

School Psychology

Doctor of Psychology (Psy.D.) Program



Students and faculty celebrate at graduation.

USM's School Psychology program includes comprehensive coursework and field-based experiences to prepare graduates to deliver evidence-based school psychology services that help school-aged children succeed academically, socially, emotionally, and behaviorally. The curriculum integrates foundational psychological and educational content with research and practice skills grounded in the principles of applied behavior analysis.

Graduates are eligible to apply for:

- Maine certification as a School Psychologist-Doctoral
- Credentialing as a Nationally Certified School Psychologist
- Licensure as a psychologist (after post-doctoral 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 with a Concentration in Applied Behavior Analysis along the way to earning the doctorate.
- **Multiple Credentials** - Graduates of the Psy.D. program 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.

DISSERTATIONS

Students complete a dissertation during their last two years in the program. Recent dissertations include:

- The Effects of Behavioral Momentum on Increasing Expressive Writing Behaviors in Children Resistant to Writing Tasks - Hannah Batley (2017)
- Teaching Children with Autism to Mand from Their Peers - Michelle Hathaway (2016)
- The Reliability and Validity of the Task Analysis Recording Procedure (TARP) - Russell Brown (2016)

Full dissertations from all students can be viewed at <http://usm.maine.edu/school-psychology/dissertations>

FIELD EXPERIENCES

Students participate in 600 hours of field-based practica and complete a culminating 1500+ hour pre-doctoral internship. Faculty assist students in finding practicum and internship sites that align with their professional goals and interests. The pre-doctoral internship provides students with the opportunity to work under the supervision of a licensed psychologist, and these experiences are typically paid with a minimum stipend of \$15,000.

Recent examples of practicum and internship placements include public K-12 schools, special purpose private schools, psychiatric hospitals, private practices, and university-based counseling centers

PROGRAM INFORMATION

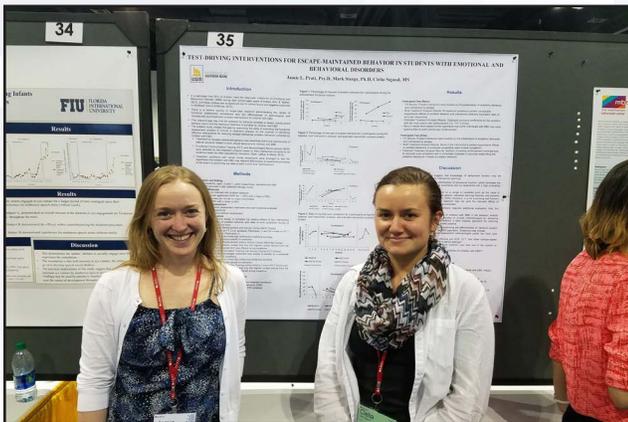
Graduates of the USM School Psychology program earn a Doctorate of School Psychology (Psy.D.) in School Psychology. The Psy.D. course of study includes 111 credit hours. During the final portion of the program, students complete a dissertation and a 1,500-2,000 clock hour, pre-doctoral internship. The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

The program philosophy includes a focus on evidence-based practice, data-based decision-making, collaborative problem-solving, and applied behavior analysis. These principles and practices provide an organizing framework for the knowledge and skills that students acquire throughout the program. Students demonstrate competency for school psychology practice through completion of coursework, field-based practica, an empirical dissertation, and a 1500+ clock hour internship.

Following completion of the Psy.D. program, graduates are eligible for Maine state certification as a School Psychologist-Doctoral and credentialing as a Nationally Certified School Psychologist. Following completion of a 1,500 hour post-doctoral training, graduates are also eligible to apply for licensure as a psychologist. Lastly, graduates who complete selected elective courses and pursue appropriate supervision are eligible to apply for certification as a Board Certified Behavior Analyst.

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: HCE 668, SPY 601, SPY 671, or SED 540.



Students benefit from collaboration with faculty on research activities.

For more information contact:

School Psychology
(207) 780-5968
michael.katz@maine.edu
8 Bailey Hall, Gorham campus
usm.maine.edu/school-psychology

For assistance with the application process:

Office of Admissions
(207) 780-4386
usmgrad@maine.edu

APPLICATION DEADLINES

December 1 for admission the following fall.

Admission to the Psy.D. in School Psychology program is competitive with typically 6-8 applicants admitted each year. Late applications are not accepted.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

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

Minimum Requirements: Applicants must hold a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution and 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.

APPLICATION MUST INCLUDE:

- A submitted online graduate admission application
- The application fee of \$65.00 (Maine residents can apply for free)
- 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)
- Official Graduate Record Exam (GRE) scores taken within five years of application. The minimum combined score for the Verbal and Quantitative tests is 300. Applicants who do not meet the minimum GRE score requirements may enclose a letter requesting special consideration and providing evidence of an ability to complete graduate studies successfully. Without such a letter, applicants who fail to meet minimum test score eligibility requirements may be automatically denied.
- Current resume
- Official TOEFL or IELTS scores (if English is not first language). The minimum TOEFL score is 79, and the minimum IELTS score is 6.5
- Certification of finances (international students only)
- Participate in a formal, on-campus admissions interview.