



School Psychologist Graduate Applicant Handbook

M.S. in Education: School Psychologist

Advanced Certificate: School Psychologist

Advanced Certificate: Bilingual School Psychologist

Brooklyn College, City University of New York

Department of School Psychology, Counseling, and Leadership

School Psychologist Graduate Program

1107 James Hall

2900 Bedford Avenue

Brooklyn, New York, 11210

(718)-951-5876

Revised: January 2024

Table of Contents

What is the philosophy of the School Psychologist Graduate Program?	4
School Psychologist Graduate Program Mission Statement	5
Program Goals	5
Application Questions.....	6
How do I apply?	6
Can I apply to the program in my last semester of undergraduate studies?	6
Are GREs required?.....	6
Is there a deadline for filing application?	6
Should I apply for the Master’s program or the Advanced Certificate?	6
What documents are required to apply?	6
After I submit the application, what will happen?.....	6
What prerequisite courses are required for this program?.....	7
What are the interviews for the program like?	7
How can I prepare for the writing sample?	7
Can I complete this program online?.....	7
Can I have my application fee waived?	8
What is being assessed during the admissions process?	8
Bilingual Specialization.....	8
What is required for the bilingual specialization?	8
Is sign language accepted for the bilingual specialization?.....	8
Program Questions	9
If I am accepted, what do I need to consider?	9
During my undergraduate experience, I worked full-time and had a full-time job. Is this really that much different?	9
Can I be accepted if my GPA is below a 3.0?	9
Can I complete my internship out of state?	10
How much is tuition for this program?.....	10
Are scholarships offered for this program?.....	10
Who can I contact for more information about your program?.....	10
Where can I go to learn more about the field of school psychology?.....	10
Program Plans.....	11
Typical Program for Degree and Certificate: Three Year	11

Typical Program for Degree and Certificate: Four Year 12
Typical Program for Degree and Certificate: Three Year –Bilingual Specialization 13
Typical Program for Degree and Certificate: Four Year –Bilingual Specialization..... 14

What is the philosophy of the School Psychologist Graduate Program?

The School Psychologist Graduate Program consists of a rigorous 60-credit curriculum in theory, research, and evidence-based practice. Extensive field experiences complement course work. With a strong background in measurement, psychological theory, and data-based decision-making, as well as knowledge of effective instructional techniques and psychological interventions, candidates in collaboration with families and school staff are prepared to provide a range of services that positively influence the educational achievement, development, and mental health of all children and youth.

The School Psychologist Graduate Program, offered through the Brooklyn College School of Education, is registered with the New York State Department of Education.

The School of Education has earned full NCATE accreditation. The Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools and the Association of American Universities accredit the College. The School Psychologist Graduate Program also adheres to the training standards established by National Association of School Psychologist (NASP) and is fully NASP approved.

The Program adopts the conceptual framework of the School of Education, and stresses the four central themes of collaboration, critical self-reflection and reflective practice, social justice, and diversity in coursework and field experiences.

Collaboration

The School of Education is committed to education as a collaborative process that requires sustained dialogue between relevant parties at all levels of our future practitioners' academic and professional lives. Our graduates should not only have a desire for collaboration, but should also strive to develop collaborative learning communities within their schools that are socially just, and intellectually and aesthetically rich.

Critical Self-Reflection and Reflective Practice

The School of Education is committed to fostering critical self-reflection and reflective practice. We believe a professional must reflect upon his or her own practice, rethinking it in terms of its intentions and its outcomes.

Social Justice

The School of Education is committed to education centered on social justice, preparing future professionals to assume active roles in shaping the social, cultural, and political future of their communities and beyond, crossing physical, cultural, and economic borders as they develop shared meanings and purposes.

Diversity

The School of Education is committed to addressing issues of race, ethnicity, class, cultural and linguistic diversity, religion, gender, sexuality, and special needs, as well as to accommodating learner differences and styles.

School Psychologist Graduate Program Mission Statement

The Brooklyn College School Psychologist Graduate Program strives to meet our urban community's need for highly competent, self-reflective, and compassionate school psychologists. The program is committed to improving the educational experiences, and addressing the mental health needs, of all children in our richly diverse schools.

