



University of North Carolina Chapel Hill Doctoral School Psychology Program

2026 Cohort Program of Studies Planning Form

Student's Name				Dissertation	
Enrollment Start	Fall, 2026			SP Faculty Chair (Academic Advisor)	
Academic Advisor				Reader #1 (or Research Advisor)	
Track (Check One)	Standard*	4 years		Reader #2	
	Enhanced or w/o a masters degree**	5 years		Reader #3	
PRAXIS Exam	Date Taken		P/F	Reader #4	

CURRICULUM:

The Ph.D. in School Psychology is an APA accredited program that leads to eligibility for licensure as a psychologist in North Carolina, and most other states. Students who intend to work in other states should check the licensure requirements in those states. This program is also approved by NASP and the NC Department of Public Instruction for doctoral level licensure for school psychology. As a result, the Program is responsive to multiple sets of requirements consisting of sequenced and cumulative training experiences across years of training. The Program of Studies timeline illustrates a typical four-year Standard Track* and five-year Enhanced Track**. Students with a master's degree prior to entering the program typically take the Standard four-year track while students without a master's degree will take five years in the Enhanced track. Students interested in academia with a focus on research will also take the Enhanced 5-year track. To meet PA accreditation requirements, the program of studies has been designed to include the following: content in the breadth of psychology, including foundations in the biological aspects of behavior; cognitive/affective aspects of behavior; social aspects of behavior; history and systems of psychology; psychological measurement; research methodology; and data analysis. In addition, the POS meets requirements of the APA Implementing Regulations and Standards of Accreditation for Health Service Psychology. The POS includes coursework in the science/methods/theories of practice including individual differences in behavior; human development; dysfunctional behavior/psychopathology; and professional standards. Knowledge and skills are required in assessment and diagnosis; effective intervention; consultation; evaluating the efficacy of interventions; and supervision. Additionally, content on cultural and individual diversity are integrated into the curriculum, and expected attitudes essential for lifelong learning, scholarly inquiry, and professional problem-solving are included. The Program of Studies meets the NASP standards, including the set of 10 training domains.

SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY DOCTORAL MILESTONE CHECKLIST

(This checklist is for the Standard 4-year track.)

Doctoral Milestone	Prerequisite to Milestone (see handbook for complete requirements)	Date Planned	Date Completed
YEAR ONE (Fall 2026-Summer 2027)			
Review the 2025 School Psychology Handbook	N/A	Fall 2026	
Submit your updated POS to your academic advisor and the SP program assistant	N/A	Spring 2027 LDOC	
Research Topics/Ideas for Dissertation	N/A	Summer 2027	
YEAR TWO (Fall 2027-Summer 2028)			
Review Canvas "Dissertation Hub" Resources	N/A	Fall 2027	
Review UNC Graduate School Dissertation Handbook	N/A	Fall 2027	
Identify School Psychology Dissertation Chair and, if relevant, Research Advisor	Received confirmation from a school psychology faculty member to serve as your Dissertation Chair and, if relevant, another person as your Research Advisor	Spring 2028	
Dissertation Summary Proposal and Reading List	Review the UNC Graduate School Dissertation Handbook	Spring 2028	
Apply to program to sit for Comprehensive Examinations	Refer to "Application to Sit for the Comprehensive Examination" Checklist (Due 9/1 for Fall Comps & 2/1 for Spring Comps)	2/1/2028	
Register to take the PRAXIS NCSP Exam	Successful completion of first 3 semesters of coursework and registration in fourth semester (or by semester of exams)	Spring 2028	
Written Comprehensive Examination	After applying, approval granted from faculty	Spring 2028	
Oral Comprehensive Examination	Pass written comprehensive exam	Spring 2028	
Apply to program to confirm eligibility for internship.	Refer to "Application to Apply to Internship Sites" Checklist	April 1 st 2028	
Submit your updated POS to your academic advisor and the SP program assistant	Refer to preceding milestones. (Make sure to document your scheduled PRAXIS examination date.)	Spring LDOC	
PRAXIS NCSP School Psychology Exam	Successful completion of first 3 semesters of coursework and registration in fourth semester	Summer 2028	
APPIC Internship Application Prep	Draft Essays, Statements, Letters of Request to your Recommenders, List of Potential Sites	Summer 2028	
YEAR THREE (Fall 2028-Summer 2029)			
Dissertation Aims and Study Feasibility Overview	Dissertation Summary Proposal and Reading List	Sept. 1 st 2028	
Apply to APPIC Doctoral Internship*	After submitting your dissertation aims and study feasibility overview, and application to the program to confirm eligibility and approval is granted (see APPIC program deadlines)	Fall 2028	
Dissertation Committee Composition	Requested and received confirmation from four additional committee members with approval from your Dissertation Chair	Fall 2028	
Dissertation Proposal	All students are required to be full-time each semester they are enrolled.	Fall 2028	
Apply to Non-APPIC Doctoral Internship	After submitting your dissertation aims and study feasibility overview, and application to the program to confirm eligibility and approval is granted	Early Spring 2029	
History & Systems: 2 Paper Submissions	These 2 papers can be completed any time before internship.	Spring 2029	
Submit your updated POS to your academic advisor and the SP program assistant	Refer to preceding milestones.	Spring LDOC	
Doctoral Internship	History & Systems Papers Proposal Defense Passed by Spring prior to internship*	July 2029-June 2030	
YEAR FOUR (Fall 2029-Summer 2030)			
Dissertation Defense	Dissertation Proposal Passed & EDUC 994 registration	Spring 2030	
Apply for Post-Doctoral Position (if applicable)	N/A	Spring 2030	
Apply for Graduation	Refer to UNC Graduate School Graduation Guidelines.	Spring 2030	
Submit your updated POS to your academic advisor and the SP program assistant	Refer to preceding milestones.	Spring LDOC	

