

# School Psychology

Ph.D. or S.Psy.S at Central Michigan University



## Welcome

The School Psychology professional must be prepared to meet the educational and mental health needs of all children. Central Michigan University encourages students from diverse ethnic and racial backgrounds to apply to its School Psychology Programs. We make every effort to ensure a climate in which every student knows that she or he is a valued member of our teaching community.

This program meets the State of Michigan school psychologist certification requirements. Students who complete the program and pass the National School Psychology Examination are eligible to become nationally certified school psychologists, a credential that allows certification in 33 states.

*CMU is an AA/EEO institution, providing equal opportunity to all persons, including minorities, females, veterans and individuals with disabilities. See [www.cmich.edu/aaeo](http://www.cmich.edu/aaeo).*

[www.chsbs.cmich.edu/schoolpsychology](http://www.chsbs.cmich.edu/schoolpsychology)

## Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in School Psychology

**CMU's School Psychology Doctoral Program is accredited by the American Psychological Association (APA)\* and is approved by the National Association of School Psychologists.**

Program goals are to prepare entry-level school psychologists who:

- use scientific knowledge as a basis for systematic problem-solving, and view data collection and analysis as integral to service delivery;
- apply knowledge of assessment, instruction, learning, behavioral theory, human development, psychotherapeutic techniques, and positive mental health practices to prevent and remediate students' learning and adjustment problems;
- use professional ethical reasoning skills to make informed choices in resolving and preventing problems, respect the dignity and worth of all persons, and ensure fairness and nondiscrimination;
- apply the science of psychology to promote human welfare in systems-level consultation;
- develop an area of expertise within School Psychology; and
- mentor and supervise less-advanced students; train others through professional development presentations, workshops, or university teaching.

## Doctoral Program Curriculum

This program includes four years of intensive academic preparation and field experience plus a one-year full-time internship. Students must successfully complete 3 years of graduate study. The curriculum is designed to reflect recent developments in applied psychology. Progress through the program is based on earning satisfactory grades, passing a comprehensive examination, and successfully completing the doctoral dissertation and internship.

Students entering with B.A. or B.S. degrees will be required to complete approximately 106 graduate credit hours. Those entering with M.A. or M.S. degrees in School Psychology will be required to complete approximately 70 graduate school credits. Students are required to complete at least three years of academic training at CMU.

\* Questions related to the program's accredited status should be directed to the Commission on Accreditation: Office of Program Consultation and Accreditation, American Psychological Association, 750 1st Street, NE, Washington, DC, 20002. Phone: (202) 336-5979; E-Mail: [apaaccred@apa.org](mailto:apaaccred@apa.org); Web: [www.apa.org/ed/accreditation](http://www.apa.org/ed/accreditation).

## Doctoral Program Curriculum (continued)

Students are accepted into the program on a full-time basis. Normal progress through the program requires full-time study and will involve a course load of approximately 12 credits per semester. Students are expected to take at least 6 hours per semester.

### Coursework includes:

- |  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| • Foundations of Psychology<br><i>Courses are required in diversity, human development, physiological foundations, social foundations, human learning, and history and systems</i> | 18 credit hours |
| • Educational Foundations  | 6 credit hours  |
| • Assessment and Intervention  | 28 credit hours |
| • Methods Statistics and Program Courses   | 9 credit hours  |
| • Field Experience   | 18 credit hours |
| • Ethics   | 3 credit hours  |
| • Thesis and Dissertation  | 18 credit hours |
| • Electives  | 6 credit hours  |

**Total: 106 credit hours**

## Ph.D. Admission Requirements

Admission is competitive. A Bachelor's or Master's degree in psychology or a minimum of 15 semester hours of psychology, a 3.0 overall grade point average, Graduate Record Examination scores (within the past five years), and three letters of recommendation are required. A background in scientific psychology and basic research methodology is strongly weighted. In addition, the admissions committee is attentive to each candidate's professional goals, interpersonal skills, relevant work experiences, and motivation. The application deadline is November 15th.