Program Goals

The School Psychologist Graduate Program's training goals are consistent with practice and ethical guidelines of the National Association of School Psychologists and the American Psychological Association. Through a program of training and extensive field experiences the following competencies are developed

1. Proficiency in psycho-educational assessment related to school difficulties and learning disorders with the ability to translate these results into appropriate models of service delivery.
2. Proficiency in psychological assessment related to behavior, personality and mental disorders with the ability to translate these results into appropriate models of service delivery.
3. Proficiency in implementation of prevention strategies, and direct and indirect intervention approaches to serve all candidates' needs, particularly those with disabilities and the ability to evaluate the results of service outcomes.
4. Ability to engage in collaborative practice and implement a range of contextually appropriate consultative services.
5. Familiarity with the organization of schools, including general and special education, and developmentally appropriate curriculum approaches for children with diverse educational needs.
6. An understanding of research methodologies and the ability to implement applied research in complex urban school environments.
7. A capacity for critical self-reflection to gain insight on self and others for the purpose of evaluating and improving service delivery, and nurture a strong commitment to ethical guidelines of professional practice.
8. An understanding of the full range of diversity in the human condition, including, racial, cultural, ethnic, linguistic, socioeconomic, gender, sexual orientation, individual differences/disabilities, and a willingness and capability to work with all populations.
9. A commitment to promote school policies and ethical practices that advance social justice and expand opportunities for all children.
10. A capacity to use technology to develop and enhance school psychology practice.

Application Questions

How do I apply?

We have a convenient online application system where you can submit all your supporting documents. For information about how to apply, visit: <https://www.brooklyn.edu/admissions-aid/graduate/how-to-apply/>

Should you have application questions, you may contact the Office of Graduate Admissions in 222 West Quad or by email at grads@brooklyn.cuny.edu.

Can I apply to the program in my last semester of undergraduate studies?

Applicants who are in their final semester of undergraduate studies are welcome to apply to the program!

In order to ensure that you are able to begin the program for the semester you are applying for, you will want to plan to have your graduation from your undergraduate program processed no later than the Summer I semester.

Are GREs required?

GRE scores are not required; however, candidates may submit scores for consideration as part of the application process.

Is there a deadline for filing application?

Yes, the deadline for submission of the application and supporting materials is March 1st. **This deadline is firm -applications must be completed by this date to be considered for review.**

Should I apply for the Master's program or the Advanced Certificate?

You should apply for the Master's program. The Advanced Certificate is designed to be taken by our students after they complete their Master's degree.

What documents are required to apply?

In order to apply you should submit:

- ✓ Online application
- ✓ Transcripts from all universities attended
- ✓ Two letters of recommendation. If possible, at least one should be academic!
- ✓ A personal statement detailing your interest in this field and any experiences that lead you to pursue this course of study; your personal statement should also let us know why you are choosing to apply to our program.
- ✓ A copy of your resume or CV

After I submit the application, what will happen?

Once your application is complete (meaning all required documents are included), it will be released to the department by Graduate Admissions for review. In the department, your application will be reviewed by the admissions committee.

Applicants who meet minimum requirements and meet the criteria set by the admissions committee for a strong application may be invited for an interview.

What prerequisite courses are required for this program?

The School Psychology Program has four prerequisite courses. Faculty will review your transcript at the time of acceptance in order to determine whether the courses you have completed fill these requirements. If it is determined that any of these requirements need to be fulfilled, this will be communicated to you during the acceptance process.

Please note that you must achieve a grade of C or better in all prerequisite courses for them to be considered. If you are applying and you received a grade below C in any of these classes, you should make plans to re-take the course.

Additionally, whenever possible applicants should plan to have at least two of these requirements completed before applying. Applicants who have not completed any prerequisites will still be considered for admission, but if accepted it will make your summer before beginning the program much more challenging.

The prerequisite courses are as follows:

Course	Timeline for completion	Brooklyn College equivalent
Statistics in Psychology	Complete before beginning program	PSYC 3400
Developmental or Child Psychology	Complete before beginning program	PSYC 2210 or PSYC 2200
Tests and Measurements	Complete before beginning program	CBSE 7010 or PSYC 3850
Education course in reading instruction or teaching literacy	Complete before beginning of second year in program	SPCL 7941

It is highly advisable that you contact the program coordinator for course pre-approval to ensure that a course you plan to take will meet prerequisite requirements *before* taking the course.

What are the interviews for the program like?

Individuals whose application materials present them as a good match for the program may be invited to a group interview.

