



La Sierra
UNIVERSITY

SPECIALIST IN EDUCATION
IN SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY

MA IN COUNSELING AND PPS CREDENTIAL

SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY AND COUNSELING
SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

LA SIERRA UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF EDUCATION
4500 RIVERWALK PARKWAY
RIVERSIDE, CA 92515

EDUCATIONAL SPECIALIST IN SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY

This degree provides all the elements specified by the state of California for the Pupil Personnel Services (PPS) Credential with an authorization in school psychology.

WHAT KIND OF A CAREER CAN SUCH A DEGREE OFFER?

School psychologists can work in both public and private school settings to assist students with cognitive (learning and motivation), psychosocial, and behavioral problems. They also counsel parents, teachers, as well as other school staff in addressing individual student needs more effectively. School psychologists conduct psycho-educational assessments in areas that can include attention deficit-hyperactive disorders, pervasive developmental disorders, learning disabilities, oppositional defiant disorder, conduct disorder, and separation anxiety. Their expertise in such areas is often used to modify a student's learning environment in order to maximize individual student potential.

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PREREQUISITES:

Legal/Health Clearance

The absence of any conviction for a felony or any communicable or contagious disease, which would prevent the student from teaching or performing other certified services, must be attested to. Students should apply for state criminal clearance immediately following admission to any of the state credentialing programs.

Department Interview

A preadmission interview and writing test are to be scheduled when possible with at least two faculty members in the Department of School Psychology and Counseling who will evaluate the applicant's expressiveness, commitment, values, cultural affirmation, and professional attitudes. When admission is granted without a prior interview, an appointment must be made with the department chair during the first few weeks of residence before program approval. Continuation in the program is contingent upon a satisfactory rating by the interviewers.

Graduate Record Examination

Graduate Record Exam (GRE) is required. A student's acceptance into the Ed.S. program or advancement into the Ed.S. program depends the following scores: the GPA, GRE, departmental interview, and writing sample.

Prerequisites

The Exceptional Child	EDPC	460/560	3 Units
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Applicants who are lacking any of the above prerequisite coursework may be admitted to the program with the understanding that the deficiencies must be removed at the earliest possible date prior to entry to advanced practicum or fieldwork. If taken at the graduate level, credit thus earned may be used for degree purposes if all other program requirements are met.

THE PROGRAM:

The program for an Ed.S. degree in school psychology must include all of the coursework and field experiences listed below. (When a school psychologist credential is sought without a degree, core courses EDAD 687, EDFO 606 or EDCI 664/EDPC 651, and EDAD 688 are not required.)

The curriculum for a Specialist in Education degree in the School of Education comprises a minimum of 90-quarter units beyond an approved baccalaureate degree, or 45 units beyond the Master of Arts degree. For those entering the 45-unit post-master's option, the master's degree must have been earned in a relevant educational or mental health field. For course description, please check [La Sierra Academic Bulletins](#).

REQUIRED CORE (27 UNITS):

• Educational Organization and Leadership	EDAD	524*	3 units
• Curriculum Planning	EDCI	514*	3 units
• Faith and Learning	EDCI	512	3 units
• Methods and Materials of Research	EDRS	504	3 units
• Counseling Theories and Techniques	EDPC	561	3 units
• Educational Statistics I	EDRS	604	3 units
• Sociology of Education	EDFO	606*	3 units
• Leadership in the Organization	EDAD^	687	3 units
• Moral Leadership	EDAD^	688	3 units

[^] Units not applicable to credential

* EDAD 524 can be replaced with **EDAD 540 Personality and Philosophical Aspects of Leadership**, EDCI 514 can be replaced with **EDCI 545 Brain Research and Learning**, and EDFO 606 can be replaced by **EDCI 664/EDPC 651 Social and Emotional** at a student's discretion.

CONTENT SPECIALIZATION (63 UNITS):

• Education and Career Planning	EDPC	554	3 units
• Counseling Practicum	EDPC	562	3 units
• Group Theory and Procedures	EDPC	564	3 units
• Community Agency Counseling	EDPC^	568	3 units
• School Psychology and Counseling Ethics/Law	EDPC	573	3 units
• Dynamics of Personality	EDPC	607	3 units
• Psychopathology	EDPC	631	3 units

• Mental Exceptionality	EDPC	650	3 units
• Advanced Counseling Theories	EDPC	655	3 units
• Academic Assessment & Intervention	EDPC	661	3 units
• Behavioral Assessment & Intervention	EDPC	662	3 units
• Neuropsychological Assessment & Intervention	EDPC	663	3 units
• Assessment of Individual Intelligence I	EDPC	664	3 units
• Assessment of Individual Intelligence II	EDPC	665	3 units
• Intervention Methods and Consultation	EDPC	666	3 units
• Assessment of Learning Development	EDPC	667	3 units
• Assessment of Personal Adjustment	EDPC	668	3 units
• School Psychology Seminar	EDPC	670	3 units
• Report Writing and Practicum (150 hrs.)	EDPC	674	3 units
• Field Practice in School Psychology (300 hrs.)	EDPC	675	3 units
• Seminar: Individual and Cultural Differences	EDPC	694A	3 units

[^] Units not applicable to credential

* Units not required for degree

PPS INTERNSHIP (12 UNITS & PRE- OR POST-DEGREE 1200 HRS)

• School Psychology Internship	EDPC	676	12.0 units
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ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

1. A passing score on the *California Basic Education Skills Test (CBEST)* is required before any practicum, field practice, or internship hours can be collected.
2. Application for field practice six weeks prior to placement.
3. A certificate of clearance is needed from the *California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CCTC)*, which involves a fingerprint clearance. In addition, a TB clearance must be obtained as well. Again, all necessary clearances are required before gathering practicum, field practice, or internship hours in a school setting.

4. *The Professional Assessments for Beginning Teachers (PRAXIS)-Specialty Area for School Psychology* is required as an exit examination. An unsatisfactory score will necessitate re-taking the Praxis until a minimum passing score is obtained. If after several tries, this is not possible, a student may be granted permission to take a departmental comprehensive examination. A satisfactory score report for the PRAXIS must be received by the University at least four weeks prior to graduation or the issuance of a diploma. Early registration for the test is essential.
5. An acceptable showcase portfolio is required for the completion of the degree.
6. Application to the School of Education Credential Office (sgallego@lasierra.edu) for a denomination or state credential, if eligible.