



La Sierra
UNIVERSITY

PUPIL PERSONNEL SERVICES
CREDENTIAL
IN SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY
MA IN COUNSELING AND PPS CREDENTIAL

SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY AND COUNSELING
SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

LA SIERRA UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF EDUCATION
4500 RIVERWALK PARKWAY
RIVERSIDE, CA 92515

PPS CREDENTIAL IN SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY

This program provides the courses required by the state of California for the PPS Credential with an authorization in school psychology.

WHAT KIND OF A CAREER CAN SUCH A DEGREE OFFER?

An individual can become a school psychologist with a minimum of a master's degree in a relevant field and coursework required by the state for the PPS "School Psychology" credential. Some students obtain an Ed.S. in School Psychology in addition to a M.A. in Counseling. School psychologists can work in both public and private school settings to assist students with cognitive (learning and motivation), psychosocial, and behavioral problems. They also counsel parents, teachers, as well as other school staff in addressing individual student needs more effectively. School psychologists conduct psycho-educational assessments in areas that can include attention deficit-hyperactive disorders, pervasive developmental disorders, learning disabilities, oppositional defiant disorder, conduct disorder, and separation anxiety. Their expertise in such areas is often used to modify a student's learning environment in order to maximize individual student potential.

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PREREQUISITES:

Legal/Health Clearance

The absence of any conviction for a felony or any communicable or contagious disease, which would prevent the student from teaching or performing other certified services, must be attested to. Students should apply for state criminal clearance immediately following admission to any of the state credentialing programs.

Department Interview

A preadmission interview and writing test are to be scheduled when possible with at least two faculty members in the Department of School Psychology and Counseling who will evaluate the applicant's expressiveness, commitment, values, cultural affirmation, and professional attitudes. When admission is granted without a prior interview, an appointment must be made with the department chair during the first few weeks of residence before program approval. Continuation in the program is contingent upon a satisfactory rating by the interviewers.

Graduate Record Examination

Graduate Record Exam (GRE) is required. A student's acceptance into the Ed.S. program or advancement into the Ed.S. program depends the following scores: the GPA, GRE, departmental interview, and writing sample.

Prerequisites

| | | | |
|-----------------------|------|---------|---------|
| The Exceptional Child | EDPC | 460/560 | 3 Units |
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Applicants who are lacking any of the above prerequisite coursework may be admitted to the program with the understanding that the deficiencies must be removed at the earliest possible date prior to entry to advanced practicum or fieldwork. If taken at the graduate level, credit thus earned may be used for degree purposes if all other program requirements are met. Undergraduate-level units are not applicable to the Educational Specialist degree.

THE PROGRAM:

The program for PPS Credential in School Psychology must include all of the coursework and field experiences listed below. (When a school psychologist credential is sought without a degree, three core courses (EDAD 687, EDFO 606 or EDCI 664/EDPC 651, and

EDAD 688) are not required as long as a student can present a total of 90 units to CCTC for their PPS credential, which can include their master’s degree).

PREREQUISITES:

The curriculum for a PPS in School Psychology in the School of Education comprises a minimum of 90-quarter units beyond an approved baccalaureate degree, or 45 units beyond the Master of Arts degree. For those entering the 45-unit post-master's option, the master's degree must have been earned in a relevant educational or mental health field. For course description, please check [La Sierra Academic Bulletins](#).

REQUIRED CORE (18 UNITS):

- | | | | |
|---|------|------|---------|
| • Educational Organization and Leadership | EDAD | 524* | 3 units |
| • Curriculum Planning | EDCI | 514* | 3 units |
| • Faith and Learning | EDCI | 512 | 3 units |
| • Methods and Materials of Research | EDRS | 504 | 3 units |
| • Counseling Theories and Techniques | EDPC | 561 | 3 units |
| • Educational Statistics I | EDPC | 604 | 3 units |

* EDAD 524 can be replaced with **EDAD 540 Personality and Philosophical Aspects of Leadership** and EDCI 514 can be replaced with **EDCI 545 Brain Research and Learning** at a student’s discretion.

CONTENT SPECIALIZATION (72 UNITS) :

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|---|-------|-----|---------|
| • Education and Career Planning | EDPC | 554 | 3 units |
| • Counseling Practicum | EDPC | 562 | 3 units |
| • Group Theory and Procedures | EDPC | 564 | 3 units |
| • Community Agency Counseling | EDPC^ | 568 | 3 units |
| • School Psychology and Counseling Ethics/Law | EDPC | 573 | 3 units |
| • Dynamics of Personality | EDPC | 607 | 3 units |
| • Psychopathology | EDPC | 631 | 3 units |
| • Mental Exceptionality | EDPC | 650 | 3 units |

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| • Advanced Counseling Theories | EDPC | 655 | 3 units |
| • Academic Assessment & Intervention | EDPC | 661 | 3 units |
| • Behavioral Assessment & Intervention | EDPC | 662 | 3 units |
| • Neuropsychological Assessment & Intervention | EDPC | 663 | 3 units |
| • Assessment of Individual Intelligence I | EDPC | 664 | 3 units |
| • Assessment of Individual Intelligence II | EDPC | 665 | 3 units |
| • Intervention Methods and Consultation | EDPC | 666 | 3 units |
| • Assessment of Learning Development | EDPC | 667 | 3 units |
| • Assessment of Personal Adjustment | EDPC | 668 | 3 units |
| • School Psychology Seminar | EDPC | 670 | 3 units |
| • Report Writing and Practicum (150 hrs.) | EDPC | 674 | 3 units |
| • Field Practice in School Psychology (300 hrs.) | EDPC | 675 | 3 units |
| • Seminar: Individual and Cultural Differences | EDPC | 694A | 3 units |
| • Electives | | | 9 units |

NOTE : Remember that the units outlined above do not total 90 units. In order to receive an PPS credential, you must accumulate 90 units beyond an approved baccalaureate degree.

PPS INTERNSHIP (12 UNITS & PRE- OR POST-DEGREE 1200 HRS)

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|--------------------------------|------|-----|------------|
| • School Psychology Internship | EDPC | 676 | 12.0 units |
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ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

1. A passing score on the *California Basic Education Skills Test (CBEST)* is required before any practicum, field practice, or internship hours can be collected.
2. Application for field practice six weeks prior to placement.
3. A certificate of clearance is needed from the *California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CCTC)*, which involves a fingerprint clearance. In addition, a TB clearance must be obtained as well. Again, all necessary clearances are required before gathering practicum, field practice, or internship hours in a school setting.
4. *The Professional Assessments for Beginning Teachers (PRAXIS)-Specialty Area for School*

Psychology is required as an exit examination. An unsatisfactory score will necessitate re-taking the Praxis until a minimum passing score is obtained. If after several tries, this is not possible, a student may be granted permission to take a departmental comprehensive examination. A satisfactory score report for the PRAXIS must be received by the University at least four weeks prior to graduation or the issuance of a diploma. Early registration for the test is essential.

5. An acceptable showcase portfolio is required for the completion of the program.
6. Application to the School of Education Credential Office (sgallego@lasierra.edu) for a denomination or state credential, if eligible.