Interviews take place online via the Zoom platform. Applicants invited to interviews should prepare to be in a quiet space with a strong internet connection for the duration of the two-hour interview. All applicants will be required to keep their cameras on for the duration of the interview. A spontaneous writing sample will also be completed during the interview.

How can I prepare for the writing sample?

The writing sample requires students to respond to a question (or questions) selected by faculty. The response is meant to be spontaneous; no research will be required to answer the question. However, it is a good idea before your interview day to research the field of school psychology and be fully prepared to discuss what a career as a school psychologist would entail.

Can I complete this program online?

Our classes are primarily campus-based. Full-time students should expect to have classes that occur at any time of the day, as school is assumed to be their primary occupation; part-time students must be able to make it to campus no later than 4:30 for classes.

Can I have my application fee waived?

To inquire about the availability of fee waivers, please contact Graduate Admissions at grads@brooklyn.cuny.edu.

What is being assessed during the admissions process?

What is being assessed?	Assessment Tool
Undergraduate GPA (Graduate Work and GPA, if applicable)	Transcripts and/or syllabi (if requested)
Prerequisite courses	Transcripts
Experience	Resume, personal statement
Motivation	Personal statement, interview, on-site writing sample
Professional competencies	Interview, personal statement
Writing skill	Personal statement, on-site writing sample

Bilingual Specialization

What is required for the bilingual specialization?

Candidates who wish to complete the bilingual specialization must demonstrate proficiency in English along with the following requirements:

- The ability to read, write, and speak in a language other than English as demonstrated by the Bilingual Education Assessment (BEA) exam
- Additional coursework as indicated
- An internship supervised by a bilingually certified school psychologist, in a setting where the intern has access to students who speak their language.
 - The internship supervisor must also be fluent in the language spoken by the intern.
- Compliance with the New York State Education Department's requirements for citizenship

Additional coursework required for the bilingual specialization

Classes	Semester taken
SPCL 7823- Psycholinguistics, Bilingualism, and Counseling in Schools	Spring 1
SPCL- 7914- Psychological Assessment of Diverse Students	Spring 2 or 3

For additional questions regarding the bilingual extension, you can contact the bilingual specialization coordinator, Dr. Graciela Elizalde-Utnick at gutnick@brooklyn.cuny.edu.

Is sign language accepted for the bilingual specialization?

While this is an extremely valuable skill for anyone to have, the New York State Education Department does not currently consider sign language for the bilingual certification in school psychology.

Program Questions

If I am accepted, what do I need to consider?

1. Classes in our program run Monday-Thursday during the Fall and Spring semesters only; **coursework for the Master's program is not offered during summer sessions, on Fridays, or on the weekend.**
2. **Full-time students can be scheduled for classes that begin at any time throughout the day. Part-time students must be able to get to campus no later than 4:30 for classes.** Work schedules and other commitments should be planned accordingly.
3. Practicum in School Psychology I and II (SPCL 7931T and 7932T) are both required courses in which candidates spend at least 100 hours per semester in the field and attend a weekly seminar at the college. Practicum occurs in the second year of the program for full-time students, and in the third year for part-time students. All placements must meet Criteria for Field Placements and be approved by the program. **It will require you to be in a school setting one day a week, so consider carefully how work or other obligations will allow you to complete this course.**
4. The internship in school psychology requires students to complete a 1,200 hour internship over the course of the 10-month school year. This is the equivalent of having a full-time job; this makes it impossible for candidates to maintain full-time employment in another field during the internship year. All placements must meet Criteria for Internship Placements and be approved by the program. Students may also choose to complete the internship part-time over the course of two years.
5. **Admission to the three-year (i.e., full-time) program precludes full-time employment.** Also, many students in the part-time track find it exceedingly difficult to maintain full-time employment while attending the program; they often end up cutting back work hours to successfully manage both work and coursework. We strongly urge all applicants to only consider part-time employment while in the program.

During my undergraduate experience, I worked full-time and had a full-time job. Is this really that much different?

Yes! In addition to the demands of fieldwork, the School Psychology program requires a great deal of outside reading, writing, and personal work. A graduate program in counseling is designed to help you to develop into a professional school psychologist, and this is a process that requires time and space to integrate the material you are learning into your practice. If you are working full-time, we will strongly recommend attending this program part-time.

Both full- and part-time students require flexibility in their schedules in order to meet the obligations of the program.