*Note that specific internship sites may require additional prerequisites above UNC's requirements (e.g., some sites require that students have completed their dissertation proposal prior to submitting an application).

Content Area	Course	Course Title	Semester	Year	University	Grade	Officially Transferred to UNC	Advisor's Initials
APA IR C-7 D. Category 1: HISTORY & SYSTEMS OF PSYCHOLOGY								
History and Systems of Psychology	Cross-Course Embedded	History and Systems of Psychology Competencies	Date of Theorist Paper Submission: _____ Date of History of School Psychology Paper Submission: _____					
APA Discipline-Specific Knowledge Category 2: BASIC CONTENT AREAS IN SCIENTIFIC PSYCHOLOGY								
Biological Aspects of Behavior (3)	EDUC 763	Biological Bases of Children's Development (EOY)	Fall	2027				
Cognitive Aspects of Behavior (3)		Refer to Approved Course List	Spring	2027				
Affective Aspects of Behavior	Cross-Course Embedded	Affective Aspects of Behavior Competencies						
Social Aspects of Behavior (3)		Refer to Approved Course List	Fall	2026				
Developmental Aspects of Behavior (3)		Refer to Approved Course List	Spring	2028				
APA IR C-7 D. Category 4: RESEARCH METHODS, STATISTICAL ANALYSIS, AND PSYCHOMETRICS								
Research Methods (3)	EDUC 824	Fundamentals of Educational Research	Fall	2026				
	EDUC 710	Statistical Analysis of Educational Data I	Fall	2026				
Statistical Analysis (9)	EDUC 784	Statistical Analysis of Educational Data II						
	Advanced Statistical/Research Course	Refer to Approved Course List						
Psychometrics (3)	EDUC 829	Applied Measurement Theory for Education (EOY)						
APA C-8D. I. RESEARCH								
Doctoral Dissertation (3)	EDUC 994	Doctoral Dissertation: Proposal (Must be completed by the Spring semester prior to Internship)			UNC		N/A	
Doctoral Dissertation (3)	EDUC 994	Doctoral Dissertation: Defense			UNC		N/A	

