

EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY

EPSY Program Option

SCHOOL OF
EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATIONS, LEADERSHIP & AVIATION



GRADUATE HANDBOOK 2022 – 2023

**COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN SCIENCES
OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY**

The content of this handbook applies to the students admitted to the graduate programs in Educational Psychology in Fall of 2021. This handbook is distributed electronically. Please print a copy to keep in your files.

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Welcome

The **School of Educational Foundations, Leadership, and Aviation (SEFLA)** is a community of scholars engaged in the passionate pursuit of research that has impact in education and aviation, the intellectual development of people who will lead our society in the future and service in our local, state, national and international communities. Consistent with the stated goals and core concepts of the Professional Educational Council of Oklahoma State University, the faculty strives to demonstrate and promote teaching based on theory and research-driven educational practices.

This handbook is intended to serve as a guide for graduate students and faculty in the **Educational Psychology** Program (EPSY option) at Oklahoma State University. Student-scholars and faculty may find it useful as a reference for planning coursework and advising. The handbook contains information on program requirements and procedures, but does not cover every possible expectation or situation. Consultation with your temporary advisor, committee chairperson, and/or thesis/dissertation advisor is recommended for further clarification of a specific issue.

The Graduate College [website](#) and [OSU Catalog](#) should also be consulted for general requirements of the Graduate College, specific course descriptions, and other useful information (e.g., publications on the Appeals Procedure, Graduate Assistant Handbook). In Stillwater, the Graduate College office is in 202B Whitehurst, 405/744-6368. In Tulsa, the Graduate office is located on the 1st Floor of Administration Hall, 918/594-8455.

Careful study of this handbook, the University Catalog, and the Graduate College web pages will aid you with long-term planning of your program of study, help you to avoid misunderstanding of requirements and expectations, and increase the likelihood that you will a highly positive experience as a graduate student in the Educational Psychology Program here at OSU.

Note: Graduate students are expected to be aware of and satisfy all regulations governing their work and study at the university. The STUDENT is responsible for keeping up-to-date with all program, college, and university requirements and deadlines. Not doing so can result in substantial financial consequences and delays to a student's graduation timeline.



Organizational Structure

The degree in which you are enrolled in is a M.S./Ph.D. in Educational Psychology with an option in Educational Psychology. The Educational Psychology Program is housed within the School of Educational Foundations, Leadership, and Aviation (SEFLA). Other programs in the school include Aviation and Space; Higher Education and Student Affairs; School Administration; Educational Technology; Social Foundations; and Research, Evaluation, Measurement, and Statistics. Although most of these programs offer courses at the undergraduate level, Aviation is the only program that offers an undergraduate degree in SEFLA. All other programs within our school provide graduate degree options. The School of Educational Foundations, Leadership, and Aviation is one of seven schools/departments within the College of Education and Human Sciences. Graduate programs offered within the college are displayed in the figure below.



SCHOOLS

School of Teaching, Learning & Educational Sciences (STLES)

- Curriculum Studies
- Elementary Education
- Language, Literacy & Culture
- Reading & Literacy Education
- School Psychology
- Science & Mathematics Education
- Secondary Education
- Special Education

School of Educational Foundations, Leadership & Aviation (SEFLA)

- Aviation & Space Education
- Educational Leadership
- Educational Psychology
- Higher Education & Student Affairs
- Learning, Design & Technology
- Research, Evaluation, Measurement & Statistics
- Social Foundations
- Workforce & Adult Education

School of Community Health Sciences, Counseling & Counseling Psychology (HCCP)

- Counseling Psychology
- Health Promotion
- Mental Health Counseling
- Public Health
- School Counseling
- Nursing (RN to BSN)

School of Kinesiology, Applied Health & Recreation (KAHR)

- Applied Exercise Science
- Health & Human Performance
- Recreational and Athletic Management
- Recreational Therapy
- Leisure Studies

DEPARTMENTS

Department of Design & Merchandising (DM)

- Fashion Design & Production
- Fashion Merchandising
- Interior Design
- Retail Merchandising Leadership

Department of Human Development & Family Science (HDFS)

- Applied Human Services
- Child & Family Services
- Developmental & Family Science
- Early Child Care & Development
- Early Childhood Education
- Family & Community Services
- Family & Consumer Sciences Education
- Aging Studies
- Marriage & Family Therapy

Department of Nutritional Sciences (NSCI)

- Allied Health
- Public Health Nutrition
- Dietetics
- Human Nutrition/Pre-Medical Sciences
- Nutrition
- Dietetics Research
- Nutritional Sciences

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Research Interests: Learning in small groups (group processes, individual learning outcomes) in both face-to-face and online contexts; qualitative research & discourse analysis.



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Research Interests: Psychosocial implications of the use of communication technologies. Specific areas of interest include the associations between the use of communication technologies and users' social relationships, identity development, and socio-emotional well-being.



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Research Interests: Teacher beliefs and social cognition and their effects on student motivation—especially for those students who differ from themselves in terms of linguistic and cultural background. Specific areas of interest include teachers' sense of efficacy, teachers' sense of responsibility, social perspective-taking, and sense of school belonging.



Program Overview

Educational Psychology is the study of human learning, development, and motivation in educational settings. Educational psychologists are concerned with understanding how environments are structured to promote cognitive, personal, and social development broadly as well as learning motivation. The role of Educational Psychology is to bring together theory and research from psychology and related disciplines in order to facilitate healthy human development and effective learning and teaching.

EPSY Program Mission

Quite simply, the mission of the Educational Psychology Program at Oklahoma State University is to assist you in meeting your goals. Our faculty are committed to seeing our students as they are today with an eye toward who they will be tomorrow. Whether it is to conduct research, teach at a university, supervising instructional and faculty development, designing training programs, or educational consulting, the program strives to prepare learners for an increasingly diverse educational environment. The program emphasizes the application of psychological theories of human development, learning, cognition, and motivation to the provision of educational services for children, youth, and adults. Principles of psychology and research on learning, motivation, and development are integrated into educationally relevant theories and sound instructional practices to facilitate success for diverse learners of all ages.

The Educational Psychology Program is designed to be flexible enough to allow for considerable individualization in the preparation of learners in diverse areas. Student-scholars follow an individualized Plan of Study that is crafted in consultation with the learner's committee chair, thesis/dissertation advisor, committee members, and program faculty. This individualized plan integrates academic course work, college teaching, internship experiences, research, professional service, and research team experience to produce a highly educated researcher and teacher in the discipline.



The Admission Process

Where to Begin?

Complete the online application found on the OSU Graduate College [website](#). You will be asked to upload official transcripts, a current resume, and a goals statement with your application and to identify individuals to provide a letter of recommendation. You will also be required to pay the application fee before your materials will be released for review. Indicate a preference for a

Master's degree or a Ph.D. in Educational Psychology. Because there are multiple programs that attain the Educational Psychology degree, **be sure to also select the program option in Educational Psychology.**

Application Procedures

Persons wishing to become a candidate for the M.S. or Ph.D. in Educational Psychology degree with an emphasis in Educational Psychology should submit all application materials through the online application portal (found [here](#)). Please check that all materials are complete and accurate (the Graduate College is unable to upload any supplemental materials for you). Letters of Recommendation must be uploaded directly by the individual providing the recommendation. They will receive instructions regarding how to do so through email, so please make sure all email addresses are accurate.

M.S. Program Admission Deadlines & Criteria

Applications are accepted for enrollment each semester. Fall and Spring semesters have a priority deadline. Completed applications received prior to the priority deadline will be reviewed before the final deadline. "Priority" applicants will receive notification of acceptance/rejection prior to the final deadline.

Fall semester priority:	March 15
Fall semester final:	August 1
Spring semester priority:	October 15
Spring semester final:	December 1
Summer:	March 15

Full Admission

The specific criteria that must be met for full admission to a Master's degree program in Educational Psychology (EPSY Program Option) are as follows:

- Undergraduate GPA of at least 3.0 (Official copies of transcripts are required.)
- GRE score of at least 280 (combined) or MAT score of at least 394

Documents Required For Admission Review

- GRE or MAT test scores completed within the past 5 years
- Three letters of reference (preferably from previous instructors or employers)
- A statement of professionally-related experiences and goals: Approximately two typed pages (double spaced) emphasizing the applicant's pertinent personal, educational, and professional experiences, and setting forth the applicant's professional aspirations as related to this Master's degree

- Current and complete resume/vita
- TOEFL or IELTS (if required to establish English proficiency)

Probational Admission

Probational admission may be granted for one semester if one of the minimum background requirements is not met (e.g., low GPA). Probationally admitted students may be granted full admission after completing the conditions of probational admission stated on the acceptance letter. Probationally admitted master's students must receive a 3.0 GPA for the first 9 credit hours taken. Students may submit requests for special consideration for admission if extenuating circumstances exist. Such requests will become part of the student's folder and may be considered by the Graduate Review Committee.

