Applied Educational Psychology (MA)

This program is offered by the School of Education.

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 life long 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.

This program is offered at the St. Louis home campus.

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 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 have the option of completing the program:

- without emphasis or specialization;
- with emphasis in one of three specialization areas, including:
  a. Psychological Education Programs
  b. Immigrant and Refugee Children and Families, or
  c. Psychology and Education of Gifted Students.

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. Successful completion of an admissions essay and a GPA of 3.0 are required for entrance into this program.

All applied educational psychology students take Intercultural Communications so that they can further their understanding of human diversity, and they all take a practicum course (or equivalent) so that they can 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.

Emphasis (none)

Required Courses

- EPSY 5001 Global Citizenship and Applied Educational Psychology (3 hours)
- or EDIN 5001 Foundations of Global Citizenship (3 hours)
- EPSY 5170 Behavioral Management (3 hours)
- or EPSY 5971 Models and Strategies of Behavioral Management (3 hours)
- or EPSY 5150 Resilience and Self-Concept Development (3 hours)
- EPSY 5350 Intercultural Communications (3 hours)
- EPSY 5600 Practicum in Educational Psychology (3 hours)
- EPSY 5800 Applied Research (3 hours)
- EPSY 6001 Integrated Studies in Applied Educational Psychology (3 hours)
- or EPSY 6250 Thesis (for Thesis Track) (3-6 hours)
- Additional Educational Psychology courses (9 hours)
  (Select any other three EPSY courses)

Electives (9 hours)

Electives may include approved, graduate School of Education courses, or approved 5000 level courses from other disciplines, or approved transfer graduate courses.

Total: 36 hours

Students wishing to pursue an educational specialist or doctoral degree in educational psychology or school psychology should carefully select their master's degree courses with the assistance of an advisor.

Emphasis in Psychological Education Programs

This emphasis area enables educators to provide motivational and enrichment strategies for all students and to design psychoeducational intervention and prevention programs that promote the academic, social-emotional and physical well being of students. Examples of psychological education are critical thinking skills instruction, social skills training, “at risk” student intervention,
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and dropout prevention programs. Students who wish to become school psychologists will need to continue their education beyond their master's degree. Recommended courses at the master's level are EPSY 5060, EPSY 5150, EPSY 5390, EPSY 5971, EPSY 5918, EPSY 5952, and SPED 5240.

Required Courses

- EPSY 5001 Global Citizenship and Applied Educational Psychology (3 hours)
- or EDIN 5001 Foundations of Global Citizenship (3 hours)
- EPSY 5350 Intercultural Communications (3 hours)
- EPSY 5600 Practicum in Educational Psychology (3 hours)
- EPSY 5800 Applied Research (3 hours)
- EPSY 6001 Integrated Studies in Applied Educational Psychology (for Non-Thesis Track) (3 hours)
- or EPSY 6250 Thesis (for Thesis Track) (3-6 hours)

Select four of the following courses (12 hours)

- EPSY 5060 Assessment and Evaluation of Academic Performance (3 hours)
- EPSY 5130 Educational Psychology (3 hours)
- EPSY 5150 Resilience and Self-Concept Development (3 hours)
- EPSY 5290 Family Counseling (3 hours)
- EPSY 5370 Counseling (3 hours)
- EPSY 5380 Multicultural Counseling (3)
- EPSY 5390 Applied Statistics in Educational Psychology (3 hours)
- EPSY 5810 Advanced Adolescent Psychology (3 hours)
- EPSY 5816 Advanced Child Development (3 hours)
- EPSY 5880 Psychology of Memory, Learning, and Problem-Solving (3 hours)
- EPSY 5890 Psychology of Stress (3 hours)
- EPSY 5911 Social and Personality Development: School Psychology (3 hours)
- EPSY 5918 Advanced Educational Psychology (3 hours)
- EPSY 5992 Children, Culture, and Violence (3 hours)
- EPSY 5971 Models and Strategies in Behavioral Management (3 hours)
- EPSY 5980 Motivation in the 21st century classroom (3 hours)
- SPED 5240 Psychoeducational Assessment I (3 hours)
- SPED 5331 Working with Diffficult Students (3 hours)
- SPED 5700 School-Based Prevention/Intervention: RtI and PBIS (3 hours)
- SPED 5701 Universal School-Wide PBIS (3 hours)
- SPED 5702 Secondary Prevention: Targeted Group Interventions (3 hours)
- SPED 5703 Functional Behavior Assessment and Intervention (3 hours)

Electives (9 hours)

Electives may include approved, graduate School of Education courses, or approved 5000 level courses from other disciplines, or approved transfer graduate courses.

Total: 36 hours

Students wishing to pursue an educational specialist or doctoral degree in educational psychology or school psychology should carefully select their master's degree courses with the assistance of an advisor.

Emphasis in Immigrant and Refugee Children and Families

The emphasis 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. Students enrolled in Immigrant and Refugee Children and Families may substitute the practicum requirement with an approved study abroad course.

