

FAQ's for School Psychology

- 1. When was the program introduced to UTPA/UTB?UTRGV?**
 - a. The School Psychology Program started at UTPA over 20 years ago.
- 2. What department and college is the School Psychology Program a part of?**
 - a. The School Psychology Program is within the College of Education and P-16 Integration's Department of Human Development and School Services.
- 3. Is a teaching certificate required for admission into the program?**
 - a. A teaching certificate is not required; however we strongly recommend experiences working with children, youth, and families in educational, community, or clinical settings.
- 4. My undergraduate major wasn't psychology. Will I need to take psychology courses?**
 - a. Although a psychology major is recommended, it is not required. There are graduate level psychology courses required as part of the degree plan, but those are taken once you are in the program.
- 5. Why is your program 69 hours? That seems like a great deal of hours compared to other programs.**
 - a. The program is aligned with the Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council (BHEC) and the Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologists (TSBEP) training qualifications in order for our students to obtain licensure as a Licensed Specialist in School Psychology (LSSP). BHEC/TSBEP have specific requirements for coursework, which makes the degree 69 hours.
- 6. Are classes online?**
 - a. No. School Psychology classes are taught in a face-to-face setting with some hybrid courses.
- 7. When do classes meet?**
 - a. Courses typically meet Monday through Thursday from August through May. Most class sessions will begin at 4:40pm, 5:00pm or 7:50 pm. During the summer classes may be during the day or in the evenings Monday through Friday.
- 8. Where do classes take place?**
 - a. The School Psychology program courses take place on the Edinburg campus.
- 9. Can I successfully complete the program on a part-time basis?**
 - a. The program can be completed successful on a part-time basis, but it takes longer to complete.
- 10. On average, how long does it take to complete the degree?**
 - a. Students in the School Psychology Program take about 4 years to complete their degrees, including internship. if they are on a full-time basis.
- 11. Do you admit every term?**
 - a. No, students are only admitted for Fall only.

12. Is there a limit of students admitted in each term?

- a. Typically we admit 12-15 students each Fall and Spring term.

13. Do Letters of Recommendations have to come from professional background or academic background? Can it be both? Which is preferred?

- a. At least 1 letter is required from a professor if you recently graduated. If not a recent graduate, professional is fine. Please remember these should be professional references and not personal ones.

14. Do students follow a course sequence? Which classes should they register for during the different terms?

- a. Yes there is a recommended course sequence. All students receive advisement every semester directly from the School Psychology Program Coordinator. The Degree Plan is on our website.

15. What is internship about?

- a. After all coursework is completed, students must complete a year-long internship in order to graduate. Students have to search for their internship site and be hired as a School Psychology Intern. Our students have completed their internship in local school districts as well as districts out of the valley and out of state.

16. Can I call myself a “School Psychologist” after I get a degree from your program?

- a. Yes, once you get your license as a Licensed Specialist in School Psychology (LSSP) you are a School Psychologist.

17. What are the requirements for licensure?

- a. The requirements for the LSSP credential include completion of a graduate degree in school psychology or closely related field, completion of internship, a passing score on the national exam for school psychology, and a passing score on the Jurisprudence exam. Please refer to the BHEC/TSBEP website for more information: www.bhec.texas.gov

18. What type of jobs are available after completing the program?

- a. Our students are School Psychologists in school districts.