Content Area	Course	Course Title	Semester	Year	University	Grade	Approved Transfer Courses Officially Transferred to UNC	Advisor's Initials
APA C-8D. FIELD EXPERIENCE & II. ETHICAL AND LEGAL STANDARDS								
Field Experience & Ethical and Legal Standards	EDUC 720	School Psychology Professional Doctoral Seminar	Fall	2026	UNC		N/A	
	EDUC 820	School Psychology Professional Doctoral Seminar	Spring	2027	UNC		N/A	
	EDUC 721 I	School Psychology Externship	Fall	2026	UNC		N/A	
	EDUC 721 II	School Psychology Externship	Spring	2027	UNC		N/A	
	EDUC 821 I	School Psychology Externship & Professional Seminar	Fall	2027	UNC		N/A	
	EDUC 821 II	School Psychology Externship & Professional Seminar	Spring	2028	UNC		N/A	
	EDUC 821 III	School Psychology Externship	Fall	2028	UNC		N/A	
	EDUC 821 IV	School Psychology Externship	Spring	2029	UNC		N/A	
	EDUC 822	School Psychology Internship	Fall	2029	UNC		N/A	
	EDUC 822	School Psychology Internship	Spring	2029	UNC		N/A	
APA C-8D. III. INDIVIDUAL AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY								
Individual & Cultural Diversity (3)		<i>Refer to Approved Course List</i>						
Dysfunctional Behavior / Abnormal / Individual Differences (3)	EDUC 762	Diagnosis of Psychological Disorders and Treatment Planning	Spring	2027				
APA C-8D. VII. INTERVENTION & VI. ASSESSMENT								
Intervention & Assessment Core (12)	EDUC 718	School Psychology Intervention & Assessment I	Fall	2026				
	EDUC 719	School Psychology Intervention & Assessment II	Spring	2027				
	EDUC 818	School Psychology Intervention & Assessment III	Fall	2027				
	EDUC 819	School Psychology Intervention & Assessment IV	Spring	2028				
Individual Counseling (3)								

* This course can only fulfill one requirement.

"EOY" This course is typically offered every other year.

Year	1st Year		2nd Year		3rd Year		4th Year	
Semester	FALL	SPRING	FALL	SPRING	FALL	SPRING	FALL	SPRING
Field Experience	EDUC 721 3 Externship	EDUC 721 3 Externship	EDUC 821 3 Prof. Sem. & Adv. Externship	EDUC 821 3 Prof. Sem. & Adv. Externship	EDUC 821 3 Externship	EDUC 821 3 Externship	EDUC 822 2 Internship	EDUC 822 1 Internship
Professional Sem. Ethical & Legal Standards	EDUC 720 3 Prof. Sem.	EDUC 820 3 Prof. Sem.	EDUC 818 3 Intervention & Assessment III	EDUC 819 3 Intervention & Assessment IV				
Intervention & Assessment I	EDUC 718 3 Intervention & Assessment I	EDUC 719 3 Intervention & Assessment II						
Research Methods & Statistical Analysis	EDUC 710 3 Statistics I	EDUC 784 3 Statistics II	Advanced Research / Statistical Analysis 3	Foundation* 3	EDUC 994 3 Dissertation	EDUC 994 3 Dissertation	EDUC 994 3 Dissertation	EDUC 994 3 Dissertation
Category 2: Basic Content in Scientific Psychology	EDUC 824 3 Found. of Educ. Research	Cognitive Foundation* 3	Bio Bases Foundation* 3	Measurement Foundation* 3	Social Foundation* 3	Foundation* 3		
Total Hours	12-15	12-15	12	12	6-9	6-9	1	5
Milestones	⇒ Review the edit School Psychology Handbook	⇒ Apply for 2nd Year Advanced Externship LDOC Submit Updated POS ⇒ Summer Research Topics/ideas for Dissertation	⇒ Register for the PRAXIS NCSP Test ⇒ Review the "Dissertation Hub" Resources on Canvas ⇒ Review the UNC Graduate School Dissertation Handbook	⇒ Apply for 3rd Year Advanced Externship ⇒ Apply to take Comps (Submit Checklist) ⇒ Pass Written Comps ⇒ Pass Oral Comps ⇒ Pass the PRAXIS ⇒ LDOC Submit Updated POS	⇒ Apply for Internships (APPIC)	⇒ Apply for Internships (Non-APPIC) ⇒ Pass Dissertation Proposal ⇒ LDOC Submit Updated POS	⇒ Write Dissertation	⇒ Write Dissertation
							⇒ Pass Dissertation Defense ⇒ Apply for Post-Doc ⇒ Apply for August Graduation ⇒ LDOC Submit Updated POS	

* A "Foundation" course may be one of the following: a. Counseling, b. EDUC 829 Measurement / Psychometrics, c. Dysfunction/Abnormal, d. Cognitive / Learning, Social, e. Cultural Diversity, f. Advanced Stats/Research, g. Development, or h. EDUC 763 Biological Aspects

