Western Education



Master of Arts (MA) / Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

Field of School and Applied Child Psychology

Why a MA/PhD in School and Applied Child Psychology?

Our seamless CPA-accredited MA/PhD program is committed to the development of professional psychologists who promote the educational and psychological well-being of children and youth. It prepares students with theoretical, research and professional training to support psychological practice with children and youth in a variety of settings including schools, mental health, private practice and research contexts.

Why Choose Western's Master and Doctoral School & Applied Child Psychology Field of Study?

Our combined MA/Ph.D. program prepares graduates to work in both school and community settings. Emphasis is placed on academic, social, behavioural, professional, legal and ethical issues as well as assessment, intervention, prevention, consultation and research.

- Courses address issues that arise in both school and community settings.
- MA students complete required coursework, a thesis, and a school board placement; they receive **$1000** per term in guaranteed scholarship funding enrolled up to 6 terms.
- PhD students complete required coursework, a dissertation and 3 practica (one in a school setting and 2 in a child and youth clinic) prior to entering their residency/internship; scholarship funding to cover tuition costs and an additional **$17,000** per year in guaranteed funding through graduate research or teaching assistantships.
- All students receive strong faculty support in applying for external awards and scholarships.

Our Mission

Our mission is to prepare future psychologists to create and use the knowledge of psychological science in ways that enhance the well-being of children and youth in schools and communities. Our programs integrate equity, diversity and social justice through academic instruction, training and research. The MA program is designed to provide students with foundational knowledge in School Psychology with an emphasis on theory and research. The PhD program is designed to provide training in psychological assessment, therapy, psychosocial and instructional interventions, consultation, and prevention. Emphasis is also placed on psychoeducational assessment of factors and conditions that influence the learning process and its outcomes. Students in the School and Applied Child Psychology programs develop knowledge, skills, and competencies to apply these understandings to inform practice within schools, mental health agencies, private practice and research settings. The combined MA/PhD degrees meet the academic requirements of the College of Psychologists of Ontario for registration as a Psychologist (PhD).

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MA Program Requirements

The MA in School & Applied Child Psychology program (SACP) takes an average of two years to complete. It requires an Honours B.A. or B.Sc. in Psychology (with thesis). Students are expected to have a minimum "A" grade standing (80%) or equivalent in the previous two years of undergraduate work. Students are also required to have completed the following coursework: a half-course in quantitative or research methods course and a half-course in child development. Courses and milestones are as follows:

- 9651: Academic Assessment
- 9653: Ethical and Professional Issues in School and Applied Psychology
- 9806: Psychology in the Schools
- 9705: Advanced Quantitative Research Methods
- 9811: Academic Interventions
- 9802: Biological and Cognitive Foundations of Development
- 9801: Social-Ecological Foundations of Development
- 9551: Applied Behaviour Analysis for Psychologists: Theory and Practice
- Thesis
- MA Placement
- Optional: 9800: Professional Case Seminar

Visit the program website for more information:

Western Education's MA | Field of School and Applied Child Psychology

PhD Program Requirements

The Ph.D. in School & Applied Child Psychology program (SACP) takes an average of four years to complete. It requires an MA in School and Applied Child Psychology or equivalent (with thesis). Students are expected to have an "A" grade standing (80%) or equivalent in previous graduate work. Courses and milestones are as follows:

- 9803: Childhood Psychopathology
- 9809: Cognitive Assessment
- 9813: Clinical Intervention with Children and Adolescents
- 9810: Comprehensive Psychological Assessment with Children and Adolescents
- 9821: Program Development and Evaluation
- 9808: Interprofessional Collaboration, Consultation, & Supervision
- 9800: Professional Case Seminar
- Practicum I, II and III (total 600 hours)
- Qualifying Examination
- One-year full-time paid APPIC Internship or non-APPIC equivalent
- Dissertation

Visit the program website for more information:

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Our MA Students

Applications, Acceptances and Withdrawals							
	2020 - 2021	2021 - 2022	2022 - 2023	2023 - 2024	2024 - 2025	2025 - 2026	2026 - 2027
Applied to our MA program	44	56	51	55	83	101	101
We offered admission to	15	14	15	12	14	12	10
Accepted offer of admission	8	8	10	10	9	10	8
Withdrew from Program	0	0	1	1	0	0	------

*No males enrolled in 2023-2024, or 2024-2025



1 male to 9 females*



25% identify as diverse

Our PhD Students

Applications, Acceptances and Withdrawals							
	2020 - 2021	2021 - 2022	2022 - 2023	2023 - 2024	2024 - 2025	2025 - 2026	2026 - 2027
Applied to our PhD program	30	29	16	19	23	29	19
We offered admission to	8	8	9	12	9	8	9
Accepted offer of admission	8	8	9	8	9	8	9
External applicants admitted to the program	0	1	3	3	0	0	0
Withdrew from Program	0	1	0	1	1	1	------



1 male to 8 females



28.6% identified as diverse

Our Graduates

To date, 96% of our PhD graduates have either become registered psychologists or are currently on supervised practice within Ontario. Our graduates work in a variety of settings, including schools, independent practice, children's/community mental health centers, and in youth justice. The job placements and career paths of the graduates from the SACP program's first several cohorts demonstrate the program's ability to train psychologists who work in both school and community settings. Psychologists are in high demand and our graduates had no difficulty obtaining employment upon graduation.

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Faculty Members

- Daniel Ansari, Ph.D.
- Jason Brown, Ph.D., C. Psych
- Katelyn Bryant, Ph.D., C. Psych (Supervising Psychologist, Core Member)*
- Emma Duerden, Ph.D. (Core Member)*
- Barbara Fenesi, Ph.D.
- Deanna Friesen, Ph.D. (ARC Chair, Core Member)*
- Colin King, Ph.D., C. Psych (Core Member)*
- Perry Klein, Ph.D.
- Gabrielle Lee, Ph.D., BCBA
- Marguerite Lengyell, Ph.D., C. Psych
- Albert Malkin, PhD., BCBA
- Nicole Neil, PhD., BCBA
- Susan Rodger, Ph.D., C. Psych
- Katreena Scott, Ph.D., C. Psych (Core Member)*
- Jacqueline Specht, Ph.D.
- Shannon Stewart, Ph.D., C. Psych (Core Member)*

* Core members serve on the SACP Training