

Kent State University
FAQs about the M.Ed./Ed.S. Program in School Psychology
Updated April 2012

1. Q: What undergraduate degree is required in order to apply to the program?

A: The program does not require a specific undergraduate degree or course of study. Although most of our students have undergraduate preparation in psychology or education, individuals with other types of training have been successful.

2. Q: I am not sure which program I should apply to. What are some of the differences between the specialist (Ed.S) and doctoral (Ph.D.) programs?

A: One of the most important things for you to consider is what you want to do when you finish the program. If you are interested in seeking licensure as a school psychologist within a school system and are committed to becoming an informed consumer of research to guide your practice, the M.Ed./Ed.S. program may be the best professional match for you. The specialist program takes approximately three years to complete, full-time, including coursework, practicum and internship. If you are passionate about conducting original research, interested in assuming leadership roles in higher education (e.g. becoming a faculty member), and/or wish to become license-eligible through the Ohio State Board of Psychology as an independent provider, the M.Ed./Ph.D. program may be the best professional match for you. The doctoral program takes an average of 7 years to complete; includes additional coursework to inform roles in research and leadership; and includes advanced practicum, comprehensive examinations, dissertation, and a doctoral level internship.

3. Q: I'm interested in applying to the Ed.S. program, but I don't have a graduate degree. What program should I apply to?

A: The majority of Ed.S. students enter the program following the completion of a Bachelors degree. Applicants with a Bachelors degree will first enter the M.Ed. program, since attainment of a masters degree is necessary before entering the Ed.S. program. When making application, check the box on the *School Psychology Supplemental Data Form* that says 'M.Ed./Ed.S. Program' and complete all of the application requirements for this plan of study. If admitted, once you successfully complete the M.Ed. degree, you will matriculate into the Ed.S. program and complete those requirements as well. The M.Ed./Ed.S. program of study is a combination of the M.Ed. coursework (generally the first year of the sequence) and the Ed.S. coursework, as illustrated on the sequence of coursework.

4. Q: What if I decide to stop the program after completing the M.Ed.?

A: The M.Ed. is a “paper degree,” and does not fulfill requirements for licensure as a school psychologist or for any other credential in most states, including Ohio. You must complete all Ed.S. degree requirements (or an equivalent *specialist* level degree) in order to be eligible for licensure as a school psychologist in the state of Ohio and in most other states.

5. Q: I see that the program admits students three times a year. What is the preferred application cycle?

A: Ideally, students begin the program in the summer. This follows from how the course sequence was originally designed. This requires applicants to turn in all materials by the January 10 deadline. Qualified applicants will be invited for an interview in February and, if admitted, begin coursework in the summer (i.e., June). However, the program currently has three admissions cycles (i.e., summer, fall and spring), and students may opt to begin during the fall or spring semester. If admitted, these options will involve working closely with your faculty advisor to ensure that you take the appropriate course sequence.

6. Q: What if I can't begin in the summer? Can I begin the program at another time?

A: Yes. Students who are admitted in November may begin coursework in January (spring semester), and students who are admitted in July may begin coursework in August (fall semester). Students successfully enter the program out of sequence nearly every semester.

7. Q: What if I apply in November for spring admission, but do not intend to enroll until summer? May I do this?

A. Yes, students who are admitted may request to defer enrollment until a later date. If admitted and you wish to make such a request, we ask that it be made in writing to the Coordinator at your earliest convenience.

8. Q: Is it possible to complete the program on a part-time basis?

A: Although it is possible to complete some early coursework on a part-time basis, the requirements for practicum and internship are such that it is not possible to complete all program requirements on a part-time basis. In addition, students who have taken coursework on a part-time basis have reported that they have more difficulty feeling connected with their peers and staying on track academically. Whenever possible, faculty will work with students who may require part-time enrollment for a portion of their training.

9. Q: I have been working for several years and don't have a sample of written work. How should I handle this for my application? Can I submit technical reports I have prepared as part of my job?

A: This part of the application is designed to provide a sample of your professional/scholarly writing. The writing sample you submit as part of your application should focus on a topic related to the education, treatment, and/or development of school-aged children. If you do not currently have a sample that meets this requirement, you will need to develop an original writing sample that meets the following guidelines: it should be approximately 8-10 pages, with references, following the style guidelines of the current publication manual of the American Psychological Association. Note: a technical report is not a substitute for this requirement.

10. Q: It has been a number of years since I attended my undergraduate program, and I'm not sure my professors would remember me. May I request letters of reference from my employers?

A: Letters of reference may be requested from any individuals who can comment about your potential for success in graduate study. If your work setting is primarily in an applied setting, consider whether or not your employer can provide such an assessment of your potential.

11. Q: What is the cutoff score for the general knowledge GRE? Is the specialty GRE required?

A: Only the general knowledge GRE is required. At this time, the program has not established a specific cutoff score for the GRE. However, most successful applicants obtain scores at or above the 35th percentile in all domains. The program may eliminate applicants from the pool prior to the interview if two or more domains on the GRE fall below the 25th percentile.

12. Q: Is there a specific GPA cutoff?

A: The College of Education, Health, and Human Services requires an undergraduate GPA of 2.75 to be admitted. Applicants whose GPA is below this level must be admitted with special faculty recommendation. The mean undergraduate GPA for students typically admitted to the M.Ed./Ed.S. program is approximately 3.5. It is less likely that applicants with GPAs below a 3.0 will be admitted to the program.

13. Q: How is the faculty interview arranged?

A: Following the application deadline (January 10, June 15, or October 15), the faculty admission committee reviews complete applications and invites all applicants who are not eliminated due to low performance indicators for an interview with faculty. These interviews are arranged by the Program Coordinator and typically involve a 20 to 30-minute interview with the program faculty and interaction with current students in the program.

14. Q: I live out of state and it is difficult for me to travel to Ohio for the interview. Can a telephone interview be arranged?

A: We encourage applicants to come to campus for an interview, whenever possible. However, telephone interviews can be arranged for students unable to make an on-campus interview. When you are contacted about the on-campus interview, request a telephone interview and this will be arranged for you.

15. Q: How long after the interview are admission decisions made? How will I be notified?

A: Applicants are typically notified about the admission decision within 1-2 weeks following the interview. Applicants who are admitted will receive a detailed letter from the Program Coordinator. In order to accept admission, this letter must be signed and dated, and returned to the Program Coordinator by a designated date.

16. Q: I am interested in a Graduate Assistantship. How can I obtain one?

A: Graduate Assistantships are available to students on a competitive basis. In the past several years, many students desiring assistantships have obtained them. Opportunities may include traineeships to develop skills in specialty areas and support of programs and grants within the College of Education, Health, and Human Services. It is uncommon for students to be offered an assistantship at the time of admission. Successfully obtaining an assistantship requires that you actively pursue available positions. Your advisor can assist you with this process upon admission.

17. Q: What are admission requirements and how do I apply?

A: Please see the following resources for detailed information about admission requirements and application procedures:

- The Educational Specialist Program in School Psychology Handbook (available through the program website at: <http://www.kent.edu/ehhs/spsy/index.cfm>)
- <http://www.kent.edu/ehhs/spsy/masters/apply-now-eds.cfm>