

SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY

Mental Health Services Fellowship



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.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FELLOWSHIP

The School Psychology program in UCA's Department of Psychology & Counseling is pleased to announce a new and unique training opportunity for school psychology applicants. The funding for our competitive Mental Health Services Fellowships is from a recently awarded U.S. Department of Education grant that was designed to increase the number of mental health professionals trained throughout the country. The grant funding will be available for UCA students for 5 years.

EDUCATIONAL SPECIALIST (EdS) REQUIREMENTS

All 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.



Fellowship applicants will be considered based on their program application materials and the following:

- Excellent academic and social communication skills
- Personal education experience in a K-12 educational setting located in a high-need area.
- Ways in which an applicant contributes to increasing the diversity in the field of school psychology. The field of School Psychology needs professionals as diverse as the students we serve; therefore, applicants who will increase the number of school-based mental health professionals from diverse backgrounds are especially sought.

APPLICATION PROCESS

1. Apply to and interview for the School Psychology Ed.S. program through the UCA graduate school: <https://uca.edu/graduateschool/applying-to-graduate-school/>
2. Complete fellowship application form at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSerbkA4ToGxYVWvk8BpzVH3vzqVY-piuqWtDm23ghmL5SHrMw/viewform?usp=pp_url

Prospective students who are not selected for a fellowship can fund their education through private funds, working off campus, or as a Graduate Assistant in our department or another department on campus. Both fellowships and assistantships require 20 hours of work per week. However, they differ in 6 critical ways: level of financial support, years of financial support, location of work, type of work, service obligation, and application procedure. The table below outlines the differences.

Type of Assistance	Year	Annual Level of Support	Location of Work	Type of Work	*Service Obligation	Application Procedure
<i>MHS Fellowship</i>	1	\$11570 tuition \$20000 stipend	Local schools and UCA	Supporting mental health initiatives in a school or schools	1 year in a high need school	Apply through the School Psychology Program
	2	\$11570 tuition \$20000 stipend	Local schools and UCA	Supporting mental health initiatives in a school or schools	1 year in a high need school	Satisfactory performance in year 1
	3	\$2480 tuition	Internship sites/schools	Supporting mental health initiatives in a school or schools	1 year in a high need school	Satisfactory performance in year 2
<i>UCA GA</i>	1	Stipends vary from 8,600 to 10,000	UCA Department	Teaching or research assistant	None	Apply through UCA departments
	2	Stipends vary from 8,200 to 10,000	UCA Department	Teaching or research assistant	None	Apply through UCA departments
	3	Stipends vary from 8,200 to 10,000	UCA Department	Teaching or research assistant	None	Apply through UCA departments

*Students are required to serve 1 year in a high-needs school or district for every year of grant support.



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