Master of Science (MS) in Psychology with a specialization in Educational Psychology

Effective July 10, 2017
Master of Science (MS) in Psychology with a specialization in Educational Psychology

The master’s Educational Psychology specialization offers learners the opportunity to strengthen their credentials in order to pursue careers in public education and instruction, lifespan development from early childhood through late adulthood, and educational technology, as well as to prepare them for doctoral study in psychology and other related disciplines. Specialization outcomes allow learners to gain and demonstrate a working knowledge of the application of learning, human development and socialization, educational psychology, ethics, tests and measurements, and basic statistics and research methods. These specialization requirements are not intended to prepare graduates for licensure as a professional counselor or psychologist.

Career Information

RELATED EMPLOYMENT SETTINGS TO EXPLORE

- Community college
- P–12 public/private school
- School district—local or state
- Military
- Educational consulting firm
- Government—local, state, federal
- Test publisher
- Health care
- Nonprofit organization
- Training company
- Research organization
- State department of education
- Educational system

RELATED JOB TITLES TO EXPLORE

- Adjunct or part-time faculty
- Instructor
- Training and development specialist/manager
- Research assistant
- Test developer
- Educational program manager
- Instructional coordinator/manager
- Test administrator
- Instructional activities manager
- Curriculum developer
- Program evaluator
- Consultant

SPECIALIZATION OUTCOMES

- Analyze professional literature in the educational psychology field to determine its scientific merit
- Apply theoretical and proven research findings from the educational psychology discipline to professional and academic activities
- Act in a manner consistent with ethical principles and standards of the educational psychology discipline, both professionally and academically
- Demonstrate an understanding and sensitivity to group and individual differences
- Effectively communicate psychological concepts and information within the professional community and to the public, using the professional standards of the educational psychology discipline

* These are examples intended to serve as a general guide. Because many factors determine what position an individual may attain, Capella cannot guarantee that a graduate will secure any specific job title.

† Some positions require licensure and/or other designations. We encourage you to research requirements for your job target and career goals.

‡ The requirements of this specialization are not designed to prepare graduates for licensure as a psychologist or school psychologist.

This guide is intended to provide an overview of the specialization and is subject to change. Your enrollment counselor can provide updates, details, and Capella’s official University Catalog that specifies your program requirements.
Curriculum

- 10 required courses
- Total program credits: 50 quarter credits

CORE COURSES

- PSY5002 Foundations of Theory and Practice for Master’s Psychology Learners† .......................... 5 quarter credits OR
- PSY5005 Foundations of Theory and Practice for Master’s Psychology Learners† .......................... 5 quarter credits
- PSY7610 Tests and Measurements .............................................. 5 quarter credits
- PSY7860 Survey of Research Methods ........................................... 5 quarter credits
- PSY7864 Quantitative Design and Analysis ........................................ 5 quarter credits

SPECIALIZATION COURSES

- PSY6100* Introduction to Educational Psychology ........................................... 5 quarter credits
- PSY7210 Lifespan Development ......................................................... 5 quarter credits
- PSY7411 Learning Theories in Psychology .............................................. 5 quarter credits
- PSY7543* Ethics and Multicultural Issues in Psychology ......................... 5 quarter credits
- PSY8763* Program Evaluation ......................................................... 5 quarter credits

Taken during the learner’s final quarter:
- PSY5201* Integrative Project for Master’s Degree in Psychology ........... 5 quarter credits

† Learners who may need additional support developing graduate-level academic and professional writing skills are placed in PSY5005.

* Denotes courses that have prerequisite(s). Refer to the course descriptions for further details.

The courses in this program may require live web conferencing activities and/or learner audio/video recordings. Learners who require assistive technology or alternative communication methods to participate in these activities should contact Disability Services to request accommodations.
Core Course Descriptions

**PSY5002  Foundations of Theory and Practice for Master's Psychology Learners**
5 QUARTER CREDITS
In this course, learners acquire the ability to navigate the Capella courseroom and use the resources that support academic success, including the library and writing center. Learners identify and practice the academic requirements (including APA style and formatting) necessary to successfully complete the Master's degree program in their chosen specialization; review their specialization's requirements, associated professional roles and organizations, and ethics and professional standards; and articulate a professional identity based on master's-level psychology or counseling training. For MS in Psychology and MS in Clinical Psychology learners only. Learners may earn credit for either PSY5002 or PSY5005, but not both. Must be taken during the learner's first quarter. Cannot be fulfilled by transfer.