Research Track OR Students entering without a Masters degree

Year	1 st Year		2 nd Year		3 rd Year		4 th Year		5 th Year			
Semester	FALL	SPRING	FALL	SPRING	FALL	SPRING	FALL	SPRING	SUMMER 2	FALL	SPRING	SUMMER 1
Field Experience	EDUC 721 3 Externship	EDUC 721 3 Externship	EDUC 821 3 Prof. Sem. & Adv. Externship	EDUC 821 3 Prof. Sem. & Adv. Externship	EDUC 821 3 Externship	EDUC 821 3 Externship	EDUC 821 3 Externship	EDUC 821 3 Externship	EDUC 822 1 Internship	EDUC 822 2 Internship	EDUC 822 2 Internship	EDUC 822 1 Internship
Professional Sem. Ethical & Legal Standards	EDUC 720 3 Prof. Sem.	EDUC 820 3 Prof. Sem.										
Intervention & Assessment	EDUC 718 Intervention & Assessment I	EDUC 719 Intervention & Assessment II	EDUC 818 Intervention & Assessment III	EDUC 819 Intervention & Assessment IV								
Research Methods & Statistical Analysis	EDUC 710 3 Statistics I	EDUC 784 3 Statistics II	Advanced Research / Statistical Analysis Course	Foundation* 3	EDUC 994 3 Dissertation	EDUC 994 3 Dissertation	EDUC 994 3 Dissertation	EDUC 994 3 Dissertation	EDUC 994 3 Dissertation	EDUC 994 3 Dissertation	EDUC 994 3 Dissertation	
Category 2: Basic Content Areas in Scientific Psychology	EDUC 824 Found. of Educ. Research	Foundation* (Cognitive) or Research Course 3	Foundation* (Bio Bases) or Research Course 3	Foundation* (Measurement) or Research Course 3	Foundation* (Social) or Research Course 3	Foundation* or Research Course 3	Foundation* or Research Course 3	Foundation* or Research Course 3				
Total Hours	12-15	12-15	12-15	12-15	6-9	6-9	6-9	6-9	1	5	5	1
Milestones	⇒ Review the School Psychology Handbook	⇒ Apply for 2nd Year Advanced Externship ⇒ LDOC Submit Updated POS ⇒ Summer Research Topics/Ideas for Dissertation	⇒ Review the "Dissertation Hub" Resources on Canvas ⇒ Review the UNC Graduate School Dissertation Handbook	⇒ Apply for 3rd Year Advanced Externship ⇒ Identify Dissertation Chair / Advisor ⇒ LDOC Submit Updated POS	⇒ Register for the PRAXIS NCSP Test	⇒ Apply for 4th Year Advanced Externship ⇒ Apply to take Comps (Submit Checklist) ⇒ Pass Written Comps ⇒ Pass Oral Comps ⇒ Pass the PRAXIS NCSP Test ⇒ LDOC Submit Updated POS	⇒ Apply for Internships (APPIC)	⇒ Apply for Internships (Non-APPIC) ⇒ Pass Dissertation Proposal ⇒ LDOC Submit Updated POS	⇒ Write Dissertation	⇒ Write Dissertation	⇒ Pass Dissertation Defense ⇒ Apply for Post-Doc ⇒ Apply for August Graduation ⇒ LDOC Submit Updated POS	

* A "Foundation" course may be one of the following: a. Counseling, b. EDUC 829 Measurement / Psychometrics, c. Dysfunction/Abnormal, d. Cognitive / Learning, Social, e. Cultural Diversity, f. Advanced Stats/Research, g. Development, or h. EDUC 763 Biological Aspects.

COMPLETING YOUR POS:

Students should complete this form with their academic advisor prior to their first semester of enrollment and update their POS at the end of each academic year. Students should list all courses to be taken, or already completed at UNC-CH or at other institutions, that will be part of their doctoral program of studies. Students are required to send their updated POS to their academic advisor and program assistant, by the last day of each spring semester. All students are required to be full-time each semester they are enrolled.

APPROVED COURSES:

Approved courses are listed online under the resources section of the program's website. These course offerings will be updated periodically. Confirmation by your academic advisor is required to enroll in a course not currently listed on the "approved course list." http://soe.unc.edu/academics/phd_schpsyc/program_forms.php

REGISTERING FOR DISSERTATION AND INTERNSHIP:

Dissertation: A minimum of 6 total credit hours of doctoral dissertation is required for graduation. Students must be registered for 3 credits of dissertation during the semesters they formally propose and defend. This is a non-variable credit course (3 credit hours). Registration for dissertation credit any semester confers "full-time status" for that semester.

