

## School Psychology Career Roles and Rewards

School psychology appears on many “best career” lists. *U.S. News and World Report* recently identified *School Psychology* as “one of the Best Jobs in 2012.” The rewards are many, and the opportunity to provide meaningful service to others is great.

You can make a very real difference in the lives of students. School Psychologists work with students to overcome psychological, social, emotional and physical problems that prevent them from being successful. Working with the family, teachers and others that surround the student, the School Psychologist works to solve those problems and positions the student to succeed. While the stress of working with many variables—students, teachers, parents—can be high, the career is extremely fulfilling.

Your efforts result in highly tangible rewards for the students you help. In 2007, for example, a worker without a high school diploma earned an average of \$19,045 per year (U.S. Census data). A worker with a high school diploma earned \$26,894 per year, a difference of 41.21% ! Another reward? The high school graduate can move to an average of \$32,874 per year with some college or an associate’s degree, and to an average annual salary of \$46,805 with a bachelor's degree.

According to the National Association of School Psychologists, the job outlook for school psychologists is “very promising.” A majority of current practitioners will reach retirement age within the next ten years, increasing demand for school psychologists with the proper educational backgrounds.

Starting salaries for school psychologists vary by regions of the country. The average annual salary for a 190 contract ranges from approximately \$47,880 to \$67,070. (Source: nasponline.org)

## About the Program

The Master of Science in School Psychology consists of 30 credit hours. Students beginning the program in the Fall will complete the program in four semesters, plus two courses in the summer. Summer courses will start at the beginning of the summer intercession, and students will be required to attend an advanced workshop on campus as part of the classes. This will give students hands-on experience in the art of appraisal, a key skill necessary for practicing school psychologists. These workshops are the only times you will be required to attend class on campus. Students will also have the option to enroll full-time.

Upon successful completion of the Master’s course work, eligible students may apply to continue into the Education Specialist in School Psychology Program.



FORT HAYS STATE  
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### Admission Requirements

**To be eligible for admission to the program, successful candidates will have:**

- Earned a bachelor’s degree in psychology OR education (with 12 hours of course work from a Psychology Department).
- Completed one statistics or research course with a “C” or better from any discipline
- A 3.0 or higher cumulative GPA

**To apply to the program, applicants must provide the following:**

- Scores from either the GRE (Graduate Record Exam) or MAT (Miller’s Analogy Test). Test scores must have been received in the past five years prior to your application date. *There are no minimum scores required per se; each application is evaluated on its own merit.*
- Two professional letters of recommendation
- Statement of intent, including career goals and your interest in the program and degree.
- Transcripts from your undergraduate program.
- A completed interview questionnaire.
- A completed file submitted to the FHSU Graduate School by October 15th for the Spring semester, and March 15th for the Fall semester.

All materials listed above must be sent to the Graduate School (600 Park Street, Picken Hall Room 306, Hays, KS 67601). Do not send any application materials to the Psychology Department.

## Master of Science and Education Specialist School Psychology



Course work delivered online (PSY 840 requires a campus visit during the summer).

## Fort Hays State University Master of Science in School Psychology

Are you interested in becoming a school psychologist, but are unable to relocate to take classes? The Department of Psychology is pleased to offer the 30 credit hour Master of Science and the 36 credit hour Education Specialist degrees in School Psychology through FHSU's award-winning Virtual College. Below is an example of the M.S. curriculum for a part-time student:

Fall 1	Course #	Hours
Behavior Therapy	PSY 685	3
Developmental Psychology	PSY 810	3
<b>Spring 1</b>		
Professional Ethics in Psychology	PSY 830	3
Methods in School Psychology	PSY 880	3
<b>Summer 1</b>		
Appraisal of Children	PSY 840	4
Curriculum Based Measurement	PSY 670	1
<b>Fall 2</b>		
Experimental Methods	PSY 845	3
Observations in School Psychology	PSY 881	1
<b>Spring 2</b>		
Inferential Statistics	PSY 850	3
Advanced Learning & Motivation	PSY 820	3
*Floating 3 hour elective (Neuropsychology or Advanced Child Psychopathology)	PSY 668 or PSY 812	3
<b>Total Hours for M.S.</b>		<b>30</b>

In addition to course work, second year students will be required to complete 8 hours of comprehensive examinations of the Spring semester.

## Fort Hays State University Education Specialist in School Psychology

Once you have successfully completed the Master's program, you may apply to continue into the Education Specialist in School Psychology program. Below is an example of the Ed.S. curriculum for a part-time student:

Fall 1	Course #	Hours
Theories of Exceptionality	SPED 802	3
Program Evaluation	PSY 846	3
<b>Spring 1</b>		
Characteristics of Early Childhood Special Education	SPED 811	3
Psychological Consultation in Schools	PSY 981	3
<b>Summer 1</b>		
Cultural Diversity	AEP 880	3
Legal and Professional Issues in SPED	SPED 801	3
<b>Fall 2</b>		
Practicum in School Psychology	PSY 984	3
Portfolio	PSY 990	3
Elective*		3
<b>Spring 2</b>		
Practicum in School Psychology	PSY 984	6
Portfolio	PSY 990	3
<b>Total Hours for Ed.S.</b>		<b>36</b>
<b>Total Hours for M.S. and Ed.S.</b>		<b>66</b>

\* Recommended electives include:

- COUN 827, Counseling Skills Development, 3 hours
- COUN 838, Group Counseling: Theories and Procedures, 3 hours

Four (4) hours of comprehensive exams are required in the Spring semester of the second year.

## Fort Hays State University

### IMPORTANT ITEMS TO REMEMBER

- GPA of 3.0 or higher in program classes, 3.0 overall GPA
- Graduate School must receive your completed application by April 15 (March 1 for priority consideration); all components of application will then be forwarded to the Psychology Department for faculty assessment. If your application was received by April 15, you should receive feedback by May 1
- Prior to each semester meet with your academic advisor
- Upon completion of Ed.S. degree, students are required to complete a 1,2000 hour internship and enroll in 4 credits as a non-degree seeking student for licensure.

### Why Choose FHSU?

- Fully online (except one campus visit for PSY 840)
- Engaging classes taught by highly qualified and committed faculty
- An exceptional value
- Highly competitive tuition/fees
- Departmental scholarships (competitive)
- Hands-on learning opportunities through intensive and engaging course work
- Program has an excellent reputation
- Personalized advising
- Challenging advanced workshops and comprehensive internship let you put theory into real-world practice

## Fort Hays State University Helpful Links

**Application for Admission (Graduate School)**  
<http://www.fhsu.edu/academic/gradschl/apply/>

**Department of Psychology**  
<http://www.fhsu.edu/psych/>

**School Psychology FAQ page**  
<http://www.fhsu.edu/psych/School-Psychology-FAQ/>

**FHSU MS in School Psychology Program**  
<http://www.fhsu.edu/psych/school-psychology/>

**Interview Questions**  
<http://www.fhsu.edu/psych/school-psychology/>

**FHSU Financial Aid**  
<https://www.fhsu.edu/finaid/>

**Virtual College**  
<http://www.fhsu.edu/virtualcollege/>

**National Association of School Psychologists**  
<http://www.nasponline.org/>

### For More Information Contact:

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Fort Hays State University is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association and the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education