

# SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY

The School Psychology program at Fairfield University is a 63-credit program approved by the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP). The tripartite model of school psychology espoused by the program includes consultation, assessment, and direct and indirect intervention. The program is shaped by the belief that school psychologists are best prepared when they are instilled with a scientist/practitioner problem-solving orientation, encouraged to think reflectively, motivated to intervene at the primary prevention level, and inspired to be proactive agents of change. Throughout the program, candidates develop and integrate who they are as individuals with their emerging professional identity. Candidates evolve as professionals through classroom experiences and opportunities to apply their growing knowledge and skills in school and mental health settings. The program culminates in an internship experience, consisting of 1200 hours. Throughout the program, candidates develop portfolios documenting their personal and professional growth, which assist them in finding employment. To be endorsed for state certification, a student must complete both the MA degree and Sixth Year Certificate (SYC) requirements. Upon completing the MA, students must submit a formal application for entry into the SYC program. Those wishing to enter the program initially at the SYC level must hold a relevant master's degree, have a GPA of at least 3.0, and must complete a minimum of 30 credits at Fairfield University.

## Admission to the School Psychology Program

Application deadlines are listed online at [fairfield.edu/gseapdeadlines](https://www.fairfield.edu/gseapdeadlines) (<https://www.fairfield.edu/graduate/academics/graduate-school-of-education-and-allied-professions/how-to-apply>).

After a successful initial paper review, applicants are invited to campus for a group interview. The interview is intended to clarify applicants' understanding of the program and the profession, and to assess applicants' potential for success in the program. After admission, each candidate is expected to meet with a faculty advisor to outline a planned program of study before beginning coursework. Candidates must complete requirements for both the MA degree and SYC program to be eligible for Connecticut state certification as a school psychologist.

## PREPaRE Workshops

All students are trained in the national evidenced-based crisis management program, PREPaRE, while in the SYC program during Practicum and/or Internship.

## School Psychologist Certification

A candidate who successfully completes all program requirements meets the Connecticut certification requirements. When the entire program has been completed (63 credits), and the Sixth Year Certificate program is posted, the candidate must apply for an endorsement from the Graduate School of Education and Allied Professions for Connecticut's Initial Educator's Certificate in School Psychology from the Connecticut State Department of Education.

Completion of all MA degree and SYC program requirements for those entering at the MA level, or completion of a minimum of 30 credits at Fairfield University for those entering at the SYC level is required for university endorsement for state certification as a school psychologist.

In view of the essential responsibility of the program to assure the protection of the healthy development of children and youth served by school psychologists, the faculty reserve the right to discontinue the program of any candidate, at any time in the program, whose academic performance is marginal, whose comprehensive examination results are not rated as passing, or whose personal qualities are not appropriate to the field. Practica and internship candidates are also expected to demonstrate the NASP Professional Work Characteristics (Section 4.5, Standards for the Credentialing of School Psychologists, 2010). A candidate may be denied recommendation of certification for not demonstrating the NASP Professional Work Characteristics. The Disposition Statement presented in this catalog is applicable to this program as it is to all programs in the Graduate School of Education and Allied Professions. Additionally, all students are evaluated by faculty each year on their dispositions and personal work characteristics through formal measures.

## Requirements

### Master of Arts in School Psychology

All candidates admitted to the School Psychology program must satisfy the requirements for the MA degree as listed in the program of study. Those candidates admitted into the MA program who did not complete an undergraduate major in psychology may be required to take additional coursework as identified by their advisor.

Code	Title	Credits
FT 0433	Social Justice and Diversity in Professional Practice	3
PY 0430	Issues in Professional Practice in School Psychology	3
PY 0433	Behavioral Statistics	3
PY 0435	Psychology of Personality	3
PY 0436	Psychopathology and Classification I	3
PY 0438	Treatment Models for School-Age Youth	3
PY 0446	Developmental Psychology I: Theory and Application in Professional Practice	3
PY 0534	Theories of Learning	3
PY 0537	Psychoeducational Assessment I: Behavioral Approaches	3
SE 0405	Exceptional Learners in the Mainstream	3
SE 0413	Theories of and Introduction to Learning Disabilities	3
PY 0099	Comprehensive Examination in School Psychology <sup>1</sup>	0
Total Credits		33

<sup>1</sup> Before candidates take the comprehensive examination they must complete, or be in the process of completing, 24 credits. These credits must include PY 0430, PY 0433, PY 0435, PY 0436, PY 0438, and PY 0446.

### Sixth Year Certificate in School Psychology

A separate admission application for the SYC must be submitted. Those wishing to be accepted for matriculation at the SYC level must first complete all the MA course requirements in school psychology.

Applicants with related MA degrees may be considered for admission into the SYC program. However, all MA degree requirements in the School Psychology program must be completed.

Candidates must submit their e-Portfolio before the completion of PY 0599 Internship in School Psychology II. Additionally, candidates must pass the Praxis II test in School Psychology.

Candidates who are accepted into the SYC program with related degrees must fulfill all program course requirements. They must also develop and submit their e-Portfolios and complete three full day PREPaRE crisis management workshops presented by certified faculty trainers.

A prior master's degree (or higher) in a relevant field is required.

<b>Code</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Credits</b>
PY 0449	Introduction to Clinical Child Neuropsychology	3
PY 0535	Collaborative Consultation	3
PY 0538	Psychoeducational Assessment II: Standardized Approaches	3
PY 0540	Psychoeducational Assessment III: Clinical Approaches	3
PY 0544	Psychoeducational Assessment IV: Integrated Assessment	3
PY 0548	Psychotherapeutic Techniques for School-Age Youth	3
PY 0576	Practicum I: Assessment and Group Process	3
PY 0577	Practicum II: Counseling and Group Process	3
PY 0598	Internship in School Psychology I	3
PY 0599	Internship in School Psychology II	3
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>30</b>