Ph.D. Program Admission Deadlines & Criteria

Admission to the program is considered once per year. The deadline to submit all materials for review is January 15.

Full Admission

The specific criteria that must be met for full admission to a PhD degree program in Educational Psychology (EPSY Program Option) are as follows:

- Undergraduate GPA of at least 2.50 and a graduate GPA of at least 3.50
- GRE total score of at least 300 for two subtests of Verbal and Quantitative, with a minimum of 150 for each subtest.

Documents Required For Admission Review

- GRE test score completed within the past 5 years
- Official transcripts for all work completed
- Three professional recommendation letters from those such as academic advisors and former professors who can address applicant's academic record and potential for doctoral level work
- Statement of professional goals (about 2 pages) explaining how prior academic and professional experiences have prepared the applicant for doctoral level study and how the PhD program will contribute to the applicant's goals
- Sample of high quality professional writing: a scholarly paper the applicant has written such as a master's thesis, report, paper required in a graduate class, publication, or other type of scholarly paper
- Current and complete resume/vita
- TOEFL or IELTS (if required to establish English proficiency)

Probational Admission

At the discretion of the area faculty, probational admission may be granted to students who do not fully meet the above criteria. A process to achieve full admission within the first 9 hours of coursework will be specified at the time provisional admission is granted.

Funding

Financial Aid & Scholarships

For information and application help, contact the OSU Scholarships & Financial Aid Office, 119 Student Union, 405/744-6604. Information about scholarships can be found [here](#). There are numerous scholarships available for which graduate students can apply.

Assistantships

For information about graduate assistantships, contact the SEFLA office, 405-744-6278, 204 Willard. Graduate students may apply for teaching and research assistantships for up to half time (20 hours/week). The application form may be found on the EPSY [website](#) (under 'Documents & Other Information'). Applications are frequently revised, so pay attention to the due date found on the document. Deadlines typically occur in April the year before the assistantship and are announced through the EPSY program's listserv.

OSU Educational Psychology Fellowship

The OSU Fellowship in Educational Psychology provides four-year support for Ph.D. student-scholars whose research interests focus on instruction, learning, development, and/or motivation in reducing educational disparities of under-represented and historically marginalized students in the state of Oklahoma and beyond. The fellowship program seeks students whose life, research experience, and academic performance will contribute to the Educational Psychology Program by maximizing the benefits of diversity for all. The fellowship is an excellent fit for student-scholars planning a career in research and/or teaching in the field of Educational Psychology. More information can be found on the [EPSY website](#).



Post Admission & Continuation

Conduct

As a student in a graduate program, you may find it productive to think of yourself as a developing scholar and professional. This will certainly be the lens in which you are viewed by program faculty. It is expected that, upon successful completion of the program, you will have obtained a level of competency within your chosen area of interest and possess an intellectual disposition worthy of being called a “scholar.” We believe you deserve a great education. However, it is important to recognize that, ultimately, it is your choice whether or not you receive this. Key to this transformation from student to scholar will be: (a) recognizing the control you have over your own development, (b) recognizing that faculty and your peers possess a degree of expertise and experience that could benefit your growth, and (c) generally taking advantage of available opportunities—to the extent that your other commitments and time constraints allow.

Though you are the one who has primary responsibility for your own growth and development, graduate school is inherently a social endeavor. The positive relationships you develop during your time in the program can serve as a resource in the pursuit of your goals, and will be part of the fond memories you have long after you have graduated. It is important that you make an effort to cultivate these relationships. One way to do so is to treat others with the same level of respect that you yourself deserve.

The advisor-advisee relationship is one of the more important of these relationships. It is important to discuss with a potential advisor their approach to advising and general expectations for both parties. If there is a significant gap between your expectations and those of the faculty member, you should consider seeking another faculty advisor as this will save you both substantial time and energy in the long-run. After you have chosen an advisor, it is important to recognize that your advisor will consider it part of their responsibility to foster your professional development. This means that you should expect honest, candid evaluations of your work. Although it is not always easy to receive constructive criticism on work in which we are so personally vested, feedback serves as an impetus for growth and will be part of your professional life after completion of your program. Like any relationship, trust, effort, and open, clear communication on the part of both parties is key.

Due Process

As program faculty, it is our intent to make every effort to be fair and responsive to student needs. Students have a representative in our program-area meetings, and are encouraged to bring general concerns, suggestions, or ideas to their representative for discussion. Still, there may be concerns that cannot be resolved in this manner. If you should develop a concern, the **first step is to address it with the other party**—unless there are extreme circumstances that make it difficult to do so. This should be done in a respectful, courteous manner in which you seek to understand the other

party's side of the issue. Every attempt should be made to resolve the issue informally. If the issue cannot be resolved, you should take the following steps:

1. Present your concern to the Program Coordinator. If your concern is with the Program Coordinator, it should be brought before another faculty member. Keep in mind that program faculty have an obligation to discuss the concerns with one another unless they are of a personal nature.
2. If the concern cannot be resolved, it should be brought to the SEFLA School Head.
3. If the concern still cannot be resolved, it may be taken to the Graduate College or one of the appropriate university boards or administrative units for resolution.

Failure to follow these steps could be interpreted as a violation of trust or intent to breed malcontent amongst others within and/or outside the program. Please keep in mind that complaints are taken seriously at OSU. Thus, the ramifications of this action should be considered for all concerned (self, peers, faculty, future students). If you find that you have concerns with multiple peers or faculty, you should consider the possibility that your own behavior or attitude is the common denominator.

Misconduct

As indicated above, our default is to assume that you are here to learn and develop as a scholar, recognizing the social context in which you pursue your goals. We value you and strongly desire to see you succeed. We also value your peers, the undergraduate students taking our classes, faculty, administration, and support staff. Behavior or attitudes that could be reasonably interpreted as threatening or undermine the work of others will be considered misconduct. As graduate students, we recognize you as individuals with professional aspirations and as colleagues-in-the-making. As such, we hold you to the same high standards in which we hold ourselves. You serve as a representative of the Educational Psychology program at OSU. Thus, we take incidents of misconduct seriously as they could serve to undermine the reputation of the program and, by extension, the students who follow in your footsteps. Inappropriate conduct includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Being confrontational, disrespectful, unprofessional, threatening, intimidating, etc.
- Misrepresenting what others have said for your own gain
- Conveying a sense of entitlement as it relates to funding, grades, etc.
- Repeatedly failing to adhere to program policies, course requirements, or GA duties
- Unwillingness to acknowledge how one's behavior may be negatively impacting others
- Regularly blaming others for unpleasant circumstances of your own doing
- Failing to follow due process described above
- Attempting to sow discontent/malcontent amongst your peers or faculty.

Issues regarding inappropriate behavior will be brought to your attention. Similar to the due process procedures outlined above, the first step will entail a meeting between you, your advisor, and the third party (if applicable), and will be considered a first warning. The issue will be brought to the SEFLA School Head's attention and, if deemed to be of a serious nature, the Office of

Student Conduct. If the issue continues, a meeting will be held between you, your advisor, the SEFLA School Head, and any other parties (if applicable or appropriate). It will be included in your Annual Review (see below). Further issues may result in immediate dismissal.

Annual Progress

Per Graduate College Policy: A learner's progress towards degree completion is to be assessed at least once annually by the program. Annual review of students and candidates is an important part of the Educational Psychology Ph.D. program at Oklahoma State. The annual review serves to provide feedback regarding your progress in the program as well as steps that can be taken to maintain that progress and/or meet personal and career goals. In order to receive feedback regarding your progress, you will need to follow a two-step process. Step One entails completing a survey. Step Two entails sending materials to your advisor, temporary advisor (for Ph.D. students who have not yet filed a Plan of Study), or EPSY representative. The survey link and details regarding specific materials will be sent during Spring Semester.

If it is determined that the learner is not making adequate progress, then a plan to address and correct any inadequacies will be prepared in a written document provided to the student and the Dean of the Graduate College no later than **June 30**. Failure to correct these inadequacies may result in dismissal from the graduate program and/or Graduate College.

Appeal Process

In the event that inadequate progress toward degree completion remains unresolved after the deadline for the remediation plan has passed, the program will proceed with dismissal. You will be notified in writing and given 14 calendar days to request an appeal with the Coordinator of the Educational Psychology Program. They will notify you of a decision for this request within 14 calendar days. If the decision is made to uphold the move to dismiss, you will be given an additional 14 days to request and appeal with the Head of the School of Educational Foundations, Leadership, and Aviation. The School Head will notify you of a decision for this request within 14 calendar days. Once the appeal process has been exhausted at the school-level, you may appeal to the Dean of the Graduate College.

In addition to program dismissal, this policy also applies to situations such as program requirements, plans of study, and procedural issues pertaining to creative components, qualifying exam, and thesis or dissertation defenses. Consult the Graduate College for more information about their Appeals Policy.



