



Rhode Island College School Psychology Graduate Program
Frequently Asked Questions for Prospective Applicants

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About The Field of School Psychology

Who are School Psychologists?

School Psychologists are experts in *learning, behavior, mental health, and school systems.*

<i>They Provide</i>	<i>They Support</i>	<i>They Serve In</i>
✓ academic and behavioral interventions	✓ struggling and diverse learners	✓ public and private schools
✓ mental health supports	✓ academic achievement	✓ early childhood centers
✓ evaluation, assessment, and data analysis	✓ positive behavior and mental health	✓ universities
✓ consultation with teachers and families	✓ safe and supportive learning environments	✓ juvenile justice facilities
✓ culturally responsive services	✓ school-family-community partnerships	✓ clinics and hospitals
✓ crisis prevention and response	✓ school-wide data-based decision-making	✓ independent practice

The vast majority of school psychologists work in K-12 public schools.

School psychologists can make a positive, lasting difference in children’s lives. They are a vital part of the effort to unlock each child’s potential for success. School psychology is an ideal career for individuals that are interested in:

- Working directly with children and adolescents
- Supporting students with mental health needs by providing counseling, skill instruction, and learning and support plans
- Assessing and evaluating individual differences to identify intervention strategies
- Working collaboratively with parents and teachers to support children’s success
- Changing practices and policies to improve school outcomes
- Engaging in challenging and diverse activities that change from day to day
- Using research to inform practices
- Developing strong team member and leadership skills
- Promoting appreciation and support for human diversity
- Demonstrating the highest standards for ethical and professional behavior
- Helping students thrive at home, in school, and in life

([NASP, 2023](#))



What is the job outlook and salary range for School Psychologists?

The [U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics \(2022\)](#) reports that the national average annual salary for School Psychologists is \$87,550. The average salary for school psychologists in Rhode Island is \$84,230, and the average salary in Massachusetts is \$92,730.

National Wage Estimates for School Psychologists (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2022)					
Percentile	10%	25%	50% (Median)	75%	90%
Annual Salary	\$ 53,040	\$ 64,880	\$ 81,500	\$ 103,890	\$ 128,800

The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects a 5.5% employment growth for school psychologists between 2021 and 2031, and the current unemployment rate is 0.6%.

Demand for school psychologists is exceptionally strong and on the rise. School psychology has consistently been rated among the 100 Best Jobs in U.S. News and World Report. Awareness of the need to provide mental health and instructional supports for children and youth in schools continues to grow. Furthermore, the profession currently faces shortages of qualified school psychologists to fill positions nationwide. There is a particular need for professionals from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. School psychology provides a stable career with growth opportunities, good health and retirement benefits, and an opportunity to positively impact youth and families ([NASP, 2023](#)).

How can I learn more about the field of School Psychology?

We recommend visiting the [National Association of School Psychologists \(NASP\) website](#) for an overview of the field. Our program courses and training experiences align closely with NASP Standards and the 2020 NASP Practice Model.



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About the RIC School Psychology Program

Is the RIC School Psychology program accredited by NASP?

Yes, our program remains fully accredited by the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) through 2030. Graduates of NASP-approved and NASP-accredited programs receive quality preparation across all domains of practice and can have a streamlined process for applying for the Nationally Certified School Psychologist (NCSP) credential.

Is the RIC School Psychology program approved by RIDE?

Yes, our program was “Approved with Distinction” by the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) in 2016 and again in 2023.

What is the employment rate upon graduation from the RIC School Psychology program?

The employment rate is 100% for graduates of the RIC School Psychology program.

How can I learn more about the RIC School Psychology program?

Contact the program’s graduate assistant at schoolpsychology@ric.edu or the program director, Shannon Dowd-Eagle, at seagle@ric.edu. If interested, you can ask to be connected with a current student (via email or phone) to learn more about the program from a student’s perspective. Information sessions are held during the Fall semester. Check the program website for dates and locations (www.ric.edu/schoolpsychology).



Our RIC School Psychology Instagram account is run by current students and includes photos and information about our program from the perspective of current students: [@ricschoolpsychology](https://www.instagram.com/ricschoolpsychology/), <https://www.instagram.com/ricschoolpsychology/>



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Classes & Schedule

When do classes meet?

Classes are scheduled once per week in the evenings (4pm - 6:50pm or 7pm - 9:50pm) during the Fall and Spring semesters. Summer 1 and Summer 2 session classes are scheduled twice per week (3pm - 6:35pm or 7pm - 10:35pm).

Are online classes available?

Most of the required classes are 100% in-person (once per week 3-hour classes). However, some courses are also offered in a “Hybrid” format (half in-person, and half online).

