

What can you do with a minor in School Psychology?

The School Psychology minor is helpful to any student who is interested in education, assessment, psychology, special education, or working with children. School psychologists, school social workers, and school counselors work together with parents, teachers, administrators, and students to ensure that a student's personal, social, academic, and career development is successfully achieved. There are differing qualifications, educational requirements, and job responsibilities for each of these professionals.

Title: School Psychologist (M.A. or Ph.D. Required)

School Psychologists are experts in identifying the different forms of disability that may impact a student's learning and development. They are the key professional conducting validated assessments and recommending services for students with disabilities. They may also provide counseling and behavioral intervention for students with mental health, developmental, behavioral, or learning difficulties.

Educational Requirements:

- Master's/Specialist Degree in School Psychology (typically 3 years)
- Doctorate Degree in School Psychology (typically 5 years)
 - Doctoral level school psychologists are eligible for licensure as a Psychologist with the appropriate clinical experience and certification.

Responsibilities:

- Compile and interpret students' test results, along with information from teachers and parents, to diagnose conditions and to help assess eligibility for special services.
- Select, administer, and score psychological tests.
- Provide counseling or consultation to parents, teachers, administrators, and others on topics such as learning styles and behavior modification techniques.

School Psychologists at the Master's/Specialist level are most often employed in:

- Public/private schools
- Universities/colleges
- Mental health centers
- Community agencies

School Psychologists at the Doctoral level can also be employed in:

- Private practice
- Out-patient clinics
- Hospitals
- In-patient mental health facilities

Salary:

-Median salary for School Psychologists at the Master's/Specialist level is approximately \$59,420 depending on geographic location and experience.

-Median salary for School Psychologists at the Doctoral level is approximately \$75,800 depending on geographic location and experience.

Title: School Counselor/School Social Worker

School counselors and school social workers provide support for children's emotional and psychological well-being within the school environment. They may serve children identified as having mental health, developmental, behavioral, or learning difficulties; or they may work with the general student body. They sometimes serve as school-based supports focused on school culture and child behavior. In some districts and at some levels they may also provide advising on academic and vocational decisions.

Educational Requirements:

School Counselor:

-Master's Degree in School Counseling or Counselor Education (typically 2-3 years)

School Social Worker:

-Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) (undergraduate degree)

-Master's of Social Work (MSW) (typically 2-3 years)

-Doctorate of Social Work (DSW) or Ph.D. in Social Work (typically 5 years)

-Most states require certification and registration as a social worker.

Responsibilities:

School Counselor:

-School Counselors are primarily responsible for providing counseling, consulting, and coordinating services to children with emotional, behavioral or mental health difficulties with a focus on services to the children themselves. They may also lead school-level interventions addressing child trauma, divorce, bullying, and school culture.

Responsibilities can vary across school districts.

School Social Workers:

-School Social Workers typically provide a broader range of services than the school counselor including coordinating services in the community, family services, managing alternative placements, and other supports. They also frequently provide individual and group counseling. Responsibilities can vary across school districts.

School Counselors and School Social Workers are employed in:

-Elementary, middle, junior high, senior high, and post-secondary schools

Salary:

-Median salary for School Counselors is approximately \$53,660 depending on geographic location and experience.

-Median salary for School Social Workers is approximately \$42,350 depending on education (BSW, MSW, DSW), geographic location, and experience.

Classes Needed to Minor in School Psychology:

Non-Psychology Majors must first complete:

PSY 101 and 102 Introduction to Psychology I and II
PSY 201 Basic Statistics for the Behavioral Sciences

Required Courses for Minor:

PSY 203 Lifespan Developmental Psychology (Core II)
PSY 370 School Psychology
PSY 373 Behavior Modification (Core III)
PSY 395 Assessment in the Behavioral Sciences (Core III)
PSY 498D Practicum: School Psychology (Requires GPA > 3.0)
Practicum needs to be approved by the minor advisor and include direct service in a school setting or mental health service focusing on children.

Required Elective:

(Complete 1 of the following courses, some courses may require additional prerequisites):

Education:

EDY 208 SPE 341
EDY 209 EDE 390
EDU 250 EDY 432
SPE 291 EDY 433
SPE 311 EDU 495
SPE 312 EDU 496
SPE 330 EDU 497

Sociology:

SOC 291
SOC 341
SOC 355
SOC 390

Criminal Justice:

CRJ 330
CRJ 337
CRJ 344
CRJ 345
CRJ 354

For more information/advising regarding the School Psychology Minor contact:

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