Graduate Application FAQs

Thank you for your interest in our graduate programs! Please feel free to reach out to learn more about our programs. Rock Chalk!

Contact

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EPSY Admission webpage

Deadlines

Summer or fall terms only unless otherwise noted. Applications open September 8.

Counseling Psychology
PhD: December 2
MS: January 6

Educational Psychology & Research D&L, REMS, and SEP (only MSE available)
PhD and MSE: January 6

School Psychology
PhD: December 2
EdS: January 6

Mind, Brain, and Education and **Post-Secondary Teaching** Grad Certificates are available for spring, summer, or fall admission. See deadlines here.

Prerequisites

Minimum GPA: undergrad 3.0; graduate 3.5, if applicable. Excluding certificates.

Counseling Psychology: Bachelor's or master's in counseling, psychology, or a related area; alternatively, a minimum of 15 undergrad hours in the behavioral sciences (Psychology, Human Development, Sociology, Education, etc.).

EPR and **School Psychology** do not have a requirement for a specific undergraduate background.

Requirements for a Complete Application

- Online application and non-refundable application fee
- Resume or CV
- Statement of Purpose
- Official general GRE scores, less than five years old. Counseling Psychology: not required; **EPR REMS: optional but encouraged; EPR D&L and SEP: optional**; **School Psychology: required.**
- Official transcripts from each institution of higher education from which you received or are earning a degree (except for KU transcripts which will be accessed internally)
- Three recommendation forms and letters from individuals who can evaluate your qualifications for graduate study and speak to your potential to complete the program
- Official English proficiency scores for non-native speakers of English. The Counseling Psychology program and the School Psychology program both require an average TOEFL score of 24 or above, with no section score lower than 23. This is higher than the requirements stated by Graduate Studies in the link above.
- A writing sample is optional for Counseling Psychology and School Psychology. It is fine either way and will not impact the application review. **A writing sample of your best academic work is required for EPR.**

	Program Focus	Outcome Expectations
Counseling Psychology MS and PhD	Prepares individuals to 1) work as counselors or in counseling-related fields and 2) trains generalists to engage in activities ranging from clinical treatment to academic research. Emphasis is on personal, social, and career development of the whole person, and enhancing the environments in which people learn and work.	MS graduates work in a variety of settings - schools, universities, community mental health centers, hospitals, etc. Also, some do apply and get into doctoral programs. Around 85% of our PhD graduates become licensed psychologists.
Educational Psychology & Research MSE and PhD subplan: D&L, REMS, and SEP (only MSE available)	Trains researchers in either 1) **Development & Learning** (D&L) - child and/or adolescent development, including how children learn and develop both in and out of school contexts 2) **Research, Evaluation, Measurement and Statistics** (REMS) - educational research methods such as research design, evaluation, measurement, and statistics or 3) **Sport and Exercise Psychology** (SEP).	D&L - MSE graduates are prepared for work in schools, nonprofit agencies, and other applied settings, or for future doctoral training. PhD graduates work in a variety of settings, but most commonly seek faculty positions in higher education. REMS - MSE and PhD graduates are prepared for careers in the application of quantitative methodologies including the development of large-scale assessments of student learning. SEP – MSE graduates are prepared for continued graduate study and/or employment in applied settings including sport (youth, college, coaching), exercise/fitness (YMCA, Parks & Rec, national chains), and health/wellness (clinical; hospital) programs.
School Psychology EdS and PhD	Trains practitioners (those who plan to work in schools doing educational assessments, creating interventions, and working with individual students and teachers) and researchers and trainers in school psychology.	EdS students are placed in both internships and full-time employment positions. PhD graduates have assumed public school positions or academic teaching positions. Some graduates have taken consulting positions, whereas a few graduates are working in independent practice at a medical center, private general hospital, or clinic.
Mind, Brain, and Education Grad Certificate	Designed for educational practitioners seeking to explore how research from the learning sciences has the potential to inform the field of education.	Completion of this certificate represents an additional credential for graduate students from a variety of academic fields who are preparing for careers in research and teaching or professional practice.
Post-Secondary Teaching Grad Certificate	Designed for current KU graduate students from any discipline who wish to learn more about effective teaching and learning in post-secondary educational settings, with a foundation in the psychology of teaching and learning	Completion of this certificate represents an additional credential for graduate students from a variety of academic fields who are preparing for careers involving the teaching of adult learners, such as university faculty positions.

