

# School Psychology

Doctor of Psychology (PsyD) in School Psychology

Master of Science (MS) in Educational Psychology with a Concentration in School Psychology



Students and faculty celebrate at convocation.

**USM's School Psychology program** includes comprehensive coursework and field-based experiences to prepare graduates to deliver evidence-based school psychology services that help school-aged children succeed academically, socially, emotionally, and behaviorally. The curriculum emphasizes the acquisition of (a) knowledge in the fields of education, psychology, and behavior analysis and (b) skills related to assessment, intervention, consultation, supervision, and applied research.

## **DEGREES AND PROFESSIONAL CREDENTIALS**

### **Master of Science (MS) in Educational Psychology with a Concentration in School Psychology (84 credits)**

Graduates of the MS program are eligible to apply for the following credentials:

- Certified School Psychologist-Specialist (Maine Department of Education, 093)
- Nationally Certified School Psychologist (NCSP)

### **Doctor of Psychology (PsyD) in School Psychology (111 credits)**

Graduates of the PsyD program are eligible to apply for the following credentials:

- Certified School Psychologist-Doctoral (Maine Department of Education, 093)
- Nationally Certified School Psychologist (NCSP)
- Maine Licensed Psychologist (requires completion of a post-doctoral internship)

## **PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS**

- **Integrated coursework and field-based experiences.** Students participate in 600 hours of practica and 1500+ hours of internship under the direct supervision of qualified school psychologists to ensure competency for entry level practice in the profession.
- **Flexible program of study.** Students may complete the program on a full-time or part-time basis. With the exception of doctoral-level seminar courses, all courses are scheduled on weekday evenings to accommodate working professionals. MS students may opt to complete approximately half of the required courses using distance learning technology.
- **Faculty connections.** Core program faculty are highly accessible. Each student is assigned a faculty advisor to assist with the development of an individualized plan of study and provide mentorship in research and practice. A member of the core program faculty serves as the field-placement coordinator to facilitate field placements that meet each student's unique professional development needs.
- **Clear mission and philosophy.** The program seeks to prepare school psychologists who show evidence of the core competencies endorsed by the National Association of School Psychologists. The curriculum reflects a philosophical commitment to evidence-based practice, collaborative problem-solving, data-based decision-making, and behavior analysis.
- **High graduate employment rates.** 100% of program graduates over the last 5 years have secured employment in the field within six months of graduation. Employers value the expertise of USM's students, and school psychologists are in high demand due to state and national shortages.
- **Multiple credentials.** All program graduates are eligible for state and national credentialing as School Psychologists. Students who complete three additional courses and seek qualifying supervised experiences are eligible to apply for the Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) credential. Students who earn the PsyD degree and complete a post-doctoral internship may be eligible to apply for licensure in psychology.

## **JOB OUTLOOK**

- There are documented national shortages of school psychologists (National Association of School Psychologists, 2017).
- The national median annual wage for school psychologists is \$76,990 (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2018).
- School psychologists are employed in a variety of settings, including public schools, private schools, preschools, universities, community based day treatment programs, residential clinics, hospitals, juvenile justice programs, and independent private practices (National Association of School Psychologists, 2017).

## **PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**

- USM's School Psychology programs integrate coursework, field experiences, and applied research opportunities to ensure graduates meet the practice competencies established by the National Association of School Psychologists.
- The MS program requires 84 graduate credits (inclusive of practica and internship), and the PsyD program requires 111 graduate credits (inclusive of practica, internship, and dissertation research). The PsyD program expands on the MS program by offering advanced training in applied research, supervision, academic assessment and intervention, and behavioral assessment and intervention.
- Students may complete the program on a full-time or part-time basis. Full-time study for the MS program typically requires 3 years of coursework and 1 year of internship. Full-time study for the PsyD program typically requires 4 years of coursework and 1 year of internship.
- Complete information about program requirements, including required courses and options for earning transfer credits, may be accessed on the program website: [usm.maine.edu/school-psychology](http://usm.maine.edu/school-psychology)

## **COURSEWORK**

Coursework addresses broad content in areas such as:

- Academic, cognitive, and behavioral assessment
- Academic, social-emotional, and behavioral intervention
- Consultation and family-school-community collaboration
- Progress monitoring and applied research
- School-wide practices to promote learning, mental health, and safety
- Diversity in development and learning
- Ethical and legal standards in education and psychology

## **GETTING STARTED**

Prospective students may complete two courses (6 credits) prior to matriculation. For course recommendations, please contact Jamie Pratt at [jamie.pratt1@maine.edu](mailto:jamie.pratt1@maine.edu)

## **APPLICATION DEADLINES**

Applications must be received by December 1 for matriculation the following Fall.

## **ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS**

### **Minimum Qualifications**

**MS Program.** An earned bachelor's degree from an accredited institution and a minimum GPA of 2.5 (bachelor's degree) or 3.0 (graduate degree).

**PsyD Program.** An earned bachelor's from an accredited institution and a minimum GPA of 2.75 (bachelor's degree) or 3.25 (graduate degree).

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

For application assistance:

**Office of Admissions**  
**(207) 780-5670**  
[usmgrad@maine.edu](mailto:usmgrad@maine.edu)  
[usm.maine.edu/admit](http://usm.maine.edu/admit)

For more information:

**School Psychology**  
**(207) 228-8324**  
[jamie.pratt1@maine.edu](mailto:jamie.pratt1@maine.edu)  
**8 Bailey Hall, Gorham campus**  
[usm.maine.edu/school-psychology](http://usm.maine.edu/school-psychology)

## **FIELD PLACEMENTS**

- Students participate in 600 hours of practica and complete a culminating 1500+ hour internship, which is typically funded with a stipend.
- Faculty assist students in finding practica and internship sites that align with their professional goals and interests.
- Students complete practica and internships in diverse settings, such as public PK-12 schools, special purpose private schools, psychiatric hospitals, private practices, and university based counseling centers.

## **APPLIED RESEARCH**

- MS students complete two case studies with mentorship from University and field-based supervisors. The case studies provide an opportunity for students to demonstrate competencies in evidence-based assessment, intervention, and progress monitoring skills.
- PsyD students complete an empirical dissertation with mentorship from a faculty advisor during their final two years in the program. Dissertations completed by USM graduates may be viewed here: [usm.maine.edu/school-psychology/doctoral-dissertations](http://usm.maine.edu/school-psychology/doctoral-dissertations)

- Required Application Materials
  - Online application
  - Application fee: Waived for all applicants
  - Official transcripts
  - Resume
  - Essay(s)
  - Three letters of recommendation
- Interviews
  - All applications will be reviewed after the application deadline (December 1), and qualified candidates will be invited to participate in an admissions interview with program faculty.
- *Additional information about the admissions process, including essay questions can be obtained on the program website:*  
[usm.maine.edu/school-psychology](http://usm.maine.edu/school-psychology)

**Apply Now**  
[usm.maine.edu/apply](http://usm.maine.edu/apply)