

Proposal for Special Education Masters Degree for doctoral students in School Psychology

Objective: The School Psychology (SPSY) program, in collaboration with the Special Education program, would like to encourage SPSY doctoral students to earn a master's degree in Special Education (SPED) while working towards their doctorate degree.

Student Population: The students who will pursue this option are students, in good standing, matriculated into the SPSY doctoral program. Currently, doctoral students in the SPSY program do not earn an interim degree (Master's level) between their bachelor's degree and graduation from the program with a Ph.D. However, their coursework, practica, and research experience are congruent with terminal master's degree requirements in SPSY at other programs nationwide, and are above and beyond requirements for a master's degree in SPED.

Rationale: This degree would be beneficial to these SPSY students for at least six reasons: 1) Financial benefit. The pay schedules of many school districts are based on master's degree + credit hours. With a master's degree, plus Ph.D. credit hours, students will be at a higher pay scale than they currently are without a master's degree; 2) Ease of N.C.S.P. certification. N.C.S.P. certification requires a master's degree. Without a master's degree, students have to go through a long process of demonstrating the equivalency of their training to a master's degree. A master's degree will eliminate that additional paperwork and time; 3) Initial licensure. TSPC requires that students have a master's degree prior to receiving an initial license. Therefore, students do not currently qualify for an initial license prior to going on internship. With a master's degree in SPED/SPSY students should qualify for an initial license. This would make them more attractive to potential employers, as well as increase their leverage in salary negotiations; 4) Professional development – The fields of school psychology and special education are closely related. SPSY students would benefit from an increased emphasis on special education in their training and experiences. 5) Professional marketability – Students who graduate from the U of O with a master's in special education and a Ph.D. in school psychology will be highly sought after by hiring agencies in education. 6) Equivalent coursework – The coursework and practica completed by the SPSY doctoral students is equivalent to that of similar programs that offer a master's degree en route to earning a Ph.D. This degree would provide students with appropriate recognition of their work.

Impact on admissions process: This proposal is not expected to affect the SPSY admissions program. Students will be matriculated into the SPSY doctoral program under the current admissions process and criteria. SPSY doctoral students may opt to enroll in the SPED master's degree after matriculation, and will complete the appropriate paperwork (Concurrent Enrollment form) to do so.

Comparison of Current Degree Requirements

SPED Master's Requirement	Fulfilled by SPSY program?	SPSY requirement that fulfills SPED requirement	Proposal to fulfill SPED requirement
GENERAL REQUIREMENTS			
45 total graduate quarter hours	Yes	Currently, 150 graduate credits are required for the doctoral degree. Of these courses, 94 credits are typically taken in the first two years, prior to advancement to candidacy	---
9 credit hours of 600 level courses	Yes	91 required credit hours are 600 level courses. Of these, 81 credits are typically taken prior to advancement to candidacy	---
30 graduate hours in Special Ed	No	17 required credit hours are SPED courses	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Include SPED 511 (3 cr) and SPED 662 (3 cr) as required courses, and one of following: 2. Require students to take at least 7 credit hours under their supporting area. 3. Enroll in SPED 605 or SPED 503 for master's or capstone project
24 graded hours	Yes	A minimum of 24 hours are graded hours	---
Master's project (3 to 9) or Comprehensive exam or Research Synthesis (4) - and - SPED 605 (1) – Collaboration with a Special Ed. faculty member on student's choice of master's project	Yes	SPSY students are required to take a SPSY comprehensive exam or complete a master's project prior to advancement to candidacy SPSY students who choose to take the comprehensive exam will include domains that are relevant to SPED and will include a SPED faculty member on their committee.	---

		<p>The SPED 605 requirement can be fulfilled in collaboration with this committee member.</p> <p>SPSY students who choose to do complete a master's project, thesis, or research synthesis can include a SPED emphasis. They can receive SPED 503 credit and SPED 605 credit for this project.</p>	
SPED Master's Requirement	Fulfilled by SPSY program?	SPSY requirement that fulfills SPED requirement	Proposal to fulfill SPED requirement
COURSEWORK			
Foundations (all)			
SPED 511	No	Currently no relevant requirement	Include SPED 511 in program plan
SPED 662	No	Currently no relevant requirement	Include SPED 662 in program plan
Behavioral Support (one)			
SPED 526, SPED 536	Yes	SPED 536 required	---
Curriculum and Instruction (two)			
SPED 660, SPED 580, SPED 610, SPED 521, SPED 522, SPED 523, SPED 527, SPED 610	Yes	SPED 660 and SPED 521 required	---
Legal (one)			
SPED 628, ELTA 607	Yes	SPED 628 or ELTA 607 required	---
Multicultural (one)			
ELTA 610	Yes	SPSY students are not required to take ELTA 610. However, they are required to take one of the following to fulfill a Foundations of Social and Cultural diversity requirement. Either of these courses will be acceptable to fulfill the SPED multicultural requirement:	

