Gain a Competitive Edge

What Do Students Like About The WCU School Psychology Graduate Program?

- Small cohorts which encourages unity and collaboration
- Friendly, helpful, & supportive faculty
- Opportunities for involvement in the schools and community
- Clinic assessment opportunities involving a wide range of assessment activities with access to many different assessment instruments
- Prepared to enter internship with high levels of knowledge and experience that are recognized by field supervisors
- Opportunities for research with faculty who have various interests
- Faculty who are involved at the state and national level and encourage the students to do the same

School Psychology Program

schoolpsychology.wcu.edu
GRADUATE PROGRAM IN SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY

The School Psychology Graduate Program at Western Carolina University (WCU) is recognized as an approved training program by the National Association of School Psychologists. Our program is based on a child advocacy model. Students are trained to facilitate growth in the development, behavior, and learning of children of all ages. The assessment, intervention, and consultation training provided by the program has an ecological and systems-level perspective and focuses on a cognitive-behavioral orientation. Additionally, an understanding of diversity and individual differences is highlighted.

Throughout this program students are provided with opportunities to apply the knowledge and skills they are acquiring through coursework. They are encouraged to engage in the community and to become advocates for the educational needs of all children. As they prepare for graduation, the students are also encouraged to continue their professional development and involvement at the local, state, and national levels.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

• We have a 72 hour program (3 years full time) including course work, research work, and practicum and internship experiences that lead to a Specialist in School Psychology (SSP) degree.
• Our students enter as a cohort and proceed through all program requirements together.
• Our students are challenged to perform at a high level but are also given the support needed to succeed.
• We have a clinic training facility that provides students with exceptional assessment training experiences with access to state of the art assessment instruments.
• School Psychologists in our region are very willing to provide supervision and support to our students in the completion of various course and practicum requirements.
• The psychology department has been very supportive of obtaining as many graduate assistantships and other financial aid as possible for all of the graduate students in the department.
• Following completion of the program students are eligible to apply for licensure as a school psychologist through state education agencies as well as licensure at the associate level through some state psychological boards.
• Our graduates have been very successful in completing national Praxis exams and in obtaining jobs in a variety of different settings.

PROGRAM APPLICATION AND ADMISSION PROCESS

If you are interested in applying to our program, please keep the following pieces of information in mind:

1. Complete applications are due February 1st each year for consideration for the cohort entering the next Fall semester. The application process is done electronically through the Graduate School.
2. You are required to include with your application the following documents:
   • official transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate work completed
   • official copies of GRE scores
   • three letters of recommendation
   • a personal statement regarding your interest in school psychology and WCU
3. All of this information is considered as a whole when determining which students are best suited for graduate work in the WCU School Psychology Graduate Program.
4. Each year, top applicants are selected for a series of online interviews with faculty and current students. Based on those interviews, applicants who are accepted into the program are also invited to attend an Open House on campus.
5. The goal each year is to have cohorts of 8 to 12 students entering together in the fall semester.

WCU GRADUATE SCHOOL
grad.wcu.edu

For more information
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