Applied Educational Psychology (MA)

This program is offered by the School of Education, and is only available at the St. Louis home campus.

Program Description
The master of arts (MA) in applied educational psychology is an advanced degree program for practicing educators and other professionals working in educationally related services who are seeking to expand their knowledge, skills and professional effectiveness to improve the academic and social outcomes for school-aged children, adolescents and their families. The field of educational psychology provides a significant source of scientific insights into teaching, learning, motivation and maturation. Educational psychology coursework develops knowledge and skills in several areas including assessment of learning differences, developmental processes, recognition of human diversity, effective instruction, evidence-based decision-making, research and program evaluation, and technological applications.

Students in this program are encouraged to be self-reflective, to develop good communication skills and to work cooperatively with others. Graduates of applied educational psychology know how to identify learners’ strengths and needs, to individualize instruction, to conduct research investigations, to facilitate creative problem-solving, to promote well-being and resilience, and to develop psychoeducational curricula and interventions to foster life competencies. In keeping with the mission of Webster University, MA students in applied educational psychology are encouraged to gain “international perspectives” and to develop “a lifelong desire to learn and a commitment to contribute actively to their communities and the world.”

This program is not designed for individuals pursuing licensure in clinical psychology, counseling psychology or professional counseling.

Learning Outcomes
Graduates of this program are able to:

- Demonstrate and apply knowledge of psychology to education in order to facilitate and inspire student learning and creativity, and to promote social-emotional well being of students.
- Use assessment and progress data collected in classrooms, schools or community settings to make evidence-based decisions regarding effective instructional and curricular interventions and practices for individual students and groups of students.
- Understand, apply and conduct educational research.
- Demonstrate respect for diversity through responsive teaching that values individual differences in cultural, socioeconomic, ethnic, linguistic and national/international backgrounds, as well as abilities and disabilities.
- Promote and model global/digital age citizenship and responsibility.
- Develop self-assessment skills and the ability to reflect on roles educators can take as leaders of change in the 21st century.
- Engage in professional growth and leadership.
- Collaborate effectively with others in designing, developing and guiding decision-making at the individual, class-wide, school or community level.

Program Curriculum
A total of 36 credit hours is required for this major. Degree-seeking majors in applied educational psychology will complete 21 hours of core courses and will fulfill the remaining 15 hours by either selecting one of the following four tracks or by choosing any combination of courses from the tracks:

- Educational Psychology (preparation for the EdS in school psychology)
- Fostering Resilience in "At Risk" Children and Youth*
- Immigrant and Refugee Children and Families*
- Psychology and Education of Gifted Students*

*Students completing any of these three tracks are eligible to earn a graduate certificate of the same name. To gain the certificate, students must pay a second graduation fee.

This major includes thesis and non-thesis options. The thesis track is recommended for those students wishing to pursue a doctoral degree in educational psychology or school psychology. After completing the MA in applied educational psychology, further study is needed if one wants to become a psychologist; the American Psychological Association defines a psychologist as, “An individual with a doctoral degree in psychology…” Some requirements in the MA in applied educational psychology are different from the other master’s degrees in the School of Education.

All applied educational psychology students will take Intercultural Communications or Global Citizenship and Applied Educational Psychology so that they can further their understanding of human diversity and will have practice experiences in order to apply the knowledge they have gained in their educational psychology coursework. In addition, all students enrolled in applied educational psychology take Applied Research; this course enables students to read, interpret and evaluate educational and psychological research and to plan research. Students enrolled in either the non-thesis or thesis track successfully complete a final reflections essay as part of their culminating course experience.

Core Courses (21 hours)
- EPSY 5001 Global Citizenship and Applied Educational Psychology (3 hours)
- EPSY 5350 Intercultural Communications* (3 hours)
- EPSY 5390 Applied Statistics in Educational Psychology (3 hours)
- EPSY 5505 Applied Developmental and Educational Psychology (3 hours)
- EPSY 5600 Practicum in Educational Psychology (3 hours)
- EPSY 5600 Applied Research (3 hours)
- EPSY 5816 Advanced Child Development (3 hours)
- EPSY 5810 Advanced Adolescent Psychology (3 hours)
- EPSY 6001 Integrated Studies in Applied Educational Psychology (for non-thesis track) (3 hours)
- or EPSY 6250 Thesis (for thesis track) (3 hours)

*EPSY 5350 is required for all certificates.

Elective Courses (15 hours)
Students can select to follow a single track based on their professional goals or can select courses from multiple tracks to fulfill this requirement.

Total: 36 hours

Track in Educational Psychology
Students wishing to pursue an educational specialist degree in school psychology will take the above listed core courses in addition to the track-specific courses below. These courses...
The track in immigrant and refugee children and families provides educators with the knowledge and skills necessary to meet the educational, social, and emotional needs of children and families who are facing multiple challenges as they migrate to new cultures and countries. Most often, the educators who work with immigrants and refugees are also second language teachers. In addition to language instruction, these teachers share cultural experiences and provide a "welcoming oasis" for newly arrived refugees and immigrants. International experience and the study of a second language are strongly recommended.

