

UGA School Psychology Program Admissions Information and Frequently Asked Questions

Note: When applying to the School Psychology Program, apply to the Educational Psychology, PhD and choose the 'School Psychology' specialization option in the Admission Information section of Page 3 of 5.

Summary of Admissions Process

The admission process for a PhD program is most definitely different than that which you likely experienced when applying to your undergraduate institution. It also tends to differ from program to program within and across universities. Below is a summary of the UGA School Psychology graduate admissions process.

The first step in the applicant process is for applicants to complete the steps of the [admission procedures](#) listed on the Department web page. All steps must be completed on or prior to December 15th to be given full consideration for admissions into the program. It is important to be aware that prior to the faculty viewing your materials, the materials must be processed by the UGA Graduate School, sent to the Department of Educational Psychology, and finally given to the faculty. Thus, applications submitted on December 15th are generally not provided to the faculty until after the first of January. We encourage those individuals who believe they may be competitive for a university, college, or graduate school assistantship to submit your materials prior to the stated deadline, as the faculty must on occasions submit assistantship application materials in late December.

The UGA School Psychology Faculty dedicates a substantial amount of time and effort to their graduate students. When selecting students, we are not simply selecting individuals who we will provide didactic instruction in the classroom, but students with whom we will spend numerous hours in and outside of the classroom perfecting their clinical and research skills in order that they can enhance the lives of school children and the practice of school psychology. Considering the time that we dedicate to our students and the fact that our graduate students will represent the UGA School Psychology Program while they are students as well as after they are students, we do

our best to select applicants who we fill will meet the needs of our program and whose own needs will be met by our program. The School Psychology Faculty looks for a diverse group of well-rounded individuals with multidimensional experiences. For these reasons, the admission process is a time consuming process taken very seriously by the faculty and current graduate students.

Following the December 15 deadline, program faculty review each completed application and then meet collectively to discuss which students they wish to invite for interview day. Generally, in early January those students selected and agreed upon by all faculty as appropriate to invite to interview day are contacted and invited to the annual interview day. It is strongly encouraged that invited applicants attend interview day.

Interview day is generally organized by our graduate students, who assist applicants in finding a place to stay, driving them to the pre-interview night dinner, and answering the many questions that applicants have. Typically the night preceding the actual interview day, a dinner gathering is held so that current students, faculty, and applicants can interact in a casual setting. On interview day, applicants have both individual and group meetings with faculty. Interview day generally runs from 8:00AM to 4:00PM. During the lunch break, applicants go to lunch in small groups with current students at some of the many local favorite restaurants.

After interview day and additional interviewing of individuals who are not able to attend interview day, the faculty meet to discuss who they wish to accept into the program. These individuals are informed of their acceptance and must provide a response by April 15th. Final acceptance is granted by the Graduate School.

Frequently Asked Questions

- **What is the timeline for applications, interviews, and admissions?**
 - Applications are due December 15th. Interviews generally occur in late January or early February, and admissions decisions occur soon afterwards. All admissions decisions are made by April 15th.
- **Do I need to know a specific professor and their work in which I would be interested in working when I apply, or can I apply generally to work under any professor?**
 - Knowing the work of each of the school psychology professors at UGA will help you gauge your interests with the current research being conducted within the school psychology program. It is recommended that in your statement of purpose you identify one or two faculty with whom you would like to work. However, general admissions are also accepted.
 - Each professor's curriculum vitae can be downloaded by going to the [program directory](#) in the Department of Educational Psychology web page.
 - Applicants may apply to work with one of the core School Psychology Faculty members (Drs. Ardoin, Harrison, Lease, Pritchett, or Reschly) or an affiliated faculty member (Dr. Ayers and Dr. Lindstrom from Special Education). If an applicant selects an affiliated faculty member and is admitted to the Program, the student will have co-advisors: their research mentor (the affiliated faculty member) and a program advisor (a core school psychology faculty member).
- **Can I apply to the program if I am only interested in a Master's degree or EdS?**
 - No, at this time the UGA School Psychology Program only offers training at the doctoral level.
- **If I apply to the program and do not get accepted into the PhD program, will I be considered for a Master's program?**
 - No. If not accepted to the PhD program, individuals will not be considered for another degree offering. The PhD in Educational Psychology with an Area of Emphasis in School Psychology is the only degree students may apply for admission to in the UGA School Psychology Program.
- **Is a master's degree necessary to apply?**
 - No, in fact most of our accepted students do not have a master's degree at entry. A master's degree is completed as part of our doctoral program (but we are not a terminal master's program). We do accept students who have completed a master's degree in related areas. In these case of entry with a master's, it may be possible to complete the program in 4 rather than 5 years.
- **Is the School Psychology Program accredited by either NASP or APA?**
 - Yes, the Ph.D. program in Educational Psychology with a specialization in School Psychology at The University of Georgia is accredited by the [American](#)