M.S. Degree Guidelines

The Master of Science degree in Educational Psychology emphasizes Development and Instructional Psychology. The MS degree should be viewed as an applied program that develops capabilities, knowledge, skills and competencies of the graduate. These competencies focus on the human learner in educational situations. The major goals of this program are to prepare the graduate to perform effectively as professionals in schools and related educational settings or preparation for Ph.D. work.

The Advisory Committee

During your second semester, you will need to begin working with your temporary advisor to form an advisory committee of **no fewer than three** members of the OSU Graduate Faculty. This committee may, or may not, include your temporary advisor. At least two of the members must be tenured or tenure-track faculty in the Educational Psychology Program. The duties of the advisory committee include working in partnership with the student-scholar in advising and assessing progress through (1) assisting the student-scholar in preparing a plan of study, (2) assisting in planning and conducting the research, (3) overseeing the writing of the research document (thesis or creative component), (4) conducting the defense of the research document, and (5) approving the final research document.

Roles of the committee members are: *chair*, *advisor*, and *expert member(s)*.

The **chair's** primary duty is to monitor the progress of the student-scholar toward the degree. S/he need not necessarily be the advisor, but should have a strong familiarity with the academic requirements appropriate to the degree sought. The chair must hold a tenure-track faculty appointment in the EPSY Program. The chair's duties include convening meetings of the advisory committee as appropriate; ensuring compliance with policies, procedures and requirements; overseeing the plan of study and research document submission processes; and ensuring that the research topic undertaken is appropriate to satisfy degree requirements, with the results openly accessible. If the chair is not also the advisor, s/he should serve as a liaison with the advisor with regard to progress of research in fulfillment of degree requirements.

As noted earlier, you are assigned a *temporary* advisor when you enter the program. It is your responsibility to find a more "permanent" **advisor** as you prepare for your plan-of-study (POS). Though you can change advisors at any time, the faculty member who takes over advising at your POS is often the one who will support you through the duration of your program. The **advisor's** primary duty is to mentor the student-scholar in regard to the conduct of research necessary for the completion of the degree. As a result, it is expected that you will establish the closest working relationship with your advisor. S/he may also serve as the chair of the committee. The advisor must be a Member of the Graduate Faculty and hold a tenure-track faculty appointment in the

EPSY Program. The advisor's duties and privileges include guiding and counseling the learner in – and reporting to the advisory committee on – the research effort, and ensuring compliance with applicable research regulations. It is the advisor's responsibility to mentor the learner toward a research project that is original and worthy of the degree sought.

In the event there is a severed relationship with your advisor, it is your responsibility to find another advisor within 30 calendar days (not including holidays in which the university is officially closed or breaks such as winter break). Failure to do so will be considered a break in your academic progress and could result in dismissal from the program.

The committee should be completed with **expert faculty member(s)** whose expertise and counsel serve the student-scholar in attaining the goal of original research that is worthy of the degree sought. This person may, or may not, hold a position in the EPSY Program. An expert member's duties include reviewing draft research documents, attending regular meetings of the advisory committee, and interacting regularly with committee members and the student-scholar to monitor progress toward the degree.

The student-scholar and the members of the advisory committee should consult regularly to review the progress of the student's work. The responsibility for regular consultation is shared between the student-scholar and her/his advisor.

Plan of Study

A Plan of Study (POS) serves as a contract between a student and the university. Graduate education at OSU is highly personalized, and your POS is the blueprint for successful completion of your degree requirements. This document, created by you and your advisory committee, identifies the coursework you must complete in order to satisfy the program's requirements and attain your M.S. degree in Educational Psychology. Please note: **no grade lower than a "B"** will be considered as satisfying a course listed on your POS.

The original POS must be submitted to the Graduate College **prior to the completion of your second semester** (excluding summer sessions) of enrollment. If you do not meet this deadline, a hold will be placed on your future enrollment.

Begin by setting up a meeting (face-to-face, phone, Skype/Zoom) with your temporary advisor to discuss your POS and advisory committee. As a show of professional courtesy, it is customary to set up meetings with potential committee members to ask them to be on your committee. You should send a draft of your POS (please use the template found [here](#)), your resume/vita, and a short summary (less than one page) of your career goals and scholarly interests in advance of these meetings. After you have secured your committee, you will work with your advisor on revising your POS and sending it to your committee for feedback.

You will submit your original POS online. The online POS application is an interactive web form designed to make the process of completing and submitting a plan of study more transparent and prevent common mistakes. Information regarding the online POS can be found at the Graduate

College [website](#). A POS is valid once the student, advisory committee, and the graduate coordinator have approved it (all required approvals are done electronically).

Once all required parties have approved your POS, the Graduate College will receive notification to review it. If you need to revise your approved POS, you can simply log in and revise the approved plan. The system will load the complete plan that has been approved and allow you to make changes then resubmit. Follow the procedure for submitting the POS exactly as before.

Course Transfers/Waivers

Prior to matriculation into the program, some student-scholars may have taken courses they believe are equivalent to one or more required EPSY courses listed below. Up to nine hours of credit may transfer towards your degree at OSU, but any “transfer credit must be recommended by the graduate student’s advisory committee through the submission of a Plan of Study that is approved by the dean of the Graduate College” (2019-2020 University Catalog, Graduate College, Section 5.0). For planning purposes, some student-scholars may desire this determination be made prior to the third semester. In such instances, you will need to complete the EPSY Course Transfer/Waiver Form (see *EPSY Program-Related Documents*) for **each** course you are proposing as equivalent. Return the form to your advisor who will request the decision be put forth to the EPSY program faculty. EPSY faculty will review the request, make a recommendation, and return the form to you via your advisor. **It is your responsibility to present this form to your advisory committee ahead of your Plan of Study meeting.** Please note that the program faculty are merely making a recommendation. The decision to allow for the transfer of credit ultimately rests with your advisory committee and the dean of the Graduate College.

Responsible Conduct of Research

All EPSY graduate students are required to pass training in the Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR). Oklahoma State University is making use of the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) as a component of training in this area. This online training program consists of a series of tutorial modules focusing on different aspects of RCR and is intended for anyone engaged in research. Modules include instructional material, case studies, and additional suggested readings. At the end of each module is a short quiz. The results of each quiz are recorded and provided to you and to the Office of University Research Compliance. You must have a cumulative score of 80% to pass/complete the course. You will need to submit a copy of the completion certificate with your Annual Progress Report for your file. To access the training modules, go to the OSU Research Compliance website. **You are encouraged to complete this training as early in your program as possible.**

Coursework (36 credit hours)

A. Required Courses (15 hours):

EPSY 5103 Human Development in Psychology
EPSY 5463 Psychology of Learning
EPSY 5553 Motivation in Educational Contexts
REMS 5013 Research Design and Methodology
REMS 5953 Elementary Statistical Methods in Education

B. Electives (choose 15 hours from the list below):

FDEP 5183 Theories of Social Psychology
EPSY 5123 Academic Writing in the Learning Sciences (**thesis option only**)
EPSY 5403 Issues in Adolescent Development
EPSY 5473 Psychology of Adult Learning*
EPSY 5603 Developmental Issues in Instruction
EPSY 5663 Creativity for Teachers
EPSY 5963 Developing Resources to Support Educational Programs
EPSY 5983 Instructional Effectiveness in Higher Education*

C. Thesis OR Creative Component with Electives (6 hours, required)

Thesis option:

EPSY 5000 Master's Thesis (6 hours required; *not* to be taken in a single semester)

Creative Component option:

EPSY 5123 Academic Writing in the Learning Sciences
AND Electives (3 hours required; may come from outside the EPSY program)

*Serves as an elective for the [Graduate Certificate in College Teaching](#).

Master's Capstone: Thesis / Creative Component

As partial fulfillment of your Master's degree, you are required to complete a Thesis or a Creative Component. Those going on from their degree to pursue research or more advanced graduate work (e.g., Ph.D.) are encouraged to complete a Thesis. Those planning to use their degree to improve their work place or to pursue other ends that may not require advanced research skills may want to consider completing a Creative Component.

Submission and approval of the Thesis or Creative Component must follow all University policies related to deadlines and other regulations. After receiving clearance, the Application for Diploma must be filed with the Registrar's office. Please check the Graduate College website for important deadlines regarding graduation.

Thesis

In order to facilitate your timely completion of the Thesis, it is necessary for you to work with your advisor/committee chair to decide on a topic, format, and requirements for the final product to be defended formally to your entire committee in a public forum. The process of researching and building your Thesis is rigorous and demanding as befits the culminating effort of your Master of Science degree. **You will want to initiate the process during your second semester.** The Thesis is generally a written report of a research-based original study you have designed and carried out. A traditional thesis consists of five chapters: (1) Introduction to the Study, (2) Literature Review, (3) Methodology, (4) Findings (or Results), and (5) Discussion of the Study. This traditional format is only a suggestion; the faculty will also consider students' ideas for other Thesis formats.

To begin the discussion with your advisor about your Thesis, you are encouraged to write a prospectus (3-5 pages) including the following points:

Working Title: What is your research topic?