**PSY5005  Foundations of Theory and Practice for Master's Psychology Learners**
5 QUARTER CREDITS
In this course, learners acquire the ability to navigate the Capella courseroom and use the resources that support academic success, including the library and writing center. Learners identify and practice the academic requirements (including APA style and formatting) necessary to successfully complete the Master's degree program in their chosen specialization; review their specialization's requirements, associated professional roles and organizations, and ethics and professional standards; and articulate a professional identity based on master's-level psychology or counseling training. For MS in Psychology and MS in Clinical Psychology learners only. Learners may earn credit for either PSY5002 or PSY5005, but not both. Must be taken during the learner's first quarter. Cannot be fulfilled by transfer.

**PSY7610  Tests and Measurements**
5 QUARTER CREDITS
This course focuses on essential concepts, principles, applications, and social and theoretical issues of psychological testing. Learners gain understanding in the construction of tests; analyze the development and use of tests in measuring aptitudes, achievement, attitudes, interests, and personality; and identify underlying theories of various tests. Learners analyze the characteristics desired in psychological and educational tests, with particular emphasis on reliability and validity, and examine best practices and professional standards for educational and psychological testing, including test bias and fairness. In addition, learners study the role of technology in delivery, administration, scoring, and interpretation of tests.

**PSY7860  Survey of Research Methods**
5 QUARTER CREDITS
Learners in this course critically evaluate research in order to gain an understanding of the scientific methods of inquiry and the ethical considerations of research. Learners focus on becoming educated consumers and creators of research. Learners also use their research design skills to analyze and apply research methodologies, validity, reliability and other components of scientific research related to their field of interest.

**PSY7864  Quantitative Design and Analysis**
5 QUARTER CREDITS
In this course, learners investigate the fundamental concepts needed to conduct quantitative research. Learners examine and apply quantitative research techniques; appropriate applications of quantitative research; research design, measurement, and analysis, and their associated interdependencies; variable types and levels of measurement; sampling; descriptive and inferential statistics; and hypothesis testing. Learners define the strengths and limitations of descriptive statistics, analyze the quantitative scales of measurement, review the logic of probability and null hypothesis testing, and leverage technology when applicable. Learners also determine the steps necessary to ensure human subjects protection, and consider methodological adaptations when conducting research with vulnerable and diverse populations.
Specialization Course Descriptions

**PSY6100  Introduction to Educational Psychology**  
5 QUARTER CREDITS  
Learners in this course identify and describe the principles of learning, motivation, and assessment necessary to teach educational psychology. Throughout the course, learners examine specific strategies used to enhance pedagogy, curriculum design and adaptation, and learner performance. *Prerequisite(s): PSY5002 or PSY5005 or PSY8002.*

**PSY7210  Lifespan Development**  
5 QUARTER CREDITS  
In this course, learners gain and apply knowledge of lifespan development from infancy through adulthood, including human development processes and milestones. Learners evaluate theories and approaches for examining human development and analyze human development processes related to their specialization.

**PSY7411  Learning Theories in Psychology**  
5 QUARTER CREDITS  
This course focuses on the concepts and principles of learning theory and its sub-processes, especially those associated with cognition. Learners evaluate and articulate major learning theories, practice applying these learning theories and their associated processes to teaching, and analyze the effects of various behavioral and cognitive sub-processes on learning.

**PSY7543  Ethics and Multicultural Issues in Psychology**  
5 QUARTER CREDITS  
In this course, learners analyze multicultural perspectives and factors such as ethnicity, socioeconomic status, and gender, and their influences on the ethical behavior of psychology professionals. Learners evaluate and articulate multicultural issues within the context of different settings and practice applying ethical reasoning principles and standards within their profession. *Prerequisite(s): PSY5002 or PSY5005 or PSY8002.*

**PSY8763  Program Evaluation**  
5 QUARTER CREDITS  
Learners in this course examine the theories, techniques, methods, and processes used for program evaluation. Learners synthesize knowledge and skills gained from prior course work to design a program evaluation, plan its implementation, and communicate the results in appropriate and effective formats. *Prerequisite(s): PSY7864.*

Capstone Course Description

**PSY5201  Integrative Project for Master’s Degree in Psychology**  
5 QUARTER CREDITS  
In this course, learners demonstrate mastery of knowledge, scholarship, and research proficiency in their chosen specialization. Learners apply ethical principles to academic and professional activities and effectively articulate psychology concepts using the discipline’s standards. *For MS in Psychology learners only. Must be taken during the learner’s final quarter. Prerequisite(s): All required and elective coursework. Cannot be fulfilled by transfer.*
**Recommended Course Sequence**