Do students typically work full-time while enrolled in the program full-time?

Full-time graduate study is a significant investment of both time and money. We expect it to be the primary focus of our students in order to get the most out of the education and training experience. That said, many students are able to continue their work during Year 1 of the program consistent with the flexibility of their work hours and time needed to fully engage in graduate study. Year 2 students are required to spend two full days at their practicum site in a school, in addition to evening courses, so most students are not able to work full-time. In Year 3 students complete a full-time internship in a school (5 days per week) and receive a stipend of \$10,000.

Can I complete the program on a part-time basis?

Most students enroll full-time across three years, and we prefer students to enroll full-time. Part-time enrollment is possible during Year 1 of the program, but full-time enrollment is required during Practicum and Internship.



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What does the weekly schedule look like each semester?

Below is a *sample* based on 2023-2024 courses. The schedule is subject to change.

YEAR 1, Foundational Courses

Fall Semester (September – December)

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
4-7pm	CEP 532		CEP 534	CEP 601	
7-10pm				CEP 603	

Spring Semester (January – May)

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
4-7pm		TESL 539	CEP 604	CEP 551	
7-10pm			CEP 533		

Summer I Semester (May – June)

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
3-6:35pm	CEP 536		CEP 536		
6:35-9:48pm	CEP 538		CEP 538		

Summer II Semester (July – August)

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
3-6:35pm		CEP 531		CEP 531	
6:30-9:48pm		CEP 537		CEP 537	

YEAR 2, Practicum Year

Fall Semester (September – December)

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
4-7pm			CEP 651	CEP 605	
7-10pm			CEP 675		

Spring Semester (January – May)

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
4-7pm	SPED 534			CEP 602	
7-10pm		CEP 554		CEP 605	

(No Summer Courses in Year 2)



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YEAR 3, Internship Year

YEAR 3 Fall Semester (September – December)

Gray = full-time internship in a school setting, during school hours

		Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
7am						
9am						
11am						
1pm						CEP 629
3pm						
4pm						

YEAR 3 Spring Semester (January – June)

Gray = full-time internship in a school setting, during school hours

		Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
7am						
9am						
11am						
1pm						CEP629
3pm						
4pm						

Can I enroll in courses before being accepted into the program?

We allow non-matriculating students to enroll in the following courses: CEP 532 Theories and Methods of Counseling, and CEP 531 Human Development across Cultures. Completing these courses does not ensure acceptance into the program. Once accepted into the program, these course credits would apply to the M.A. in Counseling /C.A.G.S. in School Psychology.

I have already completed CEP 532 and CEP 531. Can I enroll in a core school psychology class as a non-matriculated student?

No. Non-matriculated students are not eligible to enroll in any of the following core school psychology courses: CEP 601, CEP 603, CEP 551, CEP 604, CEP 533, CEP 651, CEP 605, CEP 675, CEP 602, and CEP 629. These courses are designed to be taken sequentially over the course of three years of training (this applies to both M.A./C.A.G.S.. and C.A.G.S.-only applicants).



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Financial Questions

How much does the program cost?

Link to RIC Graduate Tuition and Fees information: [Graduate Tuition and Fees | Rhode Island College \(ric.edu\)](#)

2024-2025 Tuition			
	In-State Cost	Northeast Neighbors	Out-of-State Cost
Fall/Spring Year 1	13,248	19,368	24,840
Summer Year 1	6,624	9,684	12,420
Fall/Spring Year 2	11,592	16,947	21,375
Fall/Spring Year 3	6,624	9,684	12,420
Total Cost	38,088	55,683	71,055

The In-State Tuition cost per credit is \$533, Northeast Neighbor cost per credit is \$781, and the Out-of-State cost per credit is \$1002. Applicants from MA, CT, ME, VT, and parts of NY, NJ, and PA can attend RIC at a 40% discount. As a leader in social mobility, RIC extends this offer of more than \$10,000 off of out-of-state tuition to our [Northeast Neighbors](#). Note that the table above does *not* include the \$10,000 stipend that students receive during Fall/Spring of Year 3 (internship year).

Is financial aid available for graduate students?

For information about applying for financial aid, please contact the [Financial Aid Office](#) (401) 456-8033.

Are graduate student assistantships available?

Yes. Applicants are eligible to apply for Graduate and Teaching Assistantships in various RIC programs and departments. To learn more about available assistantships and to apply [see here](#). The application deadline for assistantships is **March 15th**. To be considered for an assistantship, applicants are encouraged to apply prior to acceptance into the program.



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How much do graduate assistantships pay?