Can I be accepted if my GPA is below a 3.0?

In graduate school, you must maintain a GPA of 3.0 in order to remain matriculated in the program, so our most successful applicants have a GPA have achieved this GPA. If your GPA is a little below this, you can

discuss in your personal statement or in a letter to the admissions committee any factors that might have contributed to a lower overall GPA.

If your GPA is much below a 3.0, we recommend that you take some additional coursework to show a more current record of achievement. If you are missing any of the prerequisite courses or achieved a lower grade in these classes, it would be ideal to start here when pursuing additional coursework. If you are seeking additional classes, those dealing with the social sciences; young people and their families; and the diversity of human experiences would be a good match. Classes that are writing intensive will also help you in preparing for the program.

Can I complete my internship out of state?

Many of our students have completed their internships in other states including, New Jersey, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Florida, New Hampshire, and California just to name a few! Approval of the internship coordinator is required to complete an out-of-state internship.

How much is tuition for this program?

Information regarding tuition can be found on the Bursar's website:

<https://www.brooklyn.edu/bursar/tuition-and-fees/graduate/>

Are scholarships offered for this program?

The Brooklyn College Alumni Association has an award for Graduate Student scholarships. For more information about this and other scholarship opportunities, please visit the scholarship office's website here:

<https://www.brooklyn.edu/admissions-aid/financial-aid-scholarships/scholarships/apply/>

The program also occasionally receives money for monetary awards for students; the program coordinator will notify accepted applicants and current students about these opportunities when and if they become available.

The Department of Education offers a scholarship for students who wish to train as bilingual school psychologists. For more information, please see their website:

http://www.teachnycprograms.net/getpage.php?page_id=59.

Who can I contact for more information about your program?

The Program Coordinator is Dr. Paul McCabe and he can be reached at paulmc@brooklyn.cuny.edu. The Clinical Coordinator, Jennifer Millan, can also answer questions about the program; she can be reached at jmillan@brooklyn.cuny.edu.

Where can I go to learn more about the field of school psychology?

According to U.S. News and World Report, school psychology is ranked as the number three social services career in the United States¹ and there are many exciting opportunities for people entering this field. It is considered to be one of the top 40 careers in the United States by U.S. News and World Report too!

To learn more about the work that school psychologists do, we encourage you to visit the website for the National Association of School Psychologists (<https://www.nasponline.org/>) as well as the website for the New York State Association of School Psychologists (<http://www.nyasp.org/>).

¹ <http://money.usnews.com/careers/best-jobs/school-psychologist>

Program Plans

Typical Program for Degree and Certificate: Three Year

	COURSE	TITLE	CREDITS
FALL 1			
	7910X	Cognitive and Academic Assessment I	4
	7900X	Theories of Human Development	3
	7922T	Multicultural Counseling and Consultation in Schools	3
	7903T	Problems & Practices in School Psychology	3
		TOTAL	13
SPRING 1			
	7911X	Cognitive and Academic Assessment II	3
	7901X	Developmental Psychopathology	3
	7915X	Behavioral Assessment and Intervention	3
	7907X	Neuropsychology of Learning	3
		TOTAL	12
FALL 2			
	7912X	Social and Adaptive Behavioral Assessment	4
	7931T	Practicum in School Psychology I	2
	7906X	Instructional Interventions in Schools	3
	7920X	Theory and Practice of Mental Health Counseling in Schools	4
		TOTAL	13
SPRING 2			
	7932T	Practicum in School Psychology II	2
	7913X	Integration of Assessment and Report Writing	3
	7923X	Consultation in the Schools	3
	7921X	Counseling Children and Families	4
		TOTAL	12
FALL 3			
	7933X	Internship in School Psychology I	3
	7904T	Crisis Intervention and Prevention Research in Schools	2
		TOTAL	5
SPRING 3			
	7934X	Internship in School Psychology II	3
	7905X	Research Seminar in School Psychology II	2
		TOTAL	5
		Total Credits in Program	60