This recommended course sequence assumes learners take two courses per quarter. Some learners elect to take fewer or more based on workload and the amount of time available for graduate study. On-time completion for this specialization is 11 active quarters.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR 1</th>
<th>COURSES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Q1</td>
<td>PSY5002 Foundations of Theory and Practice for Master’s Psychology Learners† OR PSY5005 Foundations of Theory and Practice for Master’s Psychology Learners†</td>
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<tr>
<td>Q2</td>
<td>PSY7610 Tests and Measurements PSY7210 Lifespan Development</td>
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<td>Q3</td>
<td>PSY8763 Program Evaluation PSY6100 Introduction to Educational Psychology</td>
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<td>Q4</td>
<td>PSY7864 Quantitative Design and Analysis PSY7411 Learning Theories in Psychology</td>
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<th>YEAR 2</th>
<th>COURSES</th>
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<tr>
<td>Q5</td>
<td>PSY7860 Survey of Research Methods PSY7543 Ethics and Multicultural Issues in Psychology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Q6</td>
<td>PSY5201 Integrative Project for Master’s Degree in Psychology</td>
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†Learners who may need additional support developing graduate-level academic and professional writing skills are placed in PSY5005.
Financial Aid

Capella University offers assistance to learners who qualify and would like to secure educational funding to help finance their academic program. A number of options are available, given the diverse needs and backgrounds of prospective learners. Options include:

- Federal Direct Stafford Loan Program
- Federal Direct PLUS Loan Program
- Non-federal loans through preferred lenders and financial institutions
- Capella scholarships
- External scholarships
- Veterans' educational benefits and U.S. armed forces discounts
- Corporate and higher education alliances
- Employer tuition reimbursement

Regarding loan programs, interest rates for Stafford student loans are low compared to other types of consumer loans, and repayment can be deferred until after graduation. In compliance with federal and state laws, Capella University has established policies for all learners regarding satisfactory academic progress, which is necessary for financial aid eligibility.
Academic Leadership

Andrea Miller, PhD
Dean
Andrea Miller is the dean of the Department of Psychology in the Harold Abel School of Social and Behavioral Sciences at Capella University. Dr. Miller has worked as a member of the Capella undergraduate psychology department since 2010 and has taught online since 2005. Her professional background includes work as a psychologist in the public schools and as a psychologist and supervisor for non-profit clinics. She specializes in working with children and families as well as individuals of all ages with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities. Dr. Miller is licensed as a psychologist in three states, licensed as a specialist in school psychology, and a human services board certified practitioner. She is active in psychological associations and served as President of the Georgia Psychological Association from 2013–2014. Dr. Miller holds a PhD in Counseling Psychology from Texas Woman’s University and a BA in Psychology from the University of Michigan.

Weston Edwards, PhD
Faculty Chair
Dr. Edwards has taught online since 2005. He joined Capella as a part-time faculty member in 2011 and stepped into the interim faculty chair role in 2016. Dr. Edwards obtained his PhD from an APA-approved counseling psychology program and is a licensed psychologist in Minnesota and Nevada. Dr. Edwards also holds an MA in Counseling Psychology from the University of St. Thomas. He has clinical practice experience in a variety of settings including outpatient multidisciplinary clinic and residential chemical dependency treatment program. His area of clinical practice includes general mental health, substance use disorders, as well as sexuality. He has been active in training new clinicians in the area of human sexuality, and his research interests focus on sexuality.
Move Forward with Capella University

WORKING SCHOLARS
Capella provides an online, flexible learning environment for working adults who are also determined scholars. That connection between academic and professional work infuses the entire Capella experience—from the faculty we recruit to the course projects you complete. The theories discussed in the courseroom are designed to develop working knowledge for everyday situations.

AN ACCREDITED UNIVERSITY
Our accreditation* is an assurance to students, employers, and the public that Capella University meets or exceeds established standards for quality of faculty, curriculum, and learner services. It is also an important factor in the ability to transfer credits among higher education institutions. Regional accreditation, the type held by Capella, is the most common type for major public, state, and private institutions in the United States.

VALUING YOUR KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE
Adults bring a wealth of experience and learning to their education. Capella courses are designed to bring out your perspectives just as you gain from others’ ideas. Your knowledge can also be worth time and money: An enrollment counselor can help you estimate how much of your prior learning may apply toward your Capella degree program.

*ACCREDITATION
Capella University is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission.

HIGHER LEARNING COMMISSION
https://www.hlcommission.org
800.621.7440

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