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 three 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

*Students completing either of these two 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 5600 Practicum in Educational Psychology (3 hours)
- EPSY 5800 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)
- 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 credit 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 are designed to provide students with an informal focus on educational psychology and better prepare students for an EdS program in school psychology.
Applied Educational Psychology (MA)

Please note, these courses will fulfill some of the requirements for Missouri certification as a school psychologist. In order to complete certification from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, students must complete the EdS in school psychology.

Track-Specific Courses

- EPSY 5060 Psychoeducational Assessment I (3 hours)
- EPSY 5370 Counseling (3 hours)
- EPSY 5880 Psychology of Memory, Learning and Problem-solving (3 hours)
- EPSY 5911 Social and Personality Development: School Psychology (3 hours)
- EPSY 5952 Children, Trauma and Crisis Intervention (3 hours)

Total: 36 credit hours

Track in Fostering Resilience in "At Risk" Children and Youth

Students whose chosen track is fostering resilience in "at risk" children will take the above listed core courses in addition to the track-specific courses below. This will result in the eligibility for a Webster University graduate certificate in fostering resilience in "at risk" children and youth, in addition to the MA degree. To gain the certificate, students must pay a second graduation fee.

This track is devoted to "at risk" children and youth. This includes those who grow in adverse circumstances such as poverty, homelessness, wars and disasters, chronic family problems, or exposure to trauma and extreme stress. Common protective factors among "at risk" youth include high-quality relationships with parents and other caring adults as well as high intelligence and social-emotional skills. Other protective factors include effective and nurturing schools, community organizations and cultures. Students gain valuable knowledge and skills for their professional work. Promoting resilience in children and youth can lead to positive adaptation and outcomes for those young people whose lives are threatened by adversity.

Track-Specific Courses

- EPSY 5150 Resilience and Self-Concept Development (3 hours)
- EPSY 5952 Children, Trauma and Crisis Intervention (3 hours)
- EPSY 5890 Psychology of Stress (3 hours)
- EPSY 5370 Counseling (3 hours)
- EPSY 5290 Family Counseling (3 hours)
- EPSY 5380 Multicultural Counseling (3 hours)
- EPSY 5911 Social and Personality Development (3 hours)

Total: 36 credit 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)
- 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 credit hours

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.

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.
Applied Educational Psychology (MA)

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