**Track-Specific Courses**

- EPSY 5150 Resilience and Self-Concept Development (3 hours)
- EPSY 5380 Multicultural Counseling (3 hours)
- EPSY 5510 Psychosocial Aspects of Migration (3 hours)
- EPSY 5952 Children, Trauma and Crisis Intervention (3 hours)
- EPSY 5991 Issues in Assessment: Cultural and Linguistic Diversity (3 hours)

**Total: 36 hours**

**Track in Psychology and Education of Gifted Students**

Students whose chosen track is psychology and education of gifted students will take the above listed core courses in addition to the track-specific courses below. This will result in eligibility for a Webster University graduate certificate in psychology and education of gifted students, in addition to the MA degree. To gain the certificate, students must pay a second graduation fee.

The track in psychology and education of gifted students provides training on how to understand, nurture and develop the talents of young people. As suggested by the American Psychological Association Center for Gifted Education Policy, the Webster University program uses a broad definition of gifted and seeks to "enhance the achievement and performance of children and adolescents with special gifts and talents in all domains."

This track has courses for educators who are exploring gifted education as well as applied psychology courses for educators who already have knowledge of and experience with gifted education.

**Track-Specific Courses**

- EPSY 5150 Resilience and Self-Concept Development (3 hours)
- EPSY 5380 Multicultural Counseling (3 hours)
- EPSY 5510 Psychosocial Aspects of Migration (3 hours)
- EPSY 5952 Children, Trauma and Crisis Intervention (3 hours)
- EPSY 5991 Issues in Assessment: Cultural and Linguistic Diversity (3 hours)

**Total: 36 hours**

**Missouri State Certification in Gifted Education**

A valid Missouri teacher's certificate and two years of teaching experience in required for state certification. In addition, the following courses are required for state certification. State certification is issued through Missouri's Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

- SPED 5860 Psychology of the Exceptional Student** (3 hours)
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- EPSY 5800 Applied Research (3 hours)
- EPSY 5970 The Gifted Learner (3 hours)
- EPSY 5930 Screening, Assessing and Evaluating Gifted Students (3 hours)
- EPSY 5910 Curriculum and Instruction for the Gifted (3 hours)
- EPSY 5920 Meeting the Affective Needs of Gifted Children (3 hours)
- EPSY 5940 Systems Leadership: Gifted Program Planning and Evaluation** (3 hours)
- EPSY 5601 Practicum in Gifted Education (3 hours)

Total: 24 hours

**These courses are required for Missouri state certification but are not part of the Webster University graduate certificate in psychology and education of gifted students.

Students interested in pursuing any certification should have their transcripts evaluated and be advised by the Webster University Certification Office.

Admission

Students who are interested in applying to this degree program should also see the Admission section of this catalog for general requirements.

Admission Requirements

- Receipt of official transcripts from the baccalaureate-granting institution.
- Undergraduate cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher.
- Essay: What motivated you to become an educator and how do you think your participation in Webster's applied educational psychology program will help you to accomplish your personal and professional goals?

Send all admissions materials to:

Office of Admission
Webster University
470 East Lockwood Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63119

Or apply online at www.webster.edu/apply.

Completed application files will be reviewed by the Graduate Department of Education.

Advancement to Candidacy

After successfully completing 9 credit hours within the major (including one required course) with a B- or better, students are required to apply for advancement to candidacy. When they apply for advancement to candidacy, students write an essay and choose from the thesis track/non-thesis track options. More information about ATC is located in the School of Education policies section.

Sequential MA in Applied Educational Psychology

The sequential master's program in applied educational psychology (MA) requires completion of 24 credit hours of coursework provided that the student has an adequate background in graduate-level courses related to educational psychology.

Completion of an admissions essay and a GPA of 3.0 are required for admission into the sequential degree in applied educational psychology. Students accepted into the sequential applied educational psychology degree should advance to candidacy after they have completed nine hours.

The five required courses (15 hours) for the sequential MA degree are:

- EPSY 5001 Global Citizenship and Applied Educational Psychology (3 hours)
- EPSY 5350 Intercultural Communications (3 hours)
- EPSY 5600 Practicum in Educational Psychology (3 hours)
- EPSY 5601 Practicum in Gifted Education (3 hours)
- EPSY 5390 Applied Statistics in Educational Psychology (3 hours)
- EPSY 5800 Applied Research (3 hours)
- EPSY 5880 Psychology of Memory, Learning and Problem-solving (3 hours)
- EPSY 6250 Thesis (3 hours)
- EPSY 6001 Integrated Studies in Applied Educational Psychology (3 hours)

The remaining three elective courses (9 hours) should be selected in consultation with the directors of applied educational psychology.