PSY - School Psychology Program - Educational Specialist

Education Specialist and Master of Science in Education
School Psychology Program
Director: Robert Dixon
349A Graff Main Hall; 608.785.6893
Email: rdixon@uwlax.edu

www.uwlax.edu/grad/school-psychology/

The UW-La Crosse School Psychology Program offers an Education Specialist degree. The degree requires two years of full-time study, one summer of study, a one-year internship during the third year, completion of a capstone project, and the passing of either the national school psychology test or the UW-L comprehensive examinations. Successful completion of all program requirements for the 71-73 semester credits leads to licensure as a School Psychologist in Wisconsin and most other states. Students earn a 31-credit Master of Science in Education (http://catalog.uwlax.edu/graduate/programrequirements/schoolpsychology/master-science-education-degree) degree before completing the remaining Education Specialist (http://catalog.uwlax.edu/graduate/programrequirements/educationspecialist/education-specialist-degree) degree requirements.

The UW-La Crosse School Psychology Program is part of the Department of Psychology and the College of Liberal Studies. The program is approved by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction ( DPI), and has full approval from the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP). Upon completion of all program requirements, students are eligible for certification as a Nationally Certified School Psychologist (NCSP). Graduates of the program are employed in public schools or in educational agencies that serve public schools.

The School Psychology Program prepares graduate students for licensure as school psychologists through academic course work, 700 hours of supervised school practica, and a one-year, 1,200 hour school internship. The school psychology knowledge base includes areas of professional school psychology, educational psychology, psychological foundations, educational foundations, and mental health.

The School Psychology Program adheres to state and national training standards for school psychology. Graduate students must develop professional competencies for each of the 10 DPI/NASP training standards: data-based decision making and accountability; consultation and collaboration; interventions and instructional support to develop social academic skills; interventions and mental health services to develop social and life services; diversity in development and learning; school-wide practices to promote learning; preventative and responsive services; family-school collaboration services; research and program evaluation; and legal, ethical, and professional practice. Over the course of their UW-L training, graduate students will maintain an evolving portfolio that documents professional growth and achieved competence in each of the 10 areas. In addition, students will be evaluated each semester in professional behavior competencies that reflect dispositions in the field.

The emphasis of this program is to train school psychologists who are effective teacher, parent, and school consultants by providing extensive hands-on experiences in a mentor relationship. The program also emphasizes a pupil services model that addresses the educational and mental health needs of all children, from early childhood through high school.

Graduate students are placed in local schools as early and as intensively as possible. During their second, third, and fourth semesters, students spend two days per week working in local schools under the direct supervision of experienced school psychologists. During these school practica, students develop professional skills in assessment, consultation, intervention, counseling, case management, and in each of the NASP standards. Many of the core courses require projects that are completed in the schools during practica.

An information and application packet can be obtained online through the School Psychology Program (https://www.uwlax.edu/grad/school-psychology) or by writing the School Psychology Program Director, Department of Psychology, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, 1725 State Street, La Crosse, WI 54601, or by sending an e-mail to schoolpsych@uwlax.edu. In addition to meeting all the requirements established for general graduate admissions, students must also meet School Psychology Program requirements before admission to the program. These additional requirements include: three letters of recommendation; scores from the GRE verbal, quantitative, and analytical writing sections; a score from the GRE Psychology subject test (recommended to non-psychology majors); a writing sample; résumé of educational and work experience; a statement of purpose; and a Personal Potential Index (PPI) report through ETS. Students are also expected to participate in an on campus interview as a component of the selection process.

2018-19 Faculty/Staff
The following is the graduate faculty and staff as of the publication date of this catalog. This list will not be updated again until the next catalog is published in June.

Professor
Betty V. DeBoer (http://www.uwlax.edu/profile/bdeboer), Ph.D.

Associate Professor
Robert J. Dixon (http://www.uwlax.edu/profile/rdixon), Ph.D., NCSP, LP
Ryan McKelley (http://www.uwlax.edu/profile/rmckelley), Ph.D.
Jocelyn H. Newton (http://www.uwlax.edu/profile/jnewton), Ph.D., NCSP

Assistant Professors
Daniel M. Hyson (http://www.uwlax.edu/profile/dhyson), Ph.D., NCSP
Suthakaran Veerasamy (http://www.uwlax.edu/profile/sveerasamy), Ph.D.

Administrative Support
Teresa Znidarsich (http://www.uwlax.edu/profile/tznidarsich)

Graduate degree
• Educational Specialist in school psychology - Ed.S. (http://catalog.uwlax.edu/graduate/programrequirements/educationspecialist/education-specialist-degree)