

School Psychology

Master of Science in Educational Psychology

Concentration in School Psychology



Students and faculty celebrate at convocation.

USM offers a **Master of Science in Educational Psychology with a Concentration in School Psychology** to prepare students for careers as specialist-level School Psychologists. Specialist-level School Psychologists typically deliver assessment, intervention, and consultation services within school settings to promote children's academic, social-emotional, and behavioral success.

Graduates of the USM program are eligible to apply for the following credentials:

- School Psychologist-Specialist (Maine, 093)
- Nationally Certified School Psychologist (NCSP)

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- The program curriculum integrates coursework with field-based experiences to facilitate students' acquisition of competencies in school psychology.
- The program offers flexible course delivery options: Approximately half of the required courses may be completed using distance learning technology, and live courses are scheduled on weekday evenings.
- The program is accessible to working professionals, and students may complete coursework on a part-time or full-time basis.
- Practicum and internship placements are available in schools across the state of Maine.
- Graduates of the program are highly employable due to state and national shortages of school psychologists.
- Students who complete select elective courses and a supervised field experience are eligible to apply for additional credentialing as a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA).

KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS ACQUIRED DURING THE PROGRAM

- Data collection and analysis
- Assessment
- Progress monitoring
- School-wide practices to promote learning
- Resilience and risk factors
- Consultation and collaboration
- Academic/learning interventions
- Mental health interventions
- Behavioral interventions
- Instructional support
- Prevention and intervention services
- Special education services
- Crisis preparedness, response, and recovery
- Family-school-community collaboration
- Diversity in development and learning
- Research and program evaluation
- Professional ethics, school law, and systems

WHAT IS THE JOB OUTLOOK FOR SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS?

- There are shortages of school psychologists in Maine.
- There are documented shortages of school psychologists nation-wide.
- The national median annual wage for school psychologists is \$73,270 (Bureau of Labor Statistics).
- School psychologists are employed in a variety of settings, including public schools, private schools, preschools, universities, community-based day treatment programs, residential clinics, hospitals, juvenile justice programs, and independent private practices (National Association of School Psychologists, 2017).

PROGRAM INFORMATION

The M.S. in Educational Psychology with a concentration in School Psychology requires 84 credit hours of graduate study, which includes courses, practica, and a culminating internship. The program may be completed in 4 years by enrolling in 3 years of full-time coursework and a 1-year internship. Students may choose to complete the program on a part-time basis.

The curriculum is designed to meet the standards for credentialing established by the Maine Department of Education and the National Association of School Psychologists. Accordingly, students acquire broad knowledge in the fields of psychology and education and gain skills in evidence-based assessment, intervention, and consultation methods. Students also gain competencies in data-based decision-making, collaborative-problem-solving, and applied behavior analysis.

Following completion of the program, graduates are eligible to apply for Maine state certification as a School Psychologist-Specialist and credentialing as a Nationally Certified School Psychologist. These credentials enable graduates to provide a full range of psychological services in school settings.

PROGRAM FACULTY

Mark Steege, PhD

Professor
Licensed Psychologist
Certified School Psychologist-Doctoral
Nationally Certified School Psychologist
Board Certified Behavior Analyst-Doctoral



Jamie Pratt, PsyD

Assistant Professor
Licensed Psychologist
Certified School Psychologist-Doctoral
Board Certified Behavior Analyst-Doctoral



Garry Wickerd, PhD

Assistant Professor
Certified School Psychologist-Doctoral
Nationally Certified School Psychologist
Board Certified Behavior Analyst



Part-Time Faculty

Rachel Brown, PhD, NCSP

Associate Professor Emerita

Alexis Kiburis, PsyD, NCSP

Lecturer

Erin Beardsley, PsyD, NCSP, BCBA-D

Lecturer

For more information contact:

School Psychology

(207) 228-8324

jamie.pratt1@maine.edu

503 Bailey Hall, Gorham campus

usm.maine.edu/school-psychology

For assistance with the application process:

Office of Admissions

(207) 780-4386

usmgrad@maine.edu

GETTING STARTED

Prospective students may wish to take a course prior to applying or being admitted to the program. Only two School Psychology courses (up to six credits) may be taken prior to admission. Prospective students may want to start with any of the following: HCE 668, SPY 601, SPY 671, or SED 540.

APPLICATION DEADLINES

Applications for matriculation in the fall of 2018 must be received by March 15th, 2018.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- A completed online application with the USM Office of Graduate Admissions
- A non-refundable application fee of \$65 (waived for Maine residents)
- Current resume
- Official transcripts for all colleges or universities attended outside the University of Maine System
- Three professional letters of recommendation attesting to the applicant's academic and career potential
- Essay response to the question: Why do you seek training in School Psychology?
- Official GRE scores

Full application requirements can be found at usm.maine.edu/educational-psychology