Rationale: What is the purpose? Why did you choose this study? What is the need for the study for your own professional development and for others in the field? What is your goal for the study? What do you hope to accomplish through its completion?

Description of Study: What is your plan? Describe your methodology in detail. If you will be using human subjects, complete Institutional Review Board (IRB) human subjects training modules and include a draft of an application to the OSU IRB. (More information can be found [here](#).) You must build in ample time (often a full semester) to secure necessary permissions before beginning research. What is your research plan? Include a projected timeline and list of materials and assistance you may need.

Literature Review: A Working Bibliography of **approximately 10-15 sources** from current (last 6 years) research literature related to your project. Older literature may be included if it is especially pertinent; however, it should not be counted in the total. Format your bibliography

according to most recent edition of American Psychological Association guidelines. Submit this written proposal to your advisor for review and feedback. As committee members are not always available during the summer session, you should plan to defend your final thesis to your committee during the fall or spring semester.

Make regular appointments with your advisor to review progress. S/he will work with you to set up chapter-by-chapter reviews. You should expect to provide multiple drafts over time of your work as your committee chair requests. It is your responsibility to find out the Graduate College deadlines for thesis defense and filing. Your advisor and committee members will work with you to set up a date for your public Thesis defense, but you must plan to have copies of your Thesis to each committee member **at least two weeks in advance** (not including official holiday breaks). Following the defense, your committee may require additional revision(s). Regardless of the final format of your Thesis, you must include a written Literature Review weaving together related research into a coherent section supporting the need for your project. Consult OSU Master's Theses available in the library for examples of Literature Reviews and for other examples of Thesis formatting, style, and content. Use current APA style for text citations and reference list.

Thesis Checklist:

- ☐ For research involving human subjects: IRB training completed
- ☐ Written 3-5 page summary to advisor (see above guidelines)
- ☐ Set appointment with advisor to discuss summary: address suggestions for revisions ASAP
- ☐ Draft of thesis proposal (chapters 1-3) submitted to advisor for approval
- ☐ Submit approved proposal to committee members and schedule proposal meeting
- ☐ Complete Data Collection & Analysis
- ☐ Write results and implications (chapters 4 & 5) and submit to committee; schedule defense meeting
- ☐ Complete additional revisions as needed; resubmit to chair/committee if necessary
- ☐ Defense Results due to Graduate College

Creative Component

The Creative Component is different from a Thesis in that there is more flexibility in what your final product looks like; however, the process of researching and building your Creative Component is rigorous and demanding as befits the culminating effort of your Master of Science degree. The Creative Component provides you the opportunity to apply your developing expertise to address a real-world problem (e.g., a professional development need in your school). You should begin thinking about the topic of your Creative Component during your second semester.

In order to facilitate your timely completion of the Creative Component, it is necessary for you to work with your advisor/committee chair to decide on a topic, format, and requirements for the final product to be presented formally to your entire committee in a public forum. To begin the discussion with your advisor about your Creative Component, please write a prospectus (3-5 pages) including the following points:

Working Title: What is your topic?

Rationale: What is the purpose? Why did you choose this project? What is the need for the project for your own professional development and for others in the field? What is your goal for the project? What do you hope to accomplish through its completion?

Description of Project: What is your plan? If your Creative Component is text-based, describe your plan for completion and the format for your final product. What process will you follow to carry out your work? Include a projected timeline and list of materials you will need. If instead you choose to conduct a research project, describe your methodology in detail if you will be using human subjects, include a draft of your application to the OSU Institutional Review Board. (See Graduate College website for downloadable forms and instructions.) You must build in ample time to secure necessary permissions before beginning research.

Literature Review: A Working Bibliography of **at least 10-15 sources** from current (last 6 years) research literature related to your project. Older literature may be included if it is especially pertinent; however, it should not be counted in the total. Format your bibliography according to the most recent edition of the American Psychological Association guidelines.

Submit this written prospectus to your advisor for review. If you intend to complete your Creative Component during a Summer session, contact your advisor before the 8th week of the Spring semester prior to set up a completion schedule.

Your Creative Component should be completed and a final draft presented to your committee chair no later than the 12th week of classes during the Spring or Fall semester you intend to graduate. Your committee may require additional revision(s).

Regardless of the final format of your Creative Component, you must include a written Literature Review weaving together related research into a coherent document (or section) supporting the need for your project. Consult OSU Masters Theses available in the library for examples of

Literature Reviews. Use APA style (most current edition) for text citations and reference list. You do not need to use a running head, and you may structure your title page as you wish. You will be required formally to present your completed Creative Component to your committee members for final evaluation.

Creative Component Checklist

- ☐ Informal Discussions with Chair (should begin during your second semester)
- ☐ Written 3-5 page prospectus to advisor (see above guidelines)
- ☐ Set appointment with advisor to discuss progress
- ☐ Submit approved proposal to committee members and address any feedback they provide
- ☐ Final Creative Component submitted to advisor
- ☐ Complete additional revisions as needed
- ☐ Submit Creative Component to Committee members and prepare presentation
- ☐ Present at EPSY Creative Component Program
- ☐ Complete additional revisions as needed; resubmit to chair/committee if necessary
- ☐ Submit signed approval form to Graduate Students Records Office (see next page)



Ph.D. Degree Guidelines

Approaching Ph.D. Work

Upon admission to the program, student-scholars are assigned a temporary advisor who will assist in the planning process. Milestones of the Ph.D. Program include forming an advisory committee, submitting a plan of study, successful completion of your qualifying examination, and successful submission of your proposal and defense of your dissertation research.

The Educational Psychology program is designed to provide the maximum opportunity to shape, in consultation with the area faculty and the doctoral advisory committee, a program tailored to meet individual interests, needs, and career goals of the student-scholar. It is best thought of as an apprenticeship into academia rather than a degree that is granted after a predetermined set of coursework is completed. We believe that this is best accomplished by having student-scholars take an active role in designing an educational plan to ensure the greatest possible meaning of the educational experience. Taking such a role is both an educationally valuable experience in its own right and an important step in becoming a doctoral-level professional. This means taking an active role in your learning, including taking proactive steps to take advantage of research, teaching, and service opportunities that prepare you for your goals after you graduate. The EPSY faculty are committed to assisting you through this process.

Getting off to a strong start in your program involves getting involved in research your first semester. This means (a) approaching faculty to inquire about the work they are doing, what research groups are available, and how you may get involved; (b) completing your Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) training; and (c) becoming familiar with OSU's Institutional Review Board (IRB).

Research Experiences

Research teams are used as an institutionalized model for academic development. A research team is usually composed of one or more faculty and a number of student-scholars with common interests in a topic. The group engages in research as an extracurricular activity. Team members are not usually enrolled in a research course because of potential difficulties of collaboration in a graded situation. From the standpoint of the faculty, the team is a teaching vehicle for communicating research methods, skills, and ethics to the learner while at the same time creating new knowledge for the field. Research teams draw on the expertise of all members, may recruit additional members or solicit external experts, and complete a research-based product that is presented to a professional audience (conference, journal, etc.).

Student-scholars will have opportunities to practice research with the guidance, scaffolding, and support of faculty. To be considered research, appropriate IRB procedures are followed. Student-scholars who are interested in working in the academy may graduate from the program with peer-

reviewed publications and presentations at regional and national conferences to be competitive in job searches.

Responsible Conduct of Research

All EPSY graduate students are required to pass training in the Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR). Oklahoma State University is making use of the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) as a component of training in this area. This online training program consists of a series of tutorial modules focusing on different aspects of RCR and is intended for anyone engaged in research. Modules include instructional material, case studies, and additional suggested readings. At the end of each module is a short quiz. The results of each quiz are recorded and provided to you and to the Office of University Research Compliance. You must have a cumulative score of 80% to pass/complete the course. You will need to submit a copy of the completion certificate with your Annual Progress Report for your file. To access the training modules, go to the OSU Research Compliance website. **You are encouraged to complete this training as early in your program as possible.**

Institutional Review Board Information

Before research involving human subjects begins, the Institutional Review Board (IRB) must approve it. In order to submit an application, you must first successfully complete the IRB training (based on the type of study being conducted). Please consult the IRB website for details. If your dissertation research involves humans, then you will need to complete an IRB application form and include a summary of your research plan with the application. Your IRB application must be approved and signed by your advisor before it is submitted to the IRB office for approval. Once the IRB begins to review your application, you can expect the process to take about one month (sometimes it is less or more). Be sure to include a signed letter of consent from the administrator in charge if your research will take place in a school/institutional setting or will involve research on teachers or students.

Advisory Committee

During your second semester, you will need to begin working with your temporary advisor to form an advisory committee of **no fewer than four** members of the OSU Graduate Faculty. This committee may, or may not, include your temporary advisor. At least two of the members must be tenured or tenure-track faculty in the Educational Psychology Program. The duties of the advisory committee include working in partnership with the student-scholar in advising and assessing progress through (1) assisting the student-scholar in preparing a plan of study, (2) preparing and examining the student-scholar for candidacy, (3) assisting in planning and conducting the research, (4) overseeing the writing of the dissertation, and (5) conducting the dissertation defense. You should work with your temporary advisor in composing a committee that provides an optimal level of support while challenging and expanding your thinking.