Internship: Internship credits do not confer full-time status by themselves. A minimum of 6 total credit hours of doctoral internship over the course of a full-time (10 or 12-month) or part-time (up to 24 months) internship is required for graduation. Interns must register for internship credits aligned to the time of the internship, typically requiring credits during fall, spring, and one or both summer sessions. Note that for summer months, if your internship occurs during the month of June, you must register for at least one Summer I credit; if your internship occurs during the month of July, you must register for at least one Summer Session II credit. For example: a typical 12-month internships may be as follows: 1 credit (2nd summer), 2 credits (fall), 2 credits (spring) and 1 credit (1st summer); a typical 10-month internship may be as follows: 3 credits (fall), 2 credits (spring) and 1 credit (1st summer).

TRANSFER CREDIT: If your academic advisor has approved courses from your previous master's work to fulfill courses on your POS, they will need to be formerly transferred to UNC. Refer to the following Graduate School Link for the Procedures. <https://handbook.unc.edu/coursecredit.html>

APA Discipline-Specific Knowledge Category 2: Basic Content Areas in Scientific Psychology

Discipline-specific knowledge serves as a cornerstone of identity as a psychologist and orientation to health service psychology. Therefore, all students in accredited doctoral programs shall demonstrate knowledge in the discipline of psychology, broadly construed. This discipline-specific knowledge base shall include: 1) the history and systems of psychology, 2) basic knowledge in scientific psychology, 3) integrative knowledge in scientific psychology, and 4) methods of inquiry and research.

Category 1: History and Systems of Psychology

- History and Systems of Psychology, including the origins and development of major ideas in the discipline of psychology.

Category 2: Basic Content Areas in Scientific Psychology

- **Affective Aspects of Behavior**, including topics such as affect, mood, and emotion. Psychopathology and mood disorders do not by themselves fulfill this category.
- **Biological Aspects of Behavior**, including multiple biological underpinnings of behavior, such as neural, physiological, anatomical, and genetic aspects of behavior. Although neuropsychological assessment and psychopharmacology can be included in this category, they do not, by themselves, fulfill this category.
- **Cognitive Aspects of Behavior**, including topics such as learning, memory, thought processes, and decision-making. Cognitive testing and cognitive therapy do not, by themselves, fulfill this category.
- **Developmental Aspects of Behavior**, including transitions, growth, and development across an individual's life. A coverage limited to one developmental period (e.g., infancy, childhood, adolescence, adulthood, or late life) is not sufficient.
- **Social Aspects of Behavior**, including topics such as group processes, attributions, discrimination, and attitudes. Individual and cultural diversity and group or family therapy do not, by themselves, fulfill this category.

Category 3: Advanced Integrative Knowledge in Scientific Psychology

- Advanced Integrative Knowledge of Basic Discipline-Specific Content Areas, including graduate-level scientific knowledge that entails integration of multiple basic discipline-specific content areas identified in Category 2 (i.e., integration of at least two of: affective, biological, cognitive, social, or developmental aspects of behavior). Advanced integrative knowledge in Category 2 areas can be acquired in either of two ways: 1) an evaluated educational experience that integrates at least two Category 2 content areas that have been previously covered through other methods; or 2) an evaluated educational experience that provides basic

coverage in two or more areas and integration across those areas.

Category 4: Research Methods, Statistical Analysis, and Psychometrics

- **Research Methods**, including topics such as strengths, limitations, interpretation, and technical aspects of rigorous case study; correlational, experimental, and other quantitative research designs; measurement techniques; sampling; replication; theory testing; qualitative methods; mixed methods; meta-analysis; and quasi-experimentation.
- **Statistical Analysis**, including topics such as quantitative, mathematical modeling and analysis of psychological data, statistical description and inference, univariate and multivariate analysis, null hypothesis testing and its alternatives, power, and estimation.
- **Psychometrics**, including topics such as theory and techniques of psychological measurement, scale and inventory construction, reliability, validity, evaluation of measurement quality, classical and contemporary measurement theory, and standardization.