

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
Master of Arts in Educational Psychology
Department of Teacher Education
College of Education @ Eastern Michigan University

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What is Educational Psychology?

Educational Psychology is the study of psychological principles as they apply to educational settings. The foundational question is, "*How can psychology be used to help the individual learner grow and develop?*" All educational settings are included, from preschool through adulthood. People interested in this kind of program include

teachers and other educators, parents, adult trainers, individuals who wish to teach in higher education, and those interested in pursuing doctoral degrees in the field of education. Program alumni have used this program to advance in steps on their teacher pay scales, improve their professional practice as teachers/trainers/program coordinators, do program evaluation and assessment, engage in various forms of research/inquiry, and pursue doctoral studies. [Return to top](#)

What is the format and length of the program?

All courses are 3 credit hour courses taught online in an asynchronous format using Canvas. Courses are currently offered in a 7-week or 15-week format, though the program is moving toward most courses being offered in the 7-week format. The program requires 30 credit hours. It takes students 20-24 months to complete the program, though as we move toward 7-week course formats, students will be able to complete the program in as few as 18 months.

What courses will I take?

All students take an introductory course in educational psychology as well as courses in human development, the social foundations of education, and educational research. The program has a Developing Learning concentration wherein students choose 12 credit hours of restricted electives in learning, motivation, mental health, curriculum and instruction, early childhood, counseling, and special education. All students take a seminar in educational psychology and a course to complete their culminating project. Course descriptions and program requirements are available in the [graduate catalog](#). [Return to top](#)

Who are the faculty members in this program and where is it housed?

Educational Psychology faculty members bring a broad and diverse set of personal and professional experiences in education to their teaching. Information about faculty members is available [here](#). The [Master of Arts in Educational Psychology](#) is one of the degrees offered by the Department of Teacher Education within [EMU's College of Education](#). [Return to top](#)

How many credits should I take per semester?

Full-time student status for financial aid purposes is at least 8 credit hours while part-time is 4-7 credit hours. The number of credit hours taken in any given semester depends upon the student's personal, employment, and financial situations. Students

have seven years to complete this degree program though most complete it in two years or less. [Return to top](#)

Is this a cohort program?

No. Students enter the program at different times throughout the year and take varying numbers of credit hours. [Return to top](#)

What is the cost of the program?

EMU has a [tuition and fees calculator](#) that students can use to estimate costs. In Winter 2021, a three credit hour course costs \$2773. [Return to top](#)

What kind of financial aid is available?

Information about financial aid is available [here](#). [Return to top](#)

Will I earn professional certification or licensure as part of this program?

No. This program is a non-licensure program. If you are interested in teacher certification, counselor certification, or administrator certification in Michigan, EMU has different programs for those career goals. EMU does not offer a program in school psychology certification. People interested in school psychology certification should find accredited programs at the [National Association of School Psychologists web site](#). [Return to top](#)

Do I need a teaching certificate to enroll in this program?

No. Though most of the students in this program are practicing P-12 teachers, we have a number of students who are not licensed teachers but are engaged in work that involves teaching and learning. [Return to top](#)

What is the history of Eastern Michigan University?

Founded in 1849 as the first teacher preparation institution west of the Alleghenies, EMU is a comprehensive university with five colleges that offers bachelors, masters, and doctoral degrees in a variety of fields. EMU's 800+ acre campus is located in Ypsilanti, Michigan, which is 40 miles west of Detroit. EMU quick facts are available [here](#). [Return to top](#)

Is EMU accredited?

Yes. The university is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and education programs are accredited by the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation. There is no accreditation body for programs in educational psychology. [Return to top](#)

What are the admission requirements?

Students need to apply through [EMU's Graduate School](#). Following are the admission requirements for the program.

- Undergraduate GPA of at least 2.75 for a conferred baccalaureate degree, or 3.0 undergraduate GPA in the last half of the undergraduate coursework, or 3.3 GPA in at least 12 credit hours of graduate-level coursework (from an accredited institution), or a score of at least 4 on the GRE writing test.
- A personal statement explaining the student's professional goals and how they match the degree program. Life experiences, accomplishments and interests relative to the program should be considered.
- Two letters of recommendation from professional sources, not peers.

The GRE test is not required for program admission. [Return to top](#)

When can I apply to the program?

Applicants are accepted year around.

How do I apply as an international student?

EMU's [Office of International Students and Scholars \(OISS\)](#) supports international students from application through graduation. Please contact OISS directly with questions.

When can I start the program?

EMU has three semesters: fall (begins September), winter (begins January), and summer (begins May). Courses are currently offered in either 7-week or 15-week formats.

Eventually the program will offer all courses except the culminating project course in the 7-week format so that students have two entry points per semester.

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Who will be my advisor?

Dr. Shawn Quilter (squilter@emich.edu) is the graduate coordinator and advisor for the program. He is available throughout the year for advising. [Return to top](#)

What are online asynchronous courses like?

The courses are designed so that students interact with one another and the faculty member throughout the semester. Faculty members use video presentation tools, threaded discussions, peer review processes, and other online tools to engage students. Students complete papers and projects throughout the program, some of which are collaborative. Though the courses are asynchronous, there are due dates for assignments and students are expected to regularly engage in course activities as required by their instructor. The program's culminating experience is a research project and paper. Some students publish their research paper or present it at a professional conference after completing the program.

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What do current students see as strengths of the program?

Following are quotes from current students.

- "Great content. Interesting and relevant."
- "Leadership and flexibility."
- "Caring and supportive professors."
- "A variety of interesting classes."
- "The types of classes offered are interesting and apply to my career."
- "EDPS prepares students to be critical thinkers, aware and purposeful in the teaching domain. It also equips them with the needed means to be professional writers as well."

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