The doctoral advisory committee shall consist of at least four members of the OSU Graduate Faculty. Roles of the committee members are chair, advisor, and expert member(s). At least one of the committee members must be an “outside” member (see details below).

Begin by setting up a meeting with your advisor to discuss your Plan of Study (POS, see below) and advisory committee. It is customary to set up meetings with potential committee members to ask them to be on your committee. You should send a draft of your POS, your resume/vita, and a short summary (less than one page) of your career goals and scholarly interests in advance of these meetings.

The **chair’s** primary duty is to monitor the progress of the student-scholar toward the degree. S/he need not necessarily be the advisor, but should have a strong familiarity with the academic requirements appropriate to the degree sought. The chair must hold an OSU tenure-track faculty appointment in the Educational Psychology Program and have been at OSU for at least three years. The chair’s duties include assisting the student-scholar in convening meetings of the advisory committee as appropriate; ensuring compliance with policies, procedures and requirements; overseeing the POS and dissertation submission processes; and ensuring that the research topic undertaken is appropriate to satisfy degree requirements, with the results openly accessible. If the chair is not also the advisor, s/he should serve as a liaison with the advisor with regard to progress of research in fulfillment of degree requirements.

As noted earlier, you are assigned a *temporary* advisor when you enter the program. It is your responsibility to find a more “permanent” **advisor** as you prepare for your POS. Though you can change advisors at any time, the faculty member who takes over advising at your POS is often the one who will support you through the duration of your program and the dissertation process. S/he may also serve as the chair of the committee. The advisor must be a Member of the Graduate Faculty in the Educational Psychology Program. The advisor’s duties and privileges include guiding and counseling the student-scholar in, and reporting to the advisory committee on, the research effort, ensuring compliance with applicable research regulations, and hooding the student at commencement. It is the advisor’s responsibility to mentor the student-scholar toward a research project that is original and worthy of the degree sought. You may find these [seven steps helpful in finding the right advisor](#).

In the event there is a severed relationship with your advisor, it is your responsibility to find another advisor within 30 calendar days (not including holidays on which the University is officially closed or breaks such as winter break). Failure to do so will be considered a break in your academic progress and could result in dismissal from the program.

The committee should be completed with **expert faculty member(s)** whose expertise and counsel serves the student-scholar in attaining the goal of original research that is worthy of the degree sought. Typically, but not necessarily, such individuals will be faculty members associated with the Educational Psychology Program. An expert member’s duties include reviewing draft documents of the dissertation, participating in examinations per Graduate committee, and interacting regularly with committee members and the student to monitor progress toward the degree.

The **outside member** serves as the representative of the Graduate College and ensures a high level of integrity in the processes that the committee utilizes to review and evaluate the student-scholar. This member must be a faculty member at OSU and a member of the Graduate Faculty, but must **not** be a faculty member from the academic unit or program of either the student-scholar or the chair of the advisory committee. The outside member ensures that appropriate academic standards are applied in evaluating the student-scholar, and that the student-scholar is dealt with in a fair and consistent manner. S/he also provides expert advice (when appropriate) to the student in the conduct of research and writing of the dissertation.

The student-scholar and the members of the advisory committee should consult regularly to review the progress of the student's work.

Plan of Study

A Plan of Study (POS) serves as a contract between a student-scholar and the university. Graduate education at OSU is highly personalized, and your POS is the blueprint for successful completion of your degree requirements. This document, created by you and your advisory committee, identifies the coursework you must complete in order to satisfy the program's requirements and attain your Ph.D. in Educational Psychology. Please note: **no grade lower than a "B"** will be considered as satisfying a course listed on your POS.

The original POS must be submitted to the Graduate College **prior to the completion of your third semester** (excluding summer sessions) of enrollment. If you do not meet this deadline, a hold will be placed on your future enrollment.

Begin by setting up a meeting with your advisor to discuss your POS and advisory committee. As a show of professional courtesy, it is customary to set up individual meetings with potential committee members to discuss their willingness to serve on your committee. You should send a draft of your POS (use the template found [here](#)), your resume/vita, and a short summary (less than one page) of your career goals and scholarly interests in advance of these meetings. After you have secured your committee, you will need to set up a meeting for you and your committee to discuss your POS. The responsibility for setting up this meeting is yours (though your advisor is here to support you in this process).

At the conclusion of the meeting in which your committee endorses your POS, the next step is to submit your POS online. The online POS application is an interactive web form designed to make the process of completing and submitting a plan of study more transparent and prevent common mistakes. The link to the online POS can be found at the Graduate College [website](#). A POS is valid once you, your advisory committee, and the graduate coordinator have approved it (all required approvals are done electronically). Once all required parties have approved, the Graduate College will receive notification to review it. If you need to revise your approved POS, you can simply log in and revise the approved plan. The system will load the complete plan that has been approved and allow you to make changes then resubmit. As resubmission will generate

an email to your committee members for approval, you should notify your committee of any changes you have made immediately. Follow the procedure for submitting the POS exactly as before. More information on the POS can be found [here](#) at the Graduate College website. A worksheet can be found on the EPSY [website](#).

Course Transfers/Waivers

Prior to matriculation into the program, some student-scholars may have taken courses they believe are equivalent to one or more required EPSY courses listed below. Up to nine hours of credit may transfer towards your degree at OSU, but any “transfer credit must be recommended by the graduate student’s advisory committee through the submission of a Plan of Study that is approved by the dean of the Graduate College” (2019-2020 University Catalog, Graduate College, Section 5.0). For planning purposes, some student-scholars may desire this determination be made prior to the third semester. In such instances, you will need to complete the EPSY Course Transfer/Waiver Form (see *EPSY Program-Related Documents*) for **each** course you are proposing as equivalent. Return the form to your advisor who will request the decision be put forth to the EPSY program faculty. EPSY faculty will review the request, make a recommendation, and return the form to you via your advisor. **It is your responsibility to present this form to your advisory committee ahead of your Plan of Study meeting.** Please note that the program faculty are merely making a recommendation. The decision to allow for the transfer of credit ultimately rests with your advisory committee and the dean of the Graduate College.

Coursework (70 credit hours)

The requirements for the Ph.D. in Educational Psychology with a specialization option of Educational Psychology are listed below. Following the requirements is a list of recommendations for professional preparation and identity in potential areas of study. Other coursework may be considered by the doctoral committee. Please note that **70 is the minimum number of hours required**. It is possible that your committee may determine that additional competencies, and thus, coursework, are required for you to build the necessary skills to be considered a competent scholar in the field of Educational Psychology.

Please note: All student-scholars in the PhD program are required to enroll in **EPSY 5001 Colloquium: Educational Psychology** during their first fall semester. This course is one credit hour and serves to help orient students to the expectations of the program, faculty research interests, various student research projects, and help develop a community of learning scholars.

Domain I: Research and Inquiry - 18 hours required

Required courses for Domain I:

REMS 6003 Analysis of Variance*
REMS 6013 Multiple Regression*

SCFD 6113 Theoretical Foundations of Inquiry

Other coursework recommended for expertise in the Research and Inquiry Domain:

REMS 5963	Computer Applications in Nonparametric Data Analysis
REMS 6023	Psychometric Theory
REMS 6033	Factor Analysis in Behavioral Research
SCFD 6123	Qualitative Research I
SCFD 6193	Qualitative Research II
REMS 6373	Program Evaluation
REMS 6383	Program Evaluation II
REMS 6663	Multivariate Statistics
REMS 6673	Item Response Theory
REMS 6683	Hierarchical Linear Models
REMS 6693	Structural Equation Modeling
CIED 6253	Conducting and Designing Mixed Methods Research

*REMS 5013 Research Design and Methodology and REMS 5953 Elementary Statistical Methods in Education are prerequisites for these courses, but do not count toward the plan of study.

Domain II: Foundations of Educational Psychology – 26 hours required

Many students have taken the following three courses as part of the master's degree. Although these course are considered prerequisite to the doctorate, they are not required and *may be counted* on the doctoral plan of study if needed:

EPSY 5103	Human Development
EPSY 5183	Theories of Social Psychology
EPSY 5463	Psychology of Learning

Required Courses:

EPSY 5001	Colloquium I: Educational Psychology
EPSY 6001	Colloquium II: The Job Search in Educational Psychology and Related Fields
EPSY 6153	Advanced Research in Educational Psychology
EPSY 6213	Advanced Educational Psychology
EPSY 6533	Human Motivation

Choose at Least Three (two must be 6000-level):

EPSY 5123	Academic Writing in the Learning Sciences
EPSY 5403	Issues in Adolescent Development
EPSY 5473	Psychology of Adult Learning*
EPSY 5603	Developmental Issues in Instruction

EPSY 5663	Creativity for Teachers
EPSY 5963	Developing Resources to Support Educational Programs
EPSY 5983	Instructional Effectiveness in Higher Education*
EPSY 6043	Adult Development
EPSY 6163	Emotion and Cognition
EPSY 6443	Theories and Problems in Educational Psychology

*Serves as an elective for the [Graduate Certificate in College Teaching](#).