		SPSY 610 Ecological bases of behavior or CPSY 615 Counseling Diverse Populations	
Field Studies (one)			
SPED 606 Field Studies (3 cr)	Yes	Students required to complete 600 clock hours of supervised practica experience. 240 hours occur as part of their coursework. 210 hours are an extensive school-based experience under a licensed school psychologist. 150 hours are the DeBusk Community Clinic program. Individuals served included students with emotional, behavioral, and learning disorders. The SPED masters will accept SPSY 609 School Psychology Clinic, SPSY 609 Practicum: Field Experience in School Psychology, and SPSY 626 Final Supervised Experience (9 credits total) in place of the SPED 606 and SPED 609	
SPED 609 Prac. Supervision (3 cr)	Yes	See explanation for SPED 606	See explanation for SPED 606
SPED Master's Requirement	Fulfilled by SPSY program?	SPSY requirement that fulfills SPED requirement	Proposal to fulfill SPED requirement
Research (one)			
SPED 664, ELTA 607, SPSY 617	Yes	SPSY 617 required	---
Capstone (dependent on option)			
SPED 605 Reading research synthesis, , SPED 605 Reading Master's project, SPED 601 Research, SPED 503 Thesis	Yes	SPSY students required to take a SPSY comprehensive exam or complete master's project prior to advancement to candidacy	

		<p>The SPED master's program will accept:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The comprehensive exam as meeting this requirement. Include domains relevant to SPED, or: <p>Student will complete the master's thesis/project with SPED emphasis. Receives SPED 503 or SPED 605 credit</p>	
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The following is a sample timetable that can guide students in making sure that they have completed all of the SPSY doctoral program requirements in a timely fashion. Students following this schedule can also earn a SPED master’s degree prior to advancement to candidacy. Any classes that are listed above the dotted line within a time period (e.g Fall, Year 1) fall must be taken at that time. Any of the classes listed below the dotted line are classes that are recommended to be taken at that time. This sample schedule allows students to complete most of their core requirements prior to taking comprehensive exams in the Fall of Year 3.

	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer
Year 1	SPSY 617 Test and Measurement (3) SPSY 671 Beh. Assessmt (3) SPSY 609 Beh Assmt Practicum (1) SPSY 661 Principles and Prac. (4) ----- *SPED 521 Reading Instruction (4) SPSY 607 Research Prac. (1)	SPSY 618 Stats I (4) SPSY 674 Ed. Assess. (3) SPSY 609 Ed Assmt Practicum (1) ----- SPSY 607 Research Prac (1) SPED 660 Design of Inst. (4)	SPSY 619 Stats II (4) SPSY 672 Intellectual Assessmt (4) SPSY 609 Intell Assmt Practicum (1) ----- CSPY 610 Ecological Bases of Beh (3) CPSY 661 Professional Ethics (3)	*SPED 609 Prac Elementary I (3) -OR- SPED 628 Law and Special Ed (3)
Year 2	SPSY 609 Practicum (3) SPSY 620 Research Design (3) ----- SPSY 607 Res. Prac (1) CPSY 615 Diverse Populations (3) ----- ¹ Option----- ----- ¹ Option-----	SPSY 609 Practicum (3) SPSY 681 Consultation I (3) ----- SPSY 650 Dev Psychopathology (3) SPSY 607 Research Prac (1) SPED 536 Adv. Beh/Class Man (3)	SPSY 626 Final Supervised Exp. (3) SPSY 621 Eval and Prep Research (3) ----- SPSY 682 Consultation II (3) SPSY 675 Soc and Em Assmt (3) –OR- SPSY 684 Interv for Ch Beh Dis (3) ----- ¹ Option-----	*SPED 609 Prac Elementary I (3) -OR- SPED 628 Law and Special Ed (3)
Year 3	----- ----- ¹ Option----- ----- ¹ Option----- ----- ¹ Option-----	----- ----- ¹ Option----- ----- ¹ Option----- ----- ¹ Option-----	----- SPSY 607 Adv. App. Beh. Anlys (3) SPSY 675 Soc and Em Assmt (3) –OR- SPSY 684 Interv for Ch Beh Dis (3) ----- ¹ Option----- ----- ¹ Option-----	
Year 4	SPSY 603 Dissertation	SPSY 603 Dissertation	SPSY 603 Dissertation	
Year 5	SPSY 704 Internship (3)	SPSY 704 Internship (3)	SPSY 704 Internship (3)	

* SPED 521 needs to be taken prior to SPED 609.

¹ The remaining options that need to be taken include: (1) One Course from Individual Differences Options; (2) One Course from Biological Bases of Human Behavior Options; (3) SPED 667 Single Subject I -or- SPED 668 Single Subject II; (4) 9 Additional Credits from Specialized Intervention Techniques Options; (5) Two Topical Seminars; (6) SPSY 609 Advanced Practicum 3-6 Credits during Year 3 or 4; (7) Supervised College Teaching; (8) Any remaining credits that the student identifies on their program plan for the supporting area.

