complete the [Prerequisite Guide Form](#) and send it to the School Psychology Graduate Assistant who can provide guidance:

schoolpsychologyinformation@csus.edu. Prospective students may receive guidance about prerequisites from faculty advisors, but prerequisites cannot be formally approved until students are accepted to the program.

Q: Do I have to have all prerequisites completed when I start the program?

A firm plan for completing all seven prerequisites before you start at CSUS will increase the competitiveness of your application. All pre-reqs must be either taken or in progress, or you need to have a plan in place as to how you will meet the requirements before the official start of your program (Fall 2024).

Q: Is the GRE required? What is the minimum GRE score requirement?

For Fall 2024 admissions (admit date August 2024), the GRE is required, but the scores are only used to help boost your application (not hinder). The CSUS School Psychology program does not have a minimum GRE score requirement. For Fall 2025, the GRE is recommended, but not required.

Q: Can I attend part-time? How long will a part-time course of study take to complete?

Yes, you may attend part-time. Our courses are designed to be taken consecutively, such that you take your learning from one course into the next course in the sequence. For this reason, we have designed a [Part-Time Course of Study](#). This course of study requires ten semesters (five academic years) to complete.

Q: Do my prior graduate-level courses apply to the CSUS school psychology program?

Often graduate courses in related fields do apply, and one or more courses may be waived. You must apply to the program in the standard application cycle. If you are admitted to the program then the faculty will work with you to create an individual learning plan. This will include a thorough review of all your prior graduate training records.

Q: I already have a graduate degree in a related field (e.g., social work, school counseling, special education) and I want to get the PPS credential only. Do I have to take additional coursework?

In most cases, yes, you will need to complete additional coursework to obtain appropriate training to perform the duties of a school psychologist. You must apply for the CSUS School Psychology program during the annual admissions period. On the application you will see two program options: a) Ed.S. and b) PPS credential. You will pick the credential option ONLY if you just want the school psychology credential and are not interested in obtaining the Ed.S. degree. If you want the more advanced Ed.S. degree and the school psychology credential you would select the Ed.S. option. Upon admission, your advisor will work with you to evaluate your prior coursework and to develop an individualized course sequence. Depending on your prior course work, some courses in the school psychology sequence of classes may be waived. You may contact the advisor assigned to your last name before admission to get an idea of what courses might be waived, but no formal approvals will occur until after you have been admitted to the school psychology program.

Q: Are there night classes available, and can I work while taking classes?

There are some classes that happen to be scheduled in the evening; however, there is typically only one section of each class available, and most of our classes are offered only during the day. Some of the classes are also held at school sites or in our clinic, and these are scheduled during K-12 school hours. That said, many of our students hold part-time jobs outside of the program, particularly during their first year. The 3rd year of internship is typically a paid position.

Q: Do you offer an online program?

At this time, the CSUS school psychology program does not offer full online courses, though several of your seminars may be held virtually.

Q: What is the cost of attendance in the CSUS school psychology program?

All questions regarding cost of attendance should be directed to the university's [Bursar's Office](#). Bursar's Office, Lassen Hall, Room 1001; 916-278-1000 #3; bursar@csus.edu

Q: I completed my training in another school psychology program, but would like to complete my internship in California. Will CSUS host me for the internship?

For a complete overview of this topic, please carefully review the [Guidance for Prospective Intern Students](#).

Q: I have further questions. Who should I contact first?

Contact the Graduate Student Assistant, who will be able to answer most of your questions about the program and application process:
schoolpsychologyinformation@csus.edu

2024 Prerequisite Guidance Form

		Course Information		Work-Related Experience Proposal
CSUS School Psychology Prerequisite	Specify: Complete or Underway at Time of Application	University Name and Course #	If not a CSUS course, list home university catalog course description (copy and paste from university)	Description of work or volunteer experience (organization, job title and description of job duties, # hours/week, length of employment)
1. A basic understanding of abnormal psychology (e.g., PSY 168)				
2. Knowledge of special education and the education of exceptional learners (e.g., EDUC 100A)				
3. Experience with exceptional learners in a special education setting (e.g., EDUC 100B)				

4. Knowledge of descriptive statistics (e.g., STAT 1)				
5. An introduction to counseling profession (e.g., EDUC 155)				
6. Instruction regarding issues of diversity (e.g., EDUC 156)				
7. Instruction and/or experiences teaching school aged youth (e.g., EDUC 125A and EDUC 125B)				

Part-Time Course of Study

Course Sequence Adjustments for Part-time Students: Master of Arts in Education, School Psychology Option, Specialist in Education in School Psychology and PPS School Psychology Credential

<i>First Semester</i>	<i>Course Title</i>	<i>Units</i>	<i>Semester</i>	<i>Semester</i>
EPSY 231	Group Process in School Psychology	3		3
EPSY 245	Psychology in the Schools	3	1	
EPSY 248	Human Development and Learning	3		3
EPSY 221	Equity Considerations for School Psychologists	3		3
EPSY 201	Legal Issues in Special Education	3	1	

15

<i>Second Semester</i>	<i>Course Title</i>	<i>Units</i>	<i>Semester</i>	<i>Semester</i>
EPSY 241	Counseling and Psychotherapy for School Psychologists	3	2	
EPSY 242 A	Cognitive Assessment	3		4
EPSY 242 B	Cognitive Assessment Lab	4		4
EDC 250	Educational Research	3	2	
EPSY 440	Practicum in Counseling for School Psychologists	3	2	

16

<i>Third Semester</i>	<i>Course Title</i>	<i>Units</i>	<i>Semester</i>	<i>Semester</i>
EPSY 240	Functional Assessment of Behavior	3		7
EPSY 243A	Practicum in Assessment	3	5	
EPSY 244	Social, Emotional, and Behavioral Assessment	3	5	
EPSY 246 A	Preventive Academic Interventions	3	5	
EPSY 439 A	Early Fieldwork in School Psychology	1	5	
EPSY 439 C	Early Fieldwork in School Psychology	1		7

14+

<i>Fourth Semester</i>	<i>Course Title</i>	<i>Units</i>	<i>Semester</i>	<i>Semester</i>
EPSY 243B	Practicum Assessment	3	6	
EPSY 247	Assessment of Special NeEPSY	3	6	
EPSY 246B	Preventive Mental Health Interventions	3	6	
EPSY 439B	Early Fieldwork in School Psychology	2+		8
EPSY 249, 541	Masters Culminating Experience in School Psychology	3-4		8

14-15

<i>Fifth Semester</i>	<i>Course Title</i>	<i>Units</i>	<i>Semester</i>	<i>Semester</i>
EPSY 441	Internship in School Psychology	15	9	
EPSY 239	Education Specialist Seminar	3	9	

15-18

<i>Sixth Semester</i>	<i>Course Title</i>	<i>Units</i>	<i>Semester</i>	<i>Semester</i>
EPSY 441	Internship in School Psychology	15	10	
EPSY 540/542Ed.S.	Culminating Experience	3-6	10	

15-21

Total Units: 93-103

Completing a School Psychology Internship under Supervision at CSUS: Guidance for Prospective Intern Students

This document describes the expectations involved for out-of-state school psychology trainees who wish to complete a school psychology internship in California, and who wish to have their internship hosted through the CSUS School Psychology Program.

Prerequisites to be considered to be hosted for internship in California by the CSUS School Psychology program:

- Attend a NASP-approved school psychology graduate program
- Be eligible to receive your MA or EPSY degree from your home university
- Completed all pre-internship practicum hours through your home university

If the above prerequisites are met, the CSU Sacramento school psychology program would consider hosting you for internship. Before being recommended for a school psychology internship credential in California, the trainee must:

- Complete application to the CSUS School Psychology program, and obtain acceptance
- Obtain a letter from the training director at their NASP-approved training program indicating they are eligible for internship. This letter must specify that they have successfully completed all pre-internship coursework and have obtained the necessary supervised practicum hours to be eligible for a school psychology internship in California. For reference, CTC Regulations on pre-internship practicum are as follows:
 - To be eligible for a school psychology internship in California, a trainee must meet CTC regulations for pre-internship field study. The trainee must *submit evidence of 450 clock hours of practicum completed prior to starting a school psychology internship*, as well as evidence of successful evaluation of those practicum hours.
 1. A minimum of three hundred (300) clock hours in a preschool to grade 12 school setting providing direct and indirect pupil services.
 2. Up to 150 hours of experience may be offered through on-campus agencies (for example, child study center, psychology clinic, relevant educational research or evaluation activities), or community agencies (for example, private schools, community mental health centers).
 3. Practicum is offered for academic credit, or is a part of a course for which a candidate receives credit. This experience is a direct extension of program training goals and objectives, and concurrent instruction is provided as a part of the experience.
- Obtain a Certificate of Clearance through CTC
<https://www.ctc.ca.gov/credentials/submit-online>
- Successfully complete the CBEST
https://www.ctcexams.nesinc.com/TestView.aspx?f=HTML_FRAG/CA_CBEST_TestPage.html

In order to perform work as a school psychology intern in the state of California, the candidate must:

- Apply for and obtain an internship in a Local Education Agency in California. Most internships are posted on EdJoin
- Complete enrollment at CSUS
- Enroll in 15 units for EPSY 441A for fall of the internship year and 15 units for EPSY 441B in spring of the internship year. The trainee must attend all required group supervision meetings as outlined in these course syllabi.
- Obtain 1200 hours of supervised experience consistent with both CTC regulations and CSU Sacramento expectations, and turn in hours logs according to directives of the Field Study Coordinator
- Successfully meet all CSUS School Psychology internship evaluation protocols for two semesters.

Resources:

CTC Regulations

https://www.ctc.ca.gov/docs/default-source/educator-prep/standards/pps-school-psychology-pdf.pdf?sfvrsn=5de552b1_16

CASP Internship Manual

https://www.casponline.org/pdfs/pdfs/internship_manual.pdf

CSUS School Psychology Handbook

https://www.csus.edu/college/education/masters-programs/_internal/_documents/program-handbook.nov.2020.pdf