

## DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

The Department of Psychology offers a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) Program in School Psychology with two sub-specializations: clinical and neuropsychology. The mission is to prepare school psychology practitioners and scholars whose activities promote the psychological and educational development and well-being of children and adolescents. This Program is grounded in a scientific-practitioner model focused on prevention and centered on an ecological vision of human development. As highly qualified scientific-practitioners, graduates will be able to apply extensive content knowledge and research skills to identify and solve psychological and educational problems in schools, clinics, and other environments relevant to children and adolescents. The vision of training and practice in school psychology is based on the accreditation standards of the American Psychological Association (APA) and the National Association of School Psychology's (NASP) standards for graduate preparation of school psychologists.

The PhD Program in School includes six (6) fundamental components: core courses, specialty areas, research, practical experiences, defense of a dissertation, and a one-year internship. Graduates will meet the requirements established by the Examining Board of Psychology in Puerto Rico to be licensed to practice school psychology in the Island (LPRA 96, Ley para Reglamentar el Ejercicio de la Psicología en Puerto Rico).

The curriculum includes 90 credits that may be completed in the span of five (5) years.

<b>Courses</b>	<b>Credit Hours</b>
Core courses	23 credit hours
School Psychology Courses	24 credit hours
Specialized Strand.	12 credit hours
Practicum Courses	2 credit hours (500 hours of practice)
Advanced Practicum Courses	6 credit hours (500 hours of practice)
Research Courses	11 credit hours
Elective Courses	6 credit hours
Dissertation	3 credit hours
Internship (2000 clock hours)	3 credit hours
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>90 credit hours</b>

Our graduates may be employed in diverse settings and roles: faculty in academic departments of school psychology, psychologists employed by public schools and psychologists in private practice, medical centers, residential treatment centers, and child guidance clinics among others.

### Admission Requirements

In addition to the requirements established by the Office of Graduate Studies (OEG) and listed in *Certification 09-09* of the UPRM Academic Senate, applicants must comply with the following Program requirements:

- Complete the Application for Admission to Graduate School including all required documents.
- Have completed a bachelor's degree in psychology from an accredited college or university program with a 3.30 GPA and a specialization GPA of 3.30 and above.

### OR

- Evidence of having completed the following courses-credits with an average of 3.30 and above:

<b>Course</b>	<b>Credits</b>
developmental psychology.	3
social psychology	3
physiological psychology	3
experimental psychology or	
research methods	3
statistics	3

- GRE or EXADEP
- Interview with the Graduate Committee
- Official transcripts of completed undergraduate/graduate work
- Three (3) letters of recommendation
- Personal Statement
- Curriculum Vitae

Due to the systemic nature of the sequence of courses, the Program requires full-time studies.

This Program requires students to demonstrate the ability to speak, write, and understand Spanish and English. Corrective classes may be required for students who speak a language other than Spanish or English. Those courses will NOT be included in the student's plan of study.

## **Graduation Requirements**

- Approve 90 credits
- Complete practice experiences (1,000 hours)
- Pass a comprehensive examination
- Successfully develop and defend a research proposal for the dissertation
- Attend a minimum of two (2) seminars for the duration of the program
- Complete a one-year internship (2,000 hours)
- Successfully develop and defend a dissertation based on an original piece of empirical research in School Psychology
- GPA of 3.0 or higher as required by **Certification 09-09** of the Academic Senate of UPRM

The Program is based in the Department of Psychology located at Celis Building, Office 303. Regular classrooms, each of approximately 800 square feet, are in the Chardon Building (CH). An observation room is in CH-217, with two interior rooms which include a two-way mirror for training and supervision purposes.