Domain III: Area of Expertise - 12 hours required

Student-scholars select 12 hours related to an area of expertise based on student career goals, expertise, interest, and background. Examples of areas of expertise may derive from the other domains, such as measurement or program evaluation in a specific context; instructional development for students with diverse needs; studies of gender, race, class, ability; multicultural issues in education; adult development or aging learners; social and emotional needs of children, and many others.

Dissertation – 15 hours required

A dissertation (doctoral dissertation) is required of each doctoral candidate (15 or more credit hours of EPSY 6000). Please see the *Dissertation* section for more information.

Independent Study (EPSY 6850 Directed Reading)

In order to take up to 6 hours of Directed Reading, you must get the approval of your advisor **and** the supervising faculty member. In addition, the appropriate form (see Appendix) should be completed and signed by the student, the faculty member, and the advisor **before** the study begins.

Transfer/Waiver of Courses

In some cases, coursework completed elsewhere or prior to your admission to the EPSY program may satisfy pre-requisites or domain requirements. Work with your chair and members of your advisory committee to determine the equivalence of related coursework for possible transfer into the doctoral POS. (NOTE: Any questions will default to Graduate College policy.) For courses transferred, please provide a syllabus from the course completed elsewhere and a copy of an email from an instructor at OSU indicating the course equivalency. Submit with the appropriate form (see Appendix) for committee approval.

The Qualifying Examination

The purpose of the qualifying examination is to provide the student-scholar with an opportunity to demonstrate a depth of understanding of core theoretical constructs, the ability to critically

analyze, interpret, and synthesize empirical findings in the field, and the skills to investigate and empirically study questions relevant to the field. However, the examination serves other purposes as well. According to the OSU Catalog, the qualifying examination is designed to measure the student's proficiency in the field of specialization, the breadth and depth of professional education background, and knowledge of cognate subjects. Typically, the content of the qualifying exam is based on three primary areas: program core areas, area of specialization, and research.

Timeline

In general, full-time doctoral students take the qualifying exam during their fourth or fifth semester of the program (after completion of between 27-45 hours of coursework). Completing the qualifying process at this time helps ensure timely progress towards degree.

Because one purpose of the exam is to determine whether you are ready to advance to candidacy, proficient in skills necessary for successfully completing your dissertation research, you will want to complete a majority of coursework related to core areas and skills early in your program of work. Although exam questions will not be limited to these courses, those considered core to the Educational Psychology program include:

EPSY 5103	Human Development in Psychology
EPSY 5463	Psychology of Learning
EPSY 6533	Human Motivation
EPSY 6213	Advanced Educational Psychology
REMS 5013	Research Design and Methodology
REMS 5953	Elementary Statistical Methods in Education
REMS 6001	Analysis of Variance
REMS 6013	Multiple Regression

In the semester that you plan to complete the qualifying process, you are to enroll in at least two credit hours of either EPSY 6000 Dissertation or EPSY 5320 EPSY Seminar: Academic Writing.

During this semester, you will complete both a written and oral exam. The timeline for this process is as follows:

- 2nd Monday of the semester – submit a CV; statement of research interests; and a goal statement that includes your professional goals, the progress you have made toward those goals, and your plan moving forward. These documents should be sent to your advisory committee and any EPSY faculty not serving on your advisory committee.
- 4th full week of the semester – written examination distributed; 2 weeks to complete
- 8th full week of semester – oral examination scheduled (you are responsible for scheduling)

You will receive feedback on areas of strength and limitation following your oral defense and prior to the end of the semester. **You must meet expectations for each of the competencies on the exam to pass and proceed with the program.** If you do not receive a passing score, any one or combination of the following three things may happen: (1) asked to complete remedial work, (2) asked to retake one or more elements of the exam, or (3) asked to discontinue your program of study. Anything related to items 1 or 2 must occur in the semester immediately following the first attempt.

Qualifying Examination

The written exam will consist of three essay questions, to be weighted equally in determining a total score. Essay questions will be influenced by (but not limited to) the research interests and goal statement you submit. Your advisory committee and remaining EPSY faculty will determine your questions. The exam will be distributed via email no later than the 4th Monday of the semester. You will have until the 5th Friday (the following week) to submit your responses via email to your advisor, who will distribute them to your advisory committee. Adjustments may be made to accommodate university holidays.

The purpose of the oral exam is to provide you with an opportunity to expand more fully upon the written responses and demonstrate skills for thoughtfully engaging in critical dialogue with other scholars. Follow-up dialogue about continued progress, research direction, and composition of your dissertation committee might also become part of the oral exam. Oral exams should be scheduled to occur no earlier than the 8th class week and no later than the 10th class week of the semester.

Results

Evaluation of the qualifying written and oral exam will be made by your advisory committee. You will need to receive a passing score from at least two of the EPSY faculty on your advisor committee to pass the qualifying process. If there are only two EPSY faculty on the advisory committee and the vote is split, you will be asked to make revisions. A third EPSY faculty will then be involved to evaluate your revised work. The chair of the Advisory Committee will report results to the student and EPSY Graduate Coordinator. Students will be permitted to retake the examination at its next offering the following semester in the event that a previous examination was not passed. Students taking the examination a second time are not necessarily required to take all portions of the examination. However, the student must remain enrolled as a degree candidate until requirements are completed. The student must inform their committee of intent to retake the examination a second time.

Doctoral Candidacy

Once you have successfully passed your *Qualifying Exam* requirements and have an approved dissertation prospectus or proposal, you become a doctoral candidate. Doctoral candidacy forms are available on the Graduate College's 'Graduate Student Community' shell on Canvas. This form should be completed by all members of your advisory committee at the end of the oral

defense or your proposal. You should be familiar with Graduate College requirements regarding deadlines for submitting this form. Students must receive formal admission to doctoral candidacy 6 months prior to graduation (see Graduate College Academic Calendar for exact dates).

Dissertation

As partial fulfillment of your Ph.D. degree, you are required to complete a dissertation. According to the OSU Catalog, the dissertation has three main functions: (1) training in research, (2) promoting professional growth, and (3) contributing to the professional knowledge in education. Ultimately, the purpose of the dissertation is to provide an opportunity for you to integrate and apply a wide range of research skills in a special area of interest directly related to educational psychology. Although initial groundwork for the dissertation can occur early in your program, the formal work usually occurs during your third and fourth year.

Proposal Hearing

The dissertation proposal should be developed in consultation with your advisory committee chairperson and/or dissertation advisor. The proposal must consist of an introduction, review of the literature, methodology, references and appendices. The introduction and method sections of the dissertation proposal should be written to be consistent with manuscript submission requirements for peer-reviewed journals. You will need to schedule the meeting and provide a draft to your committee two weeks in advance. Ask if they would like a hard copy. The length of the proposal meeting will vary, but you should plan for it to take about two hours.

The dissertation proposal must be approved by your advisory committee and prepared under the direction of the committee members and close supervision of the dissertation advisor. You must demonstrate initiative, creative intelligence, and the ability to plan and carry out scholarly research in the field of educational psychology. It is recommended that you propose your dissertation by the end of the third spring semester in the program for post-master's students.

After your advisory committee has approved your proposal, you should submit an application for approval of the research to the OSU Institutional Review Board (IRB) if the research is to involve human subjects. You are required to successfully complete or update on-line IRB research training (CITI) before you can submit the IRB application. After the IRB approves the proposal, you may begin collecting and analyzing the data in order to complete the results and discussion sections of the dissertation. When the committee chairperson or dissertation advisor feels that the dissertation is ready for final consideration by the advisory committee, a final oral defense of the dissertation is scheduled and conducted. Further details and deadlines regarding the dissertation are provided on the Graduate College [webpage](#); you are responsible for knowing these and attending to appropriate deadlines.

Doctoral Dissertation Defense

The final examination is the oral defense of the dissertation. The oral defense must take place no later than two weeks before the final date set by the Graduate College. Students are encouraged to set the date with their committee as early as possible, but they must (1) give the committee at least two weeks to review their written work before the defense, and (2) receive confirmation from the committee that all committee members, based on the quality of the written work, believe the student is ready to defend.

For example, if the last day to submit the Dissertation Oral Defense Form to the Graduate College is April 28th, students must defend before April 14th, and they must submit the dissertation to the committee before March 31st.

The committee will notify the Graduate College immediately of the results of the final defense on the appropriate form. After the candidate has successfully completed the final examination, he/she will make all changes required by the committee and by the Graduate College and electronically submit the dissertation in final form to the Graduate College.

