



Psychology Department  
600 Lincoln Avenue  
Charleston, Illinois 61920-3099

Office: 217-581-2127  
Web: <http://psych.eiu.edu/>

EA-CLAS-22-11  
Effective Summer 2022

## EXECUTIVE ACTION REQUEST

TO: Barbara Bonneken, Dean  
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

FROM: Dr. John Mace, Chair  
Psychology Department

SUBJECT: Executive Action

DATE: January 28, 2022

EFFECTIVE DATE: Summer 2022

**REQUEST:** Remove degree requirement

**Requested Change:** Remove the Comprehensive Examination requirement for the Master's in School Psychology Degree.

**Current:**

The Master of Science in School Psychology requires a minimum of 35 semester hours at the graduate level (see exact courses below) and to pass the comprehensive competency test administered by the program faculty. Currently, the comprehensive competency test used is the second-year portfolio, which is completed during the fourth semester in the program (i.e., at the end of students' second year).

Psychological Foundations: Total Credits: 9

- PSY 5170 - Theories of Learning. Credits: 3
- PSY 5300 - Advanced Child Development. Credits: 3
- PSY 5500 - Child Psychopathology. Credits: 3

Professional School Psychology: Total Credits: 3

- PSY 5030 – Ethics, Law, Diversity, and Professional Practice of School Psychology. Credit 3

Psychological Assessment: Total Credits: 10

- PSY 5020 - Advanced Measurement Principles. Credits: 3
- PSY 5021 - Social, Emotional, and Behavioral Assessment Credits: 3
- PSY 5022 - Individual Intellectual Assessment. Credits: 4

Research and Statistics: Total Credits: 7

- PSY 5710 – Research Design and Statistical Analysis I. Credits: 4

- PSY 5711 - Research Design and Statistical Analysis II. Credits: 3

Intervention: Total Credits: 3

- PSY 5040 - Theories of Psychotherapy. Credits: 3

Field Experience: Total Credits 3

- PSY 5890 – Field Study or Practicum. Credits: 1 to 12

### **Proposed:**

The Master of Science in School Psychology requires a minimum of 35 semester hours at the graduate level (see exact courses below). **Removed “...and to pass the comprehensive competency test administered by the program faculty.”**

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Intervention: Total Credits: 3

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Field Experience: Total Credits 3

- PSY 5890 – Field Study or Practicum. Credits: 1 to 12

### **Rationale for Change:**

Because the second-year portfolio occurs during our students’ fourth semester in the program, students have been graduating with their Masters after 65 credits (rather than 35). This has become an issue for students accessing financial aid. When students are beginning their fourth semester they receive a warning they can no longer access financial aid because they have exhausted the credits required for the Masters degree. Removing this requirement, would allow students to receive the Masters degree after 35 credits (summer after their first year, rather than at the end of their second year). Moving the second-year portfolio to students’ first year, would be premature (i.e., much of the content has not been taught) and the portfolio is intended to evaluate students prior to internship and to help them create an internship plan. Therefore, the second-year portfolio cannot be moved earlier in the program.

**Effective Year/Term:**

SP2022. It would be ideal to make this change this semester, so our current first-year students can graduate with their Masters in summer 2022 or fall 2022.