

A top-down view of a wooden desk. In the top left, a small potted plant with green leaves sits in a dark pot. To its right is a white computer keyboard. In the bottom right, there is a black notebook with a white page, a black pen, and a white coffee cup with a dark liquid. The text 'School Psychology' is centered on the desk in a white, italicized serif font, with a short green horizontal line underneath it. The background is a dark, semi-transparent overlay.

# *School Psychology*

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# *What is School Psychology?*

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- School psychology is the subdiscipline that focuses most with how students are functioning in the classroom. Contrary to popular belief, school psychologists are not just for grades K through 12. They ensure that students are learning properly while maintaining healthy lifestyles and are developing at a normal rate. More information can be found using the links provided below:

<https://www.apa.org/ed/graduate/specialize/school>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dMOI6FL-kKU&ab\\_channel=RillSheed](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dMOI6FL-kKU&ab_channel=RillSheed)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EnPOoWDEOe4&ab\\_channel=Mrs.SchoolPsych](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EnPOoWDEOe4&ab_channel=Mrs.SchoolPsych)

# *Potential Career Paths in School Psychology:*

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- Licensed School Psychologist.
  - This path requires receiving either an Ed.S., Ph.D., Ed.D, or an M.A. if in West Virginia. This changes by state, so be sure to do your research when deciding what graduate program you would like to attend!

# *Undergraduate Recommended Courses in Psychology:*

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- Social Psychology (**PSY 302**).
- Child Development (**PSY 311**).
- Adult Development (**PSY 312**).
- Personality (**PSY 360**).
- Abnormal Psychology (**PSY 408**).
- Psychology of Learning (**PSY 416\***).
- Race, Culture, and Developmental Processes/Cross Cultural Psychology (**PSY 475/PSY 426\***).

\* make sure to look at the pre-requisites for these courses, as there are more than just PSY 201! Ask an Advising Officer if you have any questions 😊

# *Undergraduate Recommended Courses Outside of Psychology:*

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- Introduction to Communication Disorders (**CD 101**).
- Language and Speech Development (**CD 228 - May Need Permission to Take!**).
- Developmental Language Disorders (**CD 328 - Need Permission to Take!**).
- Survey Exceptional Child I and II (**CISP 320 and 420 - Must Take at the Same Time!**).
- Child With Exceptionalities (**CISP 421**).
- Introduction to Autism (**CISP 427**).
- Juvenile Justice (**CJ 325\***).
- Introduction to Communication Theory (**CMM 303\***).

\* make sure to look at the pre-requisites for these courses! Ask an Advising Officer if you have any questions ☺

# *Recommended Minors and Certificates:*

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- Communication Disorders Minor.
- Communication Studies Minor.
- Social Work Minor.
- Sociology Minor.
- Women's and Gender Studies Minor.
- Foreign Language Minor (of your choice).

# *Accelerated Masters Students Recommended Courses:*

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- Psychometrics (**PSY 506** instead of PSY 406).
- Abnormal Psychology (**PSY 508** instead of PSY 408).
- Psychology of Learning (**PSY 516** instead of PSY 416).
- Intermediate Behavioral Statistics (**PSY 517** instead of PSY 417).

# *Is Graduate Training Required?*

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- Graduate training is required to practice school psychology, though there are many routes offered to do so. Make sure you do your research and check the licensing requirements for the state that you would like to practice in for more information!
- Consider joining the National Association of School Psychologists as a student member while in graduate school!

<https://www.nasponline.org/membership-and-community/join-nasp>



# *Ways to Stand Out in School Psychology:*

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- Clinical Experience:
  - Clinical experience is not necessarily a requirement for school psychology, but it will help you stand out! Consider getting a position as a clinical assistant in a therapy office that works with school-age children.
- Volunteer Work:
  - It is always a good idea to volunteer, though volunteering with children might be more applicable to this subdiscipline. The Center or the A.D. Lewis Center are great options. Also consider volunteering as a Big Brother or Big Sister, or as a counselor at a youth summer camp.
- Research:
  - Research can always help an applicant stand out! Consider working with Dr. Kirby or contact Dr. Stroebel for any information about ongoing research within the School Psychology Program.