The dissertation defense is open to any member of the Graduate Faculty or other visitors with the approval of the Committee Chair. Visitors, other than committee members, are not permitted to vote and will be excused at the discretion of the Committee Chair. The Chair is the person who is responsible for the conduct of this final examination. The oral should be announced at least two weeks in advance with a posting on SEFLA and College of Education and Human Sciences bulletin boards.

Dissertation defenses over summer and winter breaks are discouraged due to difficulties scheduling faculty who may not be on campus and to meeting deadlines. All committee members must agree to a summer dissertation defense. A member of the Advisory Committee may not be replaced for non-agreement to a summer defense.

Beyond the Program: The Academic Job Search

Though embarking upon a career generally happens *after* you have successfully defended your dissertation, taking steps to obtain a job in academia begins quite some time before. Whether you are seeking a post-doc fellowship, adjunct teaching job, or a tenure track position, your job search should begin long before you graduate (see the figure below).



Required Professional Documents

You will need to respond to job announcements with an individualized cover letter, which highlights your specific qualifications based on the job ad, and a CV. Research statements, philosophy of teaching statements, and service statements are often required as well. Other documents that may be requested include (but are not limited to): a transcript, a dissertation abstract, or a writing sample. **Included below are some resources for completing your professional documents.**

Adapted from: <https://web.stanford.edu/class/inde231/Academic%20Job%20Search%2005-06.pdf>

Cover Letters:

- <https://www.thebalance.com/how-to-write-an-academic-cover-letter-2060155>
- <https://grad.illinois.edu/sites/default/files/pdfs/academiccoverletters.pdf>

Curriculum Vitae:

- <http://www.uky.edu/~eushe2/Pajares/vita.html>

Teaching Philosophy:

- Coppola, B. P. (2002). Writing a statement of teaching philosophy. *Journal of College Science Teaching*, 31(7), 448.

Research Statement:

- <https://careerservices.upenn.edu/application-materials-for-the-faculty-job-search/research-statements-for-faculty-job-applications/>

Searching for Academic Positions

The internet is a useful resource for finding academic positions that are right for you. **Below are some resources for searching for academic positions.**

- *Chronicle of Higher Education*: <https://chroniclevitae.com/>
- *Higher Ed Jobs*: <https://www.higheredjobs.com/>
- *Academic 360*: <http://www.academic360.com/>
- *Education Week*: <https://www.edweek.org/ew/index.html>
- *Academic Careers Online*: <http://www.academiccareers.com>

Preparing for Interviews

As with other aspects of the academic job search, there are many resources available on the internet. Take some time to read the APA One Tip Essay by Dr. Phil Winne as you prepare for your interview. (<https://apadiv15.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/OneTip-January-2018.pdf>)



Resources

The program, School of Educational Foundations, Leadership, & Aviation; College of Education, Health, & Aviation; Graduate College; and Oklahoma State University provide a number of resources to support and guide students.

Program and School of Educational Foundations, Leadership, & Aviation

Educational Psychology Student Society (EPSS)

EPSS is a student organization whose mission is to serve EPSY graduate students by enhancing their graduate experience. In realizing this mission, EPSS strives to support and facilitate a community of scholars by coordinating and sponsoring social events of interest for EPSY graduate students, as well as, representing and communicating students' needs and expectations. For events and updates, visit them on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/OSUEPSS/>. Contact Krystal Moore (2022/23 EPSS President) at krysmoo@okstate.edu to learn more about EPSS and ways to become involved.

School of Educational Foundations, Leadership, & Aviation (SEFLA) Graduate Student Travel Grant

The SEFLA Grant is offered as a means of reimbursement for SEFLA Graduate Students with costs associated with presentation of research at a state, regional, national, or international conference. Funding amounts, criteria, and process may change annually, so be sure to notify your advisor.

College of Education and Human Sciences

- Scholarships: <https://education.okstate.edu/scholarships>
- Technology provides equipment checkout, a fully equipped computer lab, presentation poster printing and other services:
<https://education.okstate.edu/about/technology/index.html>

Graduate College

- Graduate College: <http://gradcollege.okstate.edu/>
- OSU Catalog: <https://registrar.okstate.edu/University-Catalog>

- Academic Calendar: <https://registrar.okstate.edu/Academic-Calendar>
- Graduate and Professional Student Government Association (GPSGA) (includes application process for professional travel reimbursement): <https://gpsga.okstate.edu/>

Oklahoma State University

- Career Services: <http://www.hireosugrads.com/StudentsAlumni/>
- Edmon Low Library: <http://www.library.okstate.edu/>
- Conference Poster Printing: <https://info.library.okstate.edu/poster-printing>
- Family Resource Center: <https://reslife.okstate.edu/housing-options/neighborhoods/family-resource-center.html>
- Health Insurance (Student): <https://gradcollege.okstate.edu/prospective-students/student-health-insurance-plan.html>
- Information Technology: <http://www.it.okstate.edu/>
- Institute for Teaching and Learning Excellence: <http://itle.okstate.edu/>
- International Student and Scholars Office: <http://iss.okstate.edu/>
- International Students Arrival and Orientation: <http://iss.okstate.edu/arrival-orientation>
- Office of Multicultural Affairs: <https://oma.okstate.edu/>
- OSU Writing Center: <http://osuwritingcenter.okstate.edu/>
- Residential Life: <https://reslife.okstate.edu/>
- OSU Research Compliance, Human Subjects Research Design Guidance: <https://research.okstate.edu/compliance/irb/index.html>
- Department of Wellness: <http://wellness.okstate.edu/>
- Student Accessibility Services: <http://sds.okstate.edu/>
- Student Affairs: <https://studentaffairs.okstate.edu/>

- Student Code of Conduct: <https://ssc.okstate.edu/site-files/documents/student-conduct/code21-22.pdf>
- The OSU Student Union: <http://union.okstate.edu/>
- University Counseling Services: <http://ucs.okstate.edu/>
- University Health Services: <http://uhs.okstate.edu/>
- University Parking Services: <https://parking.okstate.edu/>

Other Resources

- Understanding the Publishing Process: <https://www.elsevier.com/?a=91173>



EPSY Program-Related Documents

In the pages that follow, you can find the following information:

- Course Rotation Schedule
- Course Transfer/Waiver Form
- Annual Progress Report
- Qualifying Exam Rubric

Many of these forms can also be downloaded from the EPSY [website](#).



EPSY Tentative Course Rotation Schedule

Course	Format	even FA	odd FA	even SP	odd SP	SU
EPSY 5001 Colloquium	F2F	X	X			
EPSY 5103 Human Development**	Online/F2F**	2X	2X	X	X	X
FDEP 5183 Theories of Social Psychology	Online					X
EPSY 5123 Academic Writing in the Learning Sciences	Online	X	X			
EPSY 5403 Issues of Adolescent Dev.	Online				X	
EPSY 5463 Psych of Learning	Online	X	X	X	X	X
EPSY 5473 Psych of Adult Learning*	Online	X	X			
EPSY 5553 Motivation in Learning Contexts	Online			X	X	
EPSY 5603 Developmental Issues in Instruction	Online			X		
EPSY 5663 Creativity for Teachers	Online			X		
EPSY 5963 Developing Resources for Ed. Programs	Online		X			
EPSY 5983 Instructional Effectiveness in Higher Ed*	Hybrid				X	
EPSY 6163 Emotion & Cognition	F2F			X	X	
EPSY 6153 Advanced Research in Educational Psychology	F2F			X		
EPSY 6043 Adult Development	F2F	X				
EPSY 6533 Human Motivation	F2F		X			
EPSY 6213 Advanced Ed. Psych	F2F	X				
EPSY 6443 Theories and Problems	F2F				X	

* Serves as an elective for the [Graduate Certificate in College Teaching](#).

** Online is the default format; F2F is available when two sections are offered in the given semester.



EPSY Course Transfer/Waiver Form

These courses met the requirements for the following Oklahoma State University courses:

OSU Course	Equivalent Course

Attach relevant course syllabi, email, and/or other verification of equivalency (e.g., email from OSU faculty teaching equivalent course).

Please note that completion of this form serves as a program *recommendation* to the advisory committee regarding the equivalency of the proposed course. The decision whether to accept a course as equivalent rests with the advisory committee.

The EPSY Program Faculty met on _____ to discuss the equivalency of the above courses. The program faculty recommend to:

Advisor Signature

Program Coordinator Signature



EPSY Annual Progress Report

Annual review of students and candidates is an important part of the Educational Psychology Ph.D. program at Oklahoma State. The annual review is a requirement of the Graduate College, but also serves to provide feedback regarding your progress in the program as well as steps that can be taken to maintain that progress and/or meet personal and career goals. In order to provide feedback regarding your progress, students need to follow a two-step process. Step One entails completing a survey (the link will be sent via the EPSY Listserv during Spring Semester). Step Two entails sending the following materials to your advisor, temporary advisor (for Ph.D. students who have not yet filed a Plan of Study), or EPSY representative (contact the Program Coordinator if you are unsure who this is):

MS Students

- 1. Resume or curriculum vitae (use APA format for any research activity)**
- 2. Updated unofficial copy of your transcripts**
- 3. Philosophy of Teaching (or Learning) Statement**

PhD Students

1. Curriculum vitae containing the following information (APA format):

- Research
 - Publications
 - Conference presentations
 - articles & proposals submitted for review
 - Recognition for excellence in research
 - funding applied for and/or received (include travel awards)
 - GRA work—list of responsibilities and products (i.e., accomplishments)
- Teaching
 - Teaching experiences (P-12, TA, etc.)
 - Recognition for excellence in teaching
- Professional Service (committee involvement, student representative, journal or proposal reviewer, etc. at the national, regional, university, college, or program-level).