Required Courses

- EPSY 5001 Global Citizenship and Applied Educational Psychology (3 hours)
- or EDIN 5001 Foundations of Global Citizenship (3 hours)
- EPSY 5350 Intercultural Communications (3 hours)
- EPSY 5600 Practicum in Educational Psychology (3 hours)
- EPSY 5800 Applied Research (3 hours)
- EPSY 6001 Integrated Studies in Applied Educational Psychology (for Non-Thesis Track) (3 hours)
- or EPSY 6250 Thesis (for Thesis Track) (3-6 hours)

Select three of the following courses (9 hours)

- EPSY 5150 Resilience and Self-Concept Development (3 hours)
- EPSY 5290 Family Counseling (3 hours)
- EPSY 5370 Counseling (3 hours)
- EPSY 5380 Multicultural Counseling (3)
- EPSY 5918 Advanced Educational Psychology (3 hours)
- EPSY 5992 Children, Culture, and Violence (3 hours)
- EPSY 5971 Models and Strategies in Behavioral Management (3 hours)
- EPSY 5980 Motivation in the 21st century classroom (3 hours)
- SPED 5240 Psychoeducational Assessment I (3 hours)
- SPED 5331 Working with Difficult Students (3 hours)
- SPED 5700 School-Based Prevention/Intervention: RtI and PBIS (3 hours)
- SPED 5701 Universal School-Wide PBIS (3 hours)
- SPED 5702 Secondary Prevention: Targeted Group Interventions (3 hours)
- SPED 5703 Functional Behavior Assessment and Intervention (3 hours)

Electives (9 hours)

Electives may include approved, graduate School of Education courses, or approved 5000 level courses from other disciplines, or approved transfer graduate courses.

Total: 36 hours

Students wishing to pursue an educational specialist or doctoral degree in educational psychology or school psychology should select their master's degree courses with the assistance of an advisor.

Emphasis in Psychology and Education of Gifted Students

The emphasis in the 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 emphasis 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.
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Required Courses

- EPSY 5001 Global Citizenship and Applied Educational Psychology (3 hours)
- EDIN 5001 Foundations of Global Citizenship (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 5800 Applied Research (3 hours)
- EPSY 6001 Integrated Studies in Applied Educational Psychology (for Non-Thesis Track) (3 hours)
- EPSY 6250 Thesis (for Thesis Track) (3-6 hours)

Select three of the following courses (9 hours)

- EPSY 5060 Assessment and Evaluation of Academic Performance (3 hours)
- EPSY 5100 Theories of Creativity: Implications for Education (3 hours)
- EPSY 5150 Resilience and Self-Concept Development (3 hours)
- EPSY 5290 Family Counseling (3 hours)
- EPSY 5380 Multicultural Counseling (3 hours)
- EPSY 5750 Special Institute (May be repeated for credit if content differs) (3 hours)
- EPSY 5880 Psychology of Memory, Learning, and Problem-solving (3 hours)
- EPSY 5816 Advanced Child Development (3 hours)
- EPSY 5910 Curriculum and Instruction for the Gifted (3 hours)
- EPSY 5918 Advanced Educational Psychology (3 hours)
- EPSY 5920 Meeting the Affective Needs of Gifted Children (3 hours)
- EPSY 5930 Screening, Assessing, and Evaluating Gifted Students (3 hours)
- EPSY 5940 Systems Leadership: Gifted Program Planning and Evaluation (3 hours)
- EPSY 5970 The Gifted Learner (3 hours)
- EPSY 5980 Motivation in the 21st century classroom (3 hours)
- EPSY 5990 Identifying Giftedness in Underserved Populations (3 hours)

Electives (12 hours)

Electives may include approved, graduate School of Education courses, or approved 5000 level courses from other disciplines, or approved transfer graduate courses.

Total: 36 hours

Students wishing to pursue an educational specialist or doctoral degree in educational psychology or school psychology should carefully select their master's degree courses with the assistance of an advisor.

Gifted Education Certification

A valid Missouri teacher's certificate and the following listed courses are needed before a certificate can be granted in gifted education. State certification is issued through Missouri's Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

- Psychology of the Exceptional Student (2-3 hours)
- Nine credit hours (3 courses) from the following listed courses:
  - The Gifted Learner (3 hours)
  - Systems Leadership: Gifted Program Planning and Evaluation (3 hours)
  - Screening, Assessing, and Evaluating Gifted Students (3 hours)
  - Curriculum and Instruction for the Gifted (3 hours)
- Meeting the Affective Needs of Gifted Children (3 hours)
- Both of these courses:
  - Applied Research (3 hours)
  - Practicum in Gifted Education (3 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: 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 required documents to:

Office of Admission
Webster University
470 East Lockwood Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63119-3141

Completed application files will be reviewed by the Multidisciplinary Studies Department.

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, declare their emphasis areas, 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
- EPSY 5350 Intercultural Communications
- EPSY 5600 Practicum in Educational Psychology
- EPSY 5601 Practicum in Gifted Education
- EPSY 5800 Applied Research
- EPSY 6250 Thesis
- EPSY 6001 Integrated Studies in Applied Educational Psychology
The remaining three elective courses (9 hours) should be selected in consultation with the Coordinator of Applied Educational Psychology.