Graduates of the USM School Psychology program earn a Doctorate of School Psychology (Psy.D.) in School Psychology. The Psy.D. Program content includes comprehensive studies that integrate general psychological content, methodology, and research with educational principles and practitioner skills.

The USM Psy.D. program is based on principles of applied behavior analysis (ABA). Our program philosophy includes a focus on ABA, data-based decision-making, and problem solving practices. Together these three areas form the foundation of the knowledge and skills that graduates will learn. Psy.D. students demonstrate competency for school psychology practice through coursework, dissertation, and a 2,000 clock hour internship, working under the supervision of a licensed psychologist.

Following completion of the Psy.D. program, graduates are eligible for Maine state certification as a School Psychologist-Doctoral and a Nationally Certified School Psychologist. Following completion of a 1,500 hour post-doctoral training, graduates will also be eligible to apply for licensure as a psychologist.

**Getting Started**

Prospective students may wish to take a course prior to applying or being admitted to the program. Only two (2) School Psychology courses (up to six credits) may be taken prior to admission. Prospective students are eligible to take up to two (2) of the following: HRD 668, SPY 601, SPY 671, or SED 540.

**Program Requirements**

The Psy.D. course of study includes 111 credit hours. During the final portion of the program, students complete a dissertation and a 1,500-2,000 clock hour, pre-doctoral internship. The program of study requires five years of full-time study, with four years of coursework and a fifth year of internship.

**Program Highlights**

- **Master of Science Degree along the way** - Students in the Psy.D. program are eligible to earn a Master of Science in Educational Psychology along the way to earning the doctorate. The M.S. is awarded after completion of the 36 credits required of the Master of Science in Educational Psychology with a concentration in applied behavior analysis.

- **Multiple Credentials** - Graduates of the Psy.D. are eligible to apply for certification as a school psychologist, licensure as a psychologist, and certification as an applied behavior analyst.

- **High Graduate Employment Rates** - 100% of graduates over the last five years have secured employment in the fields of education or psychology within six months of graduation. There are national and state shortages of school psychologists and demand is expected to remain strong for many years.

Please visit the School’s website for a complete list of course descriptions: usm.maine.edu/sehd/sehd-course-descriptions.
PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS
Admission to the Psy.D. in School Psychology program is competitive with typically 6-8 applicants admitted each year. Applications for admission are considered only once a year. Late applications are not accepted.

In addition to the University of Southern Maine Graduate Admissions application requirements, Psy.D. applicants must meet the following minimum requirements:
• Hold a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution
• Have earned a cumulative grade point average of 2.75 or higher (on a 4.0 scale) in a baccalaureate degree program; or have earned a cumulative grade point average of 3.25 or higher (on a 4.0 scale) in a master’s/graduate degree program
• Have earned a score of 300 points or above on the combined verbal and quantitative scores on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) if taken on or after Sept. 1, 2011, or a score of 1000 on the combined verbal and quantitative scores on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) if taken before Sept. 1, 2011
• Admissions Interview
• The Psy.D. admissions process requires a date-specific, on campus, formal interview

APPLICATION DEADLINES
Application deadline is December 1 of each year.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS
Special instructions and essay questions, forms, testing requirements, and admissions policies can be found at: usm.maine.edu/school-psychology

Application must include:
• A submitted online graduate admission application;
• The application fee of $65.00;
• Official transcripts from all colleges or universities attended. The Office of Graduate Admissions is able to obtain transcripts of courses completed after 1985 from any University of Maine system campus, so you do not need to request those; however, you do need to list them on your application;
• Three letters of recommendation attesting to the applicant’s ability to study at the graduate level.
• Two essays (see usm.maine.edu/school-psychology/psyd-school-psychology)
• Certification of finances (international students only);
• Official GRE test score (see usm.maine.edu/school-psychology/psyd-school-psychology)
• Official TOEFL or IELTS scores (if English is not first language); and
• Current resume
• In addition the above submitted materials, applicants must complete a free Tk20 Application in order for your application to be reviewed. The link to the instructions can be found here: usm.maine.edu/sites/default/files/educatorpreparation/How-to-Create-Free-Admission-Application-Account-in-Tk20.pdf

For assistance with the application process:
Office of Graduate Admissions
(207) 780-4386
gradstudies@usm.maine.edu

For more information contact:
School Psychology
(207) 780-5300
220 Bailey Hall, Gorham campus
spy@usm.maine.edu
usm.maine.edu/school-psychology