## Specialist in Psychological Services (S.Psy.S.)

CMU's Specialist in Psychological Services Program has approval from the National Association of School Psychologists.

This full-time program is specifically designed to meet NCATE/NASP accreditation standards and leads to the Master of Arts degree in Psychology and the Specialist's degree in Psychological Services. This 70-hour program meets the Michigan requirements for certification as a school psychologist as defined by the Michigan Board of Education and also permits certification as a school psychologist in most other states.

Although this is a three-year graduate degree, applications are accepted from students who already have taken graduate work, including the Master's degree, at CMU or other approved institutions. Credit will be given for such work in accordance with university regulations, provided it is consistent with the School Psychology curriculum.

## Specialist Program Curriculum

Students complete 70 hours of coursework in the core content areas of psychological and educational foundations, research methods, psychological and educational assessment, intervention strategies, and professional school psychology. Students will complete a full-time internship during the third year of the program.

### Coursework includes:

- |  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| • Legal/Ethical Issues   | 3 credit hours  |
| • Assessment and Intervention  | 28 credit hours |
| • Statistics, Research Design, and Thesis  | 9 credit hours  |
| • Foundations of Psychology<br><i>Cultural Diversity, Development, Cognitive, and Biological</i> | 12 credit hours |
| • Field Experience   | 12 credit hours |
| • Electives  | 6 credit hours  |

**Total: 70 credit hours**

## Specialist Admission Requirements

Admission is competitive, with approximately eight to ten students accepted each year. An acceptable Master's degree, 15 credit hours of undergraduate psychology, or the equivalent as determined by the Department of Psychology is required. A 3.0 overall grade point average and scores from the Graduate Record Examination taken within the last five years are required for admission. The application deadline is November 15th.

## Financial Support

Financial support is available through doctoral research fellowships, research and teaching assistantships, King/Chávez/Parks fellowships, and other sources. Awards include stipends and tuition waivers. Full-time awards require 20 hours of work per week, and half-time assistantships require 10 hours of work per week.

## Core Faculty

**Dr. Sharon Bradley-Johnson, Professor.** Ed.D., Western Michigan University, 1977. Low-incidence disabilities, educational diagnosis/intervention and infant assessment/intervention.  
[johns1sb@cmich.edu](mailto:johns1sb@cmich.edu)

**Dr. Timothy Hartshorne, Professor.** Ph.D., University of Texas at Austin, 1979. Behavior difficulties in CHARGE Syndrome, parent-professional relationship, effectiveness of therapeutic interventions.  
[harts1ts@cmich.edu](mailto:harts1ts@cmich.edu)

**Dr. Michael Hixson, Professor.** Director School Psychology Program. Ph.D. Western Michigan University, 2000. Academic assessment and intervention, applications of behavior analysis to education, and curriculum-based measurement.  
[hixso1md@cmich.edu](mailto:hixso1md@cmich.edu)

**Dr. Sandra Morgan, Associate Professor.** Ph.D., Central Michigan University, 1999. Pediatric consultation, remediation of academic difficulties, behavioral assessment.. [morga1sk@cmich.edu](mailto:morga1sk@cmich.edu)

**Dr. Katrina Rhymer, Professor.** Ph.D., Mississippi State University, 2000. Assessment and treatment of autism, social/emotional, and behavioral intervention. [rhymer1kn@cmich.edu](mailto:rhymer1kn@cmich.edu)

## Apply Online

**Ph.D.** [www.chsbs.cmich.edu/ApplySchoolDoc](http://www.chsbs.cmich.edu/ApplySchoolDoc)

**S.Psy.S.** [www.chsbs.cmich.edu/ApplySchoolSpec](http://www.chsbs.cmich.edu/ApplySchoolSpec)

### For More Information

School Psychology Admissions Committee

Department of Psychology

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Email: [psy@cmich.edu](mailto:psy@cmich.edu)

See our website:

[www.chsbs.cmich.edu/schoolpsychology](http://www.chsbs.cmich.edu/schoolpsychology)