Typical Program for Degree and Certificate: Four Year

	COURSE	TITLE	CREDITS
FALL 1			
	7910X	Cognitive and Academic Assessment I	4
	7900X	Theories of Human Development	3
		TOTAL	7
SPRING 1			
	7911X	Cognitive and Academic Assessment II	3
	7901X	Developmental Psychopathology	3
		TOTAL	6
FALL 2			
	7912X	Social and Adaptive Behavioral Assessment	4
	7922T	Multicultural Counseling and Consultation in Schools	3
	7903T	Problems & Practices in School Psychology	3
		TOTAL	10
SPRING 2			
	7913X	Integration of Assessment and Report Writing	3
	7915X	Behavioral Assessment and Intervention	3
	7907X	Neuropsychology of Learning	3
		TOTAL	9
FALL 3			
	7931T	Practicum in School Psychology I	2
	7906X	Instructional Interventions in Schools	3
	7920X	Theory and Practice of Mental Health Counseling in Schools	4
		TOTAL	9
SPRING 3			
	7932T	Practicum in School Psychology II	2
	7923X	Consultation in the Schools	3
	7921X	Counseling Children and Families	4
		TOTAL	9
FALL 4			
	7933X	Internship in School Psychology I	3
	7904X	Research Seminar in School Psychology II	2
		TOTAL	5
SPRING 4			
	7934X	Internship in School Psychology II	3
	7905X	Research Seminar in School Psychology II	2
		TOTAL	5
		Total Credits in Program	60

Typical Program for Degree and Certificate: Three Year –Bilingual Specialization

	COURSE	TITLE	CREDITS
FALL 1			
	7910X	Cognitive and Academic Assessment I	4
	7900X	Theories of Human Development	3
	7922T	Multicultural Counseling and Consultation in Schools	3
	7903T	Problems & Practices in School Psychology	3
		TOTAL	13
SPRING 1			
	7911X	Cognitive and Academic Assessment II	3
	7901X	Developmental Psychopathology	3
	7915X	Behavioral Assessment and Intervention	3
	7907X	Neuropsychology of Learning	3
	7823T	Psycholinguistics, Bilingualism, and Counseling in Schools	3
		TOTAL	15
FALL 2			
	7912X	Social and Adaptive Behavioral Assessment	4
	7931T	Practicum in School Psychology I	2
	7906X	Instructional Interventions in Schools	3
	7920X	Theory and Practice of Mental Health Counseling in Schools	4
		TOTAL	13
SPRING 2			
	7932T	Practicum in School Psychology II	2
	7913X	Integration of Assessment and Report Writing	3
	7923X	Consultation in the Schools	3
	7921X	Counseling Children and Families	4
	7914X	Psychological Assessment of Diverse Students	3
		TOTAL	15
FALL 3			
	7933X	Internship in School Psychology I	3
	7904T	Crisis Intervention and Prevention Research in Schools	2
		TOTAL	5
SPRING 3			
	7934X	Internship in School Psychology II	3
	7905X	Research Seminar in School Psychology II	2
		TOTAL	5

Typical Program for Degree and Certificate: Four Year –Bilingual Specialization

	COURSE	TITLE	CREDITS
FALL 1			
	7910X	Cognitive and Academic Assessment I	4
	7900X	Theories of Human Development	3
		TOTAL	7
SPRING 1			
	7911X	Cognitive and Academic Assessment II	3
	7901X	Developmental Psychopathology	3
	7823T	Psycholinguistics, Bilingualism, and Counseling in Schools	3
		TOTAL	9
FALL 2			
	7912X	Social and Adaptive Behavioral Assessment	4
	7922T	Multicultural Counseling and Consultation in Schools	3
	7903T	Problems & Practices in School Psychology	3
		TOTAL	10
SPRING 2			
	7913X	Integration of Assessment and Report Writing	3
	7915X	Behavioral Assessment and Intervention	3
	7907X	Neuropsychology of Learning	3
		TOTAL	9
FALL 3			
	7931T	Practicum in School Psychology I	2
	7906X	Instructional Interventions in Schools	3
	7920X	Theory and Practice of Mental Health Counseling in Schools	4
		TOTAL	9
SPRING 3			
	7932T	Practicum in School Psychology II	2
	7923X	Consultation in the Schools	3
	7921X	Counseling Children and Families	4
	7914X	Psychological Assessment of Diverse Students	3
		TOTAL	12
FALL 4			
	7933X	Internship in School Psychology I	3
	7904T	Crisis Intervention and Prevention Research in Schools	2
		TOTAL	5
SPRING 4			
	7934X	Internship in School Psychology II	3
	7905X	Research Seminar in School Psychology II	2
		TOTAL	5
		Total Credits in Program	60