

SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY

UNDERGRADUATE PATHWAY AND MENTORING PROGRAM (UPMP)



School psychology is an exciting career with an excellent job outlook. The median salary in the field is around \$77,000 per contract year (180 days). Job growth is expected to be 14% through 2026. The field is unique as it combines expertise in both education and psychology. Graduates of the University of Central Arkansas's school psychology Educational Specialist program are successfully licensed and employed in Arkansas and around the country.

UNDERGRADUATE PATHWAY & MENTORING PROGRAM (UPMP)

Freshmen and sophomore psychology and education majors are eligible for admission to the School Psychology Undergraduate Pathway and Mentoring Program (UPMP). Admission to the UPMP means that students are on track to be admitted to the Educational Specialist (Ed.S.) program. UPMP students who maintain the necessary requirements, pass a background check, interview successfully, complete their baccalaureate degree, and complete prerequisites will be admitted to the Ed.S. program.

EDUCATIONAL SPECIALIST (EdS) REQUIREMENTS

Students in the Educational Specialist (EdS) program are required to complete 60 hours of graduate courses. The first two years of study include coursework, and the third year is a full-time paid internship in the schools. Students are expected to maintain a B average and pass the Praxis II exam for school psychology.



APPLICATION PROCESS

- Complete application form at uca.edu/go/UPMPForm
- Schedule a mentoring session with the School Psychology Program Director

TO MAINTAIN UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSION STATUS, STUDENTS MUST:

- Take all coursework at UCA or at an institution with a transfer agreement. Visit uca.edu/2plus2/ for information on transfer agreements.
- Complete a baccalaureate degree in psychology or education.
- Complete the GRE by Oct. 1 of their senior year.
- Attend three Future School Psychologists Club meetings each year after admission to the UPMP.
- Receive mentoring from the Program Director at least once a year.
- Obtain a 3.30 cumulative GPA by their senior year. Psychology and education majors must obtain a 3.50 in their major.
- Successfully interview with the School Psychology Committee in the spring before the admission year. The interview requirement is especially important as school psychologists must possess excellent social skills and be able to work effectively in interdisciplinary teams.

Students admitted to the Educational Specialist program during the 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20 school years had an average cumulative GPA of 3.6. GPAs ranged from 3.23 to 3.96. Therefore, even if a student does not qualify for the UPMP, the student may still be an appropriate candidate to apply to the Educational Specialist program in the last semester of their undergraduate program.

Special note for Psychology Majors at UCA

Courses that may be helpful for psychology students who plan to apply to the school psychology Educational Specialist program are:

- Category II: PSYC 3325 Cognitive Psychology and 3351 Psychology of Learning.
- Category III: PSYC 2370 Developmental Psychology, 3333 Multicultural Psychology, and 4320 Abnormal Psychology.
- Category IV: PSYC 4351 Applied Behavior Analysis, 4390 Psychological Tests and Measurements, and 4V82 Independent Research in School Psychology with a School Psychology faculty member or covering a topic in School Psychology.



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