[Psychological Association](#) (APA; additional information can be obtained from the Commission on Accreditation of the American Psychological Association at 202-336-5979 or in writing at: Office of Program Consultation and Accreditation, APA, 750 First Street, NE Washington, DC 20002-4242) and NCATE through the [National Association of School Psychologists](#) (NASP). The Ph.D. program is consistent with psychology licensure and school psychology certification for public school work in Georgia and in most other states. Some states may have additional requirements.

- **Does your program have a specific focus in school psychology, or is it more well-rounded?**
 - Our program prides itself on offering students access to a group of faculty members with a diverse set of skills and research interests. Through course work students are able to benefit from this diversity and thus develop a broad base knowledge of school based assessment, consultation, and intervention work. Students however also must develop expertise within a certain area. This expertise is developed through their involvement on a research team, completion of a thesis and dissertation, and course work associated with their minor concentration.
 - Please see our [Student Handbook](#) for information about our training model, curriculum, and minor sequence.

- **Will I have opportunities to participate in the publishing process while in the school psychology program at UGA?**
 - Students are highly encouraged to participate in the publishing process. We encourage you to view our curriculum vitae and examine the number of our publications that have students as co-authors.
 - In addition to assisting faculty in collecting data and writing related manuscripts, the faculty encourages and assists students in completing theses and dissertations that are publishable. The dissertation format used at UGA is unique in that it increases the possibility of students being able to publish not just one, but two empirically based research articles from their dissertation alone.

- **Where can I find out more information about faculty research interests?**
 - Each professor's curriculum vitae can be downloaded by going to the faculty directory of the Department of Educational Psychology web page and clicking on each school psychology faculty member's name.

- **What types of practicum and internship opportunities are current students participating in?**
 - Second year school psychology graduate students complete practicum experiences within the [UGA School Psychology Clinic](#). The training provided to students through our clinic results in highly trained students that are sought

after by practicum sites in the surrounding area. It also provides students with many of the hours and experiences needed to make them outstanding applicants when applying for internships locally and as well nationally for APA internships.

- A list of the local practica and internship sites in which our students have worked may be found in our [Student Handbook](#).
- **Are there any opportunities for obtaining other credentials**
 - The UGA School Psychology Program in collaboration with the [Special Education program](#) are now an approved university training site for individuals wishing to become Board Certified Behavior Analyst through the [Behavior Analyst Certification Board](#).
- **How long does it take for a student to graduate?**
 - The answer to this question varies. The UGA School Psychology curriculum is designed for students to be able to graduate in 5 years, including a year on internship. Some students, however, choose to stay an additional year in order to enhance their curriculum vitae through conducting additional research, course work, and clinical experience. We encourage you to visit our [Student Admissions, Outcomes and Other Data tables](#).
 - Students entering the program having already received a master's degree may be able to graduate in fewer than 5 years. The degree requirements of the master's degree earned must be evaluated by the faculty in order to determine what courses a student must take and what research requirements they must fulfill.
- **Is it possible to take classes part-time?**
 - No. Due to the time at which courses are offered and due to the rigor of the coursework, all students must be full time.
- **How do I apply for funding?**
 - The faculty review applicants and using the information collected from the materials submitted as part of applicants' application to the program. Based upon this information they select students to be considered for college and university-wide assistantships.
 - Occasionally, the faculty has funding sources that they use to support graduate students.
 - For more information on funding your graduate education, check the [Graduate School financial information web page](#).
- **What financial assistance do assistantships provide?**
 - Students who receive an assistantship generally are provided with (a) funding that covers tuition for the fall, spring and summer sessions and (b) a stipend that varies in amount depending on the assistantship awarded.