- 2. Updated unofficial copy of your transcripts**
- 3. Philosophy of Teaching Statement**
- 4. Statement of Research Interests and Goals**
- 5. Copies of publications or papers presented during the present academic year.**
- 6. CITI certificate of completion**



EPSY Creative Component Rubric

A Creative Component results in a product that supports the students' personal or professional goals. It is different from a Thesis in that there is more flexibility in what your final product looks like, but should reflect the same level of rigor and scholarship as a Master's Thesis. The Creative Component provides you the opportunity to apply your developing expertise to address a real-world problem (e.g., a professional development need at your school). The Creative Component has 3 parts (a) written paper (literature review along with written description of project), (b) the product/project itself, and (c) an oral presentation.

	Does Not Meet Expectations	Meets Expectations	Exceeds Expectations
Theoretical Competency	No evidence of inquiry and/or research literacy. Creative component does not relate to/reflect constructs from the field of educational psychology.	Some evidence of inquiry and/or research literacy. Creative Component reflects constructs from the field of educational psychology.	Strong evidence of inquiry and/or research literacy. Creative Component strongly reflects key theoretical constructs from the field of educational psychology.
Application to Practice	No application to educational or related contexts is provided. The actual product (e.g., website) is not described and the (a) purpose, (b) audience, and/or (c) desired outcomes is unclear.	Application to at least one educational or related context is clearly stated. The actual product (e.g., website) is described but lacks detail about the (a) purpose, (b) audience, and (c) desired outcomes.	Conclusions and application to educational or related context(s) is specific and strongly supported. The actual product (e.g., website) should be well-described and include: (a) purpose, (b) audience, and (c) desired outcomes.
Academic Writing	Neither implicit nor explicit reference is made to the topic or purpose of the project. Major sections of pertinent content have been omitted or greatly run-on.	Readers are aware of the overall problem, challenge, or topic of the project. All major sections of the pertinent content are included, but not covered in as much depth, or as explicit, as expected.	Introduction clearly identifies and describes the topic. Provides rationale for the project or study. All major sections are included and organized in a way that supports the reader's understanding of the constructs. The appropriate content is covered in depth without being redundant.

	<p>Real-world problem/research question was not presented but could be inferred through the literature review.</p> <p>Information is gathered from a limited number/mostly outdated sources. Relies heavily on textbooks. Citations are often missing.</p> <p>There is no indication the author tried to synthesize the information or make a conclusion based on the literature under review.</p> <p>Citations do not follow APA format and/or are often missing essential information. APA format for margins, font, spacing, headings, references, and title page is not followed or reflects multiple errors.</p> <p>Literature Review does not meet 20-25 page criteria by 3 or more pages.</p>	<p>Real-world problem/research question is informed by the literature and articulated for the reader.</p> <p>Information is gathered from a number of sources but may not always be cited when needed. Majority of sources are peer-reviewed articles that have been published in the last 10 years.</p> <p>The author provides concluding remarks that show an analysis and synthesis of ideas occurred. Some of the conclusions, however, were not supported in the body of the paper.</p> <p>Citations follow APA format; however; a few (2) errors in essential information were evident. APA format is also followed for margins, font, spacing, headings, reference, and title page with only minor errors.</p> <p>Literature Review does not meet 20-25 page criteria by 1-2 pages.</p>	<p>Real-world problem/research question is informed by the literature reviewed, clearly stated for the reader, and timely.</p> <p>Sources are cited when specific statements are made. Information is gathered from multiple, current, peer-reviewed sources and seminal works.</p> <p>The author was able to make succinct and precise conclusions based on the review. Insights into the problem are appropriate. Conclusions and the application to educational psychology are strongly supported in the review.</p> <p>Citations are accurate, complete, and follow APA format. APA format is also properly followed for margins, font, spacing, headings/subheading references, and title page.</p> <p>Literature Review adheres to 20-25 page criteria.</p>
Overall Presentation	<p>Presentations demonstrate minimal organization.</p> <p>Presentation does not target a professional audience.</p>	<p>Presentations are organized.</p> <p>Presentation targets a professional audience.</p>	<p>Presentations are well-organized and clear.</p> <p>Presentation targets a professional audience.</p>

Overall comments:



EPSY Qualifying Examination Rubric

Ph.D. in Educational Psychology (EPSY Option)

Student Name: _____

Committee Member: _____

Date: _____

Competency	<i>Does not meet expectations</i>	<i>Meets expectations</i>	<i>Exceeds expectations</i>	<i>Totals</i>
Theoretical Knowledge	Work fails to demonstrate an adequate understanding of the predominant theories in the field of Educational Psychology. References are obscure or not clearly relevant. The work fails to draw upon the most relevant literature. (≤ 23 pts.)	Work demonstrates a fundamental understanding of the predominant theories in the field of Educational Psychology as evidenced by references to seminal works as well as the most current, theoretical relevant literature. The work may contain a few gaps in acknowledging the limitations or critiques of contemporary frameworks. (26-24 pts.)	Work demonstrates a strong understanding of the predominant theories in the field of Educational Psychology as evidenced by references to seminal works as well as the most current, theoretical relevant literature. The work demonstrates an understanding of the limitations and critiques of contemporary frameworks. Furthermore, the student displays original thinking and innovation (novel, unique ideas). (30-27 pts.)	
Research Knowledge	Work fails to demonstrate adequate understanding of research methods, what they entail, and	Work demonstrates a fundamental understanding of basic research methods used within the field of Educational Psychology, as evidenced by	Work demonstrates a strong understanding of different research methods used in the field of Educational Psychology, as evidenced by critical review of previous empirical work and	

	<p>when/why they might be used. Proposed research questions are not grounded in the literature and do not align with proposed methodology. When proposing an original study, important details are missing (e.g., it is unclear who will be studied, how they will be studied, or how the data collected will be analyzed to address the proposed research question.)</p> <p>(≤ 23 pts.)</p>	<p>review of previous empirical work. Proposed research questions are appropriate given the literature, and can be answered with the proposed methodology (although there may be a more rigorous methods and/or some alignment may still be needed). Details are provided regarding who will be studied (population) and how (protocol, measures, analyses), although further clarity may be needed (e.g., sampling size/power analysis, recruitment method) before the study can begin.</p> <p>(26-24 pts.)</p>	<p>clear identification of a gap in the existing literature in need of further study. Articulates the importance of filling the gap and proposes reasonable research questions and hypotheses that have the potential to close the gap. The proposed sample and methods are feasible and appropriate, given the research questions/hypotheses. Overall, there is a strong alignment between the reviewed literature, identified gaps, proposed research questions and hypotheses, and methods. Important methodological details are provided regarding the population and sample size, measures (including psychometric details as appropriate), the protocol for data collection and data analysis.</p> <p>(30-27 pts.)</p>	
Written Communication Skills	<p>The work is poorly organized. The review of the literature is only tentatively relevant to a problem statement. Arguments for implications and conclusions are tenuous. The work contains systemic APA errors as well as significant</p>	<p>The work is generally well organized. The main points and review of the literature are generally grounded in, and relevant to, a problem statement. The literature review generally supports the implications and conclusions. The work contains few systemic APA errors.</p>	<p>The work is well organized. The main points and review of the literature are grounded in, and relevant to, a problem statement. The literature review sets up arguments for implications and conclusions. The work contains no systemic APA errors. Spelling and grammatical errors are few if non-existent.</p>	

	spelling and grammatical errors. (≤ 15 pts.)	Spelling and grammatical errors are few. (17-16 pts.)	(20-18 pts.)	
Oral Communication Skills	Student has difficulty in responding to direct questions about the presentation. Responses to hypothetical questions are not grounded in the relevant literature. Student responds to questions in an unprofessional manner. (≤ 15 pts.)	Student is generally able to refer to her/his work in responding to direct questions about the presentation. Responses to hypothetical questions are generally grounded in the relevant literature. Student responds to questions in a professional manner. (17-16 pts.)	Student is able to refer to her/his work in responding to direct questions about the presentation. Responses to hypothetical questions are grounded in the relevant literature. Responses demonstrate innovative thinking that goes beyond the current scenario to future steps or implications in the field. Student responds to questions in a professional manner that results in an engaging discussion that includes all parties. (20-18 pts.)	

Overall Comments: