

Program of Study

In order to be recommended by the licensing officer at Ball State for the initial practitioner license as a school psychologist in Indiana, students must complete a Master's, Specialist or Ph.D. degree in school psychology or related area, and successfully meet the standards for school services personnel and the specialty standards for school psychologists.

These requirements include:

- successful completion of 73 semester hours of graduate work beyond the bachelor's degree. Generally this requires two years of course work including summers plus a third year for the required academic-year internship. Undergraduate course work may not be substituted for required classes. Specific courses and a recommended sequence of study are given in the Appendices C and D.
- satisfactory development of knowledge, professional skills, and dispositions as determined at the required decision points as outlined in the *Performance-Based Assessment Plan* and the *Student Review and Retention Policy*.
- attaining a passing score on the Praxis II School Psychologist Exam.

Residency

The Ed.S. program requires full-time continuous residency [or an alternate planned experience] for all students while attending Ball State University. No residency requirement exists for M.A. students. However, the intensive prepracticum and practicum requirements (i.e., a total of 8 credits with a minimum of 500 clock hours of supervised experience) necessitates full-time student status at least for the year during which practica are completed.

Transfer Credit

With the approval and recommendation of the program director and approval by the dean of the Graduate School, graduate work taken for credit at other accredited institutions may be transferred in partial fulfillment of degree requirements. The transferred credits must meet stipulations that include but are not limited to

- a minimum student G.P.A. of 3.0 on all graduate work at the other institutions;
- a minimum grade of B (B- does not transfer) on courses considered for transfer; and
- completion of hours within the six years allowed for completion of advanced degrees at Ball State.

A master's degree candidate may transfer up to 9 semester hours from other regionally accredited institutions if the courses are deemed appropriate for the planned program by the director of the program and the Graduate School. An Ed.S. candidate with prior consent of his/her Ed.S. Committee, may transfer up to six hours of credit beyond the master's degree from other approved institutions. Extension credits offered by Ball State University are considered the same as campus credits.

Graduate level course work completed before completing the baccalaureate degree cannot be used toward a graduate degree (see Graduate Catalog).

Course Loads

Students receiving assistantships are not permitted to take more than 12 semester hours of credit during any semester or 6 semester hours during any summer term, except as approved by the dean of the Graduate School. See Appendix A for specific curricular requirements.

Thesis Requirement

Because the university allows the substitution of field experience or an internship for the thesis or creative project degree requirement, most students opt to use the program's required hours of internship to fulfill this requisite research component. A student may choose to complete a thesis. However, a thesis will not be accepted as a substitute for the required internship.

Degree Requirements M.A. Degree

The M.A. degree in school psychology ordinarily consists of the first 30 hours of the Ed.S. Program. All courses must come from the required list of courses for the Ed.S. degree (see Appendix A).

Students must:

- complete EDPSY 640, Methodology of Educational and Psychological Research (3) or an equivalent course as part of the Graduate Research Methodology Course Plan;
- complete at least 30 hours of graduate courses beyond the

bachelor's degree as approved by the program director. (see *Graduate Check Sheet, Master of Arts in School Psychology* at www.bsu.edu/web/schpsych); and

- formally apply for graduation through the graduate school. Application must be made no later than the end of the first two weeks of the semester in which the 30 hours are expected to be completed).

Advising

The director of the MA/Ends Programs serves as academic advisor for all M.A. students.

Ed.S. Degree

Students must:

- submit a plan of study (see *Graduate Check Sheet Specialist in Education Degree* at www.bsu.edu/web/schpsych) with the assistance of a three-member Ed.S. committee complete all necessary course work, including internship, as outlined in the certification requirements;
- complete the Praxis II, School Psychology exam with a score equal to that required for National Certification as a School Psychologist (currently 660).
- demonstrate program competencies by successfully completing decision point criteria as outlined in the *Performance Based Assessment Plan*. And

Time Allowed

- formally apply for graduation through the graduate school. Application must be made no later than the end of the first two weeks of the semester in which all program requirements including internship are expected to be completed .

After a student has been admitted to a degree program, all requirements for the degree are to be met within six years of the date of admission to the program. Special cases will be submitted to the Graduate Education Committee for consideration and action. In general, the program director has jurisdiction, but the Graduate Education Committee serves as the board of appeal.

Advising/Ed.S. Committee

The Ed.S. student's committee is established during the first or second semester after acceptance into the program. Typically, the Director of the program acts as the student's major advisor. The committee consists of three members of the School Psychology Core Committee who monitor the student's progress through the program.

Required Courses

A List of Required Courses to meet the curricular requirements for the M.A./Ed.S. program, and state of Indiana Licensure as a School Psychologist is given in Appendix A. The *Descriptions of Required Courses* appears in Appendix C. A matrix of the NASP domains addressed by each class is offered in Appendix F.

Classes are not offered every semester and students are advised to consult the *Checklist of Required Courses* (available at www.bsu.edu/web/schpsych and official university publications for class scheduling.