Full-time Graduate and Teaching Assistants receive an annual stipend of \$3,150. Half-time GA's receive \$1,575. Full-time positions are accompanied by a waiver of all tuition for courses at Rhode Island College for the academic year and for one summer (the summer previous to or following the appointment). Students with half-time positions receive a waiver of half tuition for courses at Rhode Island College for the academic year and one summer.

Application Requirements

What are the application requirements?

As stated on our [program webpage](#), the following must be provided by February 1st:

1. A completed application form accompanied by a \$50 nonrefundable application fee.
2. Official transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate records.
3. A résumé or curriculum vitae.
4. A professional goals essay.
5. Three letters of recommendation accompanied by candidate rating forms.
6. Performance based evaluation.

Where are the “candidate rating forms” for my letters of recommendation?

After you submit the email addresses for each of your references, they will receive an email prompt to submit their letters of recommendation. Within the system they will be prompted to complete a candidate rating form (you do not provide this to them, they will see it when they submit your letter online).

What is the “performance-based evaluation” requirement?

The performance-based evaluation could be a review from an employer, supervisor, or professor regarding the quality of your work. A performance-based evaluation measures your ability to perform a task or series of tasks in real time. It can be a work evaluation or applied task from a class such as service learning or a research project presentation.



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Is the GRE or MAT required for my application?

No. As of 2022, the GRE and/or MAT are no longer required.

Is the Psychology GRE required for my application?

No, the Psychology GRE is not required.

Transfer Credits

I'm interested in transferring graduate level-courses towards the C.A.G.S degree. How many credits am I able to transfer?

Applicants can transfer up to 13 credits, with the approval of program faculty. With the 13 credits that can be transferred towards the C.A.G.S degree, the courses must have been taken within 6 years. The [RIC Graduate Studies Manual](#) (2022, p. 8) states:

E. Transfer Credits

A candidate may request credit for work taken at other regionally accredited institutions of higher learning. Candidates must successfully complete a residency requirement of a minimum of 4/5 of the credit hours of the graduate degree program at Rhode Island College. In considering a request for transfer credit, the student's advisor will review the program of study, carefully evaluate the relevance of the proposed courses to the Plan of Study, and consider the availability of courses to fulfill credit requirements. Transfer credit is granted only when approved by the student's adviser, the Program Director and Academic Dean. In order to qualify for transfer credit, the following conditions must be satisfied:

1. The student must have earned a grade of B or better for graduate-level coursework.
2. The graduate-level coursework approved to be included in a Plan of Study may be from a candidate's previously completed graduate degree.
3. Transfer credit for courses taken more than six years prior to awarding of the Master's degree need to be approved by the Program Director and Academic Dean.
4. The work must have clear and unquestioned relevance to the student's Plan of Study.



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5. A student enrolled at Rhode Island College may receive transfer credit for work subsequently taken at another institution under the provisions cited above only if approval is obtained in writing from the appropriate Academic Dean before the student enrolls for the course.

6. Any credits transferred from another institution of higher learning will be so indicated on the student's transcript. However, the grade earned at that institution would not be recorded or used in computing the student's GPA. (edits approved by Graduate Committee April 2019) To determine 4/5 of transfer credits refer to [Form A-20 here](#).

Questions Specific to Applicants Who Already Have a M.A. in Counseling

Note: The following questions are specific to applicants applying with a M.A. in Counseling degree, who wish to complete the C.A.G.S. in the school psychology program.

I have a M.A. in Counseling and I'm interested in pursuing a C.A.G.S in School Psychology. If I'm accepted into the program, what courses would I need to take?

For applicants with a M.A. in Counseling, the program faculty will review previous transcripts and degree(s). The following courses comprise the M.A. in Counseling with a concentration in Educational Psychology: CEP 531, CEP 532, CEP 534, CEP 536, CEP 537, CEP 538, CEP 554, CEP 533, CEP 551, and CEP 602. Program faculty will review the applicant's transcript to identify missing courses. CEP 533, CEP 551, and CEP 602 are not typically completed as part of a M.A. in Counseling Degree, so C.A.G.S.-only students must take these courses upon acceptance to the program.

Do C.A.G.S.-only students need to complete the Comprehensive Exam once enrolled in the program?

No. This is not required for applicants who have successfully completed a M.A. in Counseling.



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For C.A.G.S.-only applicants, is it possible to complete the program in fewer than 3 years?

No. C.A.G.S.-only students take fewer courses than M.A./C.A.G.S students, but the timeline remains three years to program completion. Courses and training experiences are developmentally sequenced over a three-year period within a cohort model.