

ALL ABOUT SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY

Prepared by Irene Dennison and Betsy Martinez

THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT

WHAT IS SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY?

School psychology is a field that applies principles of clinical psychology and educational psychology to the diagnosis and treatment of children's and adolescents' behavioral and learning problems. School psychologists are licensed professionals who work with children, adolescents, families, schools, and communities. They are generally employed in school settings and have a broad range of duties. School psychologists work to find the best solution for each student and situation by using different strategies to address the student's needs and to improve school support systems. They collaborate with teachers, parents, and administrators to find effective solutions to learning and behavior problems. One of the primary responsibilities of a school psychologist includes doing assessments and testing to determine each student's individual needs. Furthermore, school psychologists work with students with disabilities or with special needs.

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They also develop programs to train teachers and parents regarding effective teaching and learning strategies to manage behavior at home and in the classroom.

WHAT SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY IS NOT!

Generally speaking, School Psychologists do not provide counseling and guidance. They do not provide therapy. Instead they conduct assessments and testing for students who show a particular deficiency and students who are intellectually

PLACES SCHOOL

PSYCHOLOGISTS WORK

Public and Private School Systems,
School-Based Health centers, Clinics and
Hospitals, Private Practice, Universities,
and Community and State Agencies and
other institutions

Adapted from: <http://www.nasponline.org>
and interviewed Steve Baher.

WHAT TRAINING DO I NEED?

School Psychologists must be certified and/or licensed by the state in which they work. The licensing requirements in California include a named master's degree in School Psychology approved by the California Board of Psychology. To become a school psychologist, the training involves a minimum of 60 graduate semester hours and a yearlong internship. This training emphasizes preparation in mental health, child development, school organization, learning, behavior, and motivation. School psychology is a growing profession and the demand is high. Experts believe the demand will not diminish in the near future.

HOW MUCH CAN I EARN?

The salary can range greatly within the profession depending on where you may work. Salaries can range from \$40,000 to \$65,000 a year.

HOW CAN I PREPARE?

A good foundation in psychology related to cognition, learning, development and psychometrics is recommended

Recommended Coursework

- Psy 350 Abnormal Psychology
- Psy 331,332,333 Developmental Classes
- Psy 340 Social Psychology
- Psy 344 Psychology and Culture
- Psy 380 Cognitive Psychology
- Psy 370 Testing and Measurement
- Psy 452 Intro. to Counseling and Therapy
- Psy 495 Community Psychology

Other Recommendations:

Students should consider getting involved in appropriate field experience (eg. working in schools with students with challenging behavior or learning disabilities).

Students are recommended to have a GPA of approximately 3.0 and a GRE score of around 950-1000 to be competitive for graduate programs. Some programs may have higher requirements.

PROFESSIONAL SPOTLIGHT

Interviewed Steve Baher, School Psychologist from the Language Academy.

1. What are your primary job responsibilities?

Assessments are one of the main duties of a school psychologist; however, the role can be as diverse as you want it to be. Every day is a new day for me. Here are some examples of what I do as a school psychologist: I work in the classrooms and conduct observations on students who are referred to me by the principal or teachers. I plan learning strategies with teachers. I am present at Individual Education Plan (IEP) meeting for a student which includes the teachers, parents, principal, and the student.

2. What tests do you give to the children?

I give a battery of tests which consists of cognitive assessments, problem solving with visual aids, language-based reasoning tasks, memory tests, and drawing tests. Setting up testing materials includes: an IQ test, drawing paper, stopwatch, pencils, as well as various other tests of how kids learn best (listening? looking? doing?) and administering behavior rating scales for teachers, parents, and student.

3. What do you like about your job?

It is a rewarding job. It changes a lot, which means it gives you a lot of different things to do on a daily basis. For example; talking and meeting with individuals and groups of people, attending meetings, doing report writing, and working at different schools during the week. If you enjoy multi-tasking, this is a great opportunity for you.

4. What advice would you give to an aspiring school psychologist?

If you do not enjoy working people, this is not the job for you. This job involves being around people frequently and if you enjoy working with people of all age groups particularly school-age children, this will be a great experience.



Psychology Quote

“The mind is like an iceberg, it floats with one-seventh of its bulk above water.”

Sigmund Freud

GETTING INVOLVED!

Psi Chi and Psychology Club

Meetings on Wednesdays from 1 -2 pm in Storm Hall RM 351.

Psi Chi is a national honors society. As a Psi Chi member, one is provided academic recognition, as well as given the opportunity to become involved in school activities and leadership positions. Additionally, being a member demonstrates academic excellence in the field of psychology.

Research Assistant Application Program RAAP



Interested in getting involved in research for the fall semester?

Go to psych homeroom on blackboard, click on the research Psy 499 tab, and fill out a RAAP application and e-mail it to raap.sdsu@gmail.com with a description of why you want to get involved in research.

OFFICERS IN THE CLUB

Emily Almeida
Psi Chi President

Melissa Brody
Psych Club President

Ben Safara
Psi Chi VP

Alfred Collazo
Psych Club VP

Alex Rowell
Treasurer

Nancy Chavez
Lecture Coordinato

Stephanie Nicoai
Secretary of Points

Lindsay Hahn
Secretary of Emails/ Minutes

Sarah Mollet-Folta
Publicist

Paul Drivas
Webmaster

Zorayda Delgado
Psi Chi CSSC Rep.

Brianna Codallos
Psych Club CSSC Rep.

Important Dates:

October 4 , 12pm
Social Brown Bag
Dr. David Marx
LS 101

October 6 - 22
Canned Food drive

October 18, 12pm
Social Brown Bag
Dr. Brian Spitzberg
LS 101

FALL OFFICE HOURS IN THE PSYCHOLOGY UNDERGRADUATE ADVISING OFFICE

MONDAY 9:00am - 2:00pm

3:00pm - 4:00pm

TUESDAY 9:00am - 6:00pm

WEDNESDAY 9:00am - 5:00pm

THURSDAY 9:00am - 5:00pm

FRIDAY 10:00am - 3:00pm

Psychology Undergraduate Advising

Department of Psychology
San Diego State University
5500 Campanile Dr.
San Diego, CA 92182
Ph: (619) 594-5412
Life Sciences 105

Email:
Psychology.advising.sdsu@gmail.com