All Programs

What is the accreditation status of your programs?

- Both of the CPSY and SPSY doctoral programs are American Psychological Association (APA) accredited.
- The SPSY EdS and doctoral programs are approved by the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP).
- The CPSY MS program is accredited by the Master's in Psychology and Counseling Accreditation Council (MPCAC).

Are your programs offered online? When and where are your classes?

- Our programs do not have an online option. Our programs are mostly classroom based at KU with classes offered during the day in Lawrence, while a few might be in the evening or at the Edwards campus.

Do you accept transfer students, and can my previous coursework be transferred for credit?

- There is not a transfer student option, though we are happy to review applications with potential transfer credit. The total of transfer credit may not exceed nine (9) hours. Credit will not transfer for courses that were previously counted toward the completion of an undergraduate or graduate degree. Transfer credit is considered for admitted students only. Considerations include the syllabus, textbooks and required readings, and how the class meets our standards, as well as its equivalency to the course at KU. The KU instructor of the comparable course will also be consulted.

Tuition and Funding

How much is tuition?

- An estimate of tuition can be found here.

Is funding available and how do I apply?

- Departmental support includes GTAs (teaching) and GRAs (research), with varying availability. The EPSY GTA application can be found here. GRA opportunities are forwarded to students as they become available throughout the year. Graduate Studies funding information is here and the School of Education and Human Sciences scholarship page is here. For Achievement and Assessment Institute GRAs, send a resume/vita and application letter to AAI HR aaihr@ku.edu. Other job opportunities can be found at Human Resources Management or the University Career Center.

How are GTAs selected? How long are GTA appointments?

- Most EPSY GTAs go to doctoral students however, all students are encouraged to apply. GTA appointments can be for the academic year or for only for one semester. There are also a few GTAs each summer. The GTA selection process is conducted with a primary interest in meeting the teaching needs of the department. Often, there are more GTA applicants than there are positions or funding. We suggest that students keep their advisor and any faculty they have worked with informed of their interest and availability for other funding.

Counseling Psychology MS Program

Is this program accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling & Related Educational Programs (CACREP)?

- No, as all of our faculty are Counseling Psychologists and not Counselor Educators as required by CACREP.

Upon graduating from the Counseling Psychology MS program, where can I be licensed?

- Our 60-hour MS program meets academic requirements for the Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) in Kansas currently. We encourage prospective students to research the licensure requirements of states in which they hope to practice ensuring that they select the graduate program that best suits their needs.

What does the Counseling Psychology MS practicum experience entail?

- Practicum sites differ from year to year but can range from a community agency to a small college counseling center to an independent practice with varied clientele (teens, couples, families, etc.). Our practicum coordinator works closely with each student on helping them interview and find the best placement possible for their interests.

- In accordance with our MPCAC accreditation, the program includes significant supervised experiences, a minimum of 600 hours across at least two years; at least 240 of the supervised experiences must be direct contact hours.

Educational Psychology and Research Program

What are the EPR subplan options?

- Development & Learning (D&L), Research, Evaluation, Measurement and Statistics (REMS), and Sport & Exercise Psychology. See table on page 2.

School Psychology

What is a School Psychologist?

- Please see this National Association of School Psychologists link.

What is the School Psychology EdS degree option? Is there a Master's option?

- An EdS, or Educational Specialist, is the degree level somewhat in between the MS and PhD. An EdS is required to become a certified school psychologist. There is not a SPSY Master's option.

Do I need a Master's to apply to the School Psychology EdS program?

- No. In fact, most of our students come in having only completed a bachelor's degree.

Online Graduate Application

Can I get an application fee waiver?

- Unfortunately, we do not have any application fee waivers.

I'm interested in a doctoral program, but I'd also consider starting at the master's level. How do I indicate this?

- Submit only one application to the doctoral level. Then, indicate your interest in the MS level on the "Are you interested in our MS program if not admitted to the PhD program?" question. At the discretion of the admission committee, those with strong credentials, but not qualified at the doctoral level, can be recommended to the MS pool for consideration. This procedure is most often used in Counseling Psychology but can apply to any of our programs.

What should be included in my Statement of Purpose?

- Counseling Psychology: 1-2 pages outlining one's background, professional objectives, and specific interests in our program.
- Educational Psychology and Research: Please describe: 1) Why you are interested in this degree program, including what skills, competencies, and experiences you hope to gain in the program, 2) Your career goals and how this degree program relates to your career goals (that is, how you see this program preparing you to meet your career objectives), 3) Prior relevant educational, work, and research experiences, 4) One research topic or issue that you would like to pursue in this program, including the faculty member with whom you would like to work, if known.
- School Psychology: Describe your career goals; Describe how you see your career goals relating to this degree program (how you see this program preparing you to meet your career objectives); Describe past work or educational experiences related to this degree program; Describe what skills/competencies and experiences you hope to gain in this program; Describe any past research experiences and accomplishments; Describe one research topic/issue that you would like to pursue in this program; Please provide additional information concerning your background, experience, goals, or accomplishments/awards you believe are pertinent to your application.

Do I need to submit official transcripts?

- Yes. You may upload a scanned copy of your official transcripts or request that your institution send or email official transcripts via the instructions here. Please note that a printout from a student portal is not considered official.

Is the GRE required? Can it be waived?

- Not required for Counseling Psychology or EPR programs; required for School Psychology. Waivers are not considered.

How do I add materials to my online application after I have submitted it?

- You may be able to upload materials via the check your application status link. Or you can email materials to fritts@ku.edu. This is also the process for additional recommendation letters or other documents you want included with your application.

How do I know which application materials have been received or are still needed?

- You can view the status of your application materials via the check your application status page. After your application is submitted and reviewed for completeness, you will also receive an email detailing your application status.

Graduate Program Admission Decision

When will my application be reviewed and when can I expect to be notified about the decision?

- Completed application review happens after the deadline. A recommendation will be forwarded to Graduate Studies, where a final decision will be made, and notifications are then delivered by email. You may hear from us anywhere between late January and April 15.

How are admission decisions made?

- Program admission ultimately depends on the Admission Committee's perceptions of the applicant's potential for successful completion of the program and the availability of faculty to advise and direct the applicant's training. Criteria of high importance include GRE scores (if applicable), GPA, letters of recommendation, interview (if applicable), statement of purpose, research experience, clinically related public service, and commitment to individual and cultural diversity.

What if I do not meet all of the prerequisites of regular admission?

- Each application is considered individually with an interest in finding a match between applicant and program. Unmet prerequisites do not automatically disqualify your application. However, given the competitive nature of our application pools, those who meet and/or exceed our prerequisites have a greater chance of receiving an admission offer.

What can I do to increase my chances of being admitted?

- Strengthen all aspects of your application and have colleagues/faculty review all your materials. Successful applicants have very strong written and interpersonal communication skills, as well as strong grades, solid GREs scores (if applicable), and great letters of recommendation commenting on your potential to complete the program.

Other

I just missed the application deadline! Do I have to wait another year before my application is considered?

- Yes. Also, see next question.

Tell me about the non-degree option.

- You may consider applying as a non-degree seeking student to complete prerequisites, to get a jump start on coursework, or to demonstrate ability at the graduate level. Please note that non-degree status does not guarantee your later admission to a degree-seeking program. If you later apply as a degree-seeking student, and are accepted by a department, the total of transfer credit may not exceed 9 hours. Before submitting a non-degree seeking application, please contact 1) the director of the graduate program you are interested in and 2) any faculty whose class you are interested in taking.
- While non-degree students may enroll in Educational Measurement, Statistics, or Research Methods classes, Counseling Psychology does not permit non-degree seeking students to enroll in counseling courses at this time unless they already have a counseling degree and are pursuing licensure as professional counselors or psychologists in Kansas.

Revised 9/24/26