



## Admission Requirements to the School Psychology Ph.D. Program University of Arizona

Admission standards to the School Psychology Ph.D. program are designed to attract students with high academic and professional potential. The program does not discriminate in admissions on the basis of gender, race, disability, cultural background, sexual orientation, or national origin. The program actively seeks to build a student body with diverse backgrounds. Each application received by the program is evaluated individually and with care.

The deadline for submission of an application is **December 1<sup>st</sup>**. Admission is permitted only in the fall semester. Admission to the program is competitive and is based upon evaluation of information from the following sources:

- A graduate college application. [Apply here](#).
- Unofficial transcripts of all previous coursework are required at the time of application. Official transcripts of all previous coursework are required at the time of admission.
- Three letters of recommendation from professionals who can adequately address your ability to be a successful graduate student and professional. Applicants should request letters from people who have known the applicant in a supervisory capacity (e.g., faculty/instructor, work supervisors, and volunteer supervisors). Personal references will not be considered (e.g., friends, relatives, clergy). Individuals writing letters of recommendation are encouraged to use letterhead if available.
- International applicants must meet acceptable English proficiency credentials outlined [here](#) by the Graduate College.
- A resume or curriculum vita that summarizes your educational and employment history and any relevant professional accomplishments (including publications, presentations, honors, awards, and other significant activities)
- A statement of purpose (see instructions below)

These factors, as well as others that applicants choose to bring to our attention, are weighed into the selection of students for our program. The **GRE is not required**, but applicants can submit the scores if they choose to. Admission preference to the School Psychology Program is given to applicants with the following:

- A bachelor's or master's degree in Psychology, Special Education, Educational Psychology, or a related discipline;
- Experience with children, adolescents, and people with disabilities and/or mental health concerns;
- Experience in school systems;
- Letters of recommendation that comment favorably on the applicant's potential to do advanced graduate work, as well as their potential for professional contribution to the field.

Students having a bachelor's degree who demonstrate particular promise for doctoral study in School Psychology may apply directly to the Doctoral Program upon completion of the bachelor's degree. Prospective students may also first apply to the Educational Specialist (Ed.S.) Program in

School Psychology. However, acceptance into the Ed.S. Program does not guarantee future acceptance into the Ph.D. Program.

Your application will be considered once you have submitted all required documentation. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed and will be automatically denied. If you have questions about the application, contact Fernando Parra ([jorgeparra@arizona.edu](mailto:jorgeparra@arizona.edu) or 520-621-1461), the Graduate Program Coordinator in the Department of Disability and Psychoeducational Studies.

Once your application has been submitted, you may check the status of your application at any time by logging into [GradApp](#) and opening your application. You will be notified via email if you are invited for an interview and when a final admission decision has been reached.

Information regarding the department, our faculty, and the academic requirements can be found on the [program website](#). For questions regarding the program, please contact the program director, Dr. Desiree Vega ([dvega2@arizona.edu](mailto:dvega2@arizona.edu)).

Applicants must meet the minimum standards listed in the [UA Graduate Catalog](#) to be considered for admission. Additional information can be obtained from the [Graduate College](#) or by emailing the program director.

University of Arizona  
School Psychology

**Guidelines for Statement of Purpose**

In this Statement of Purpose, please answer the following questions in no more than 150 words per question.

1. Why are you interested in the field of school psychology?
2. What opportunities have you had working with children, families, and schools? Please highlight any specific experiences with people with disabilities.
3. How do you envision practicing school psychology after graduation?
4. Our first program aim is to “Prepare graduates to provide school psychological services and engage in scholarly activities within a culturally diverse society.” What would you like us to know about your background and experiences that would contribute to cultural competence in psychological services and research?
5. Being able to accurately reflect on our own strengths and areas of need is an important skill for school psychologists. With that in mind, describe your areas of personal strengths and areas for growth as a prospective school psychology graduate student.
6. Please share your research experiences to date and describe how your research interests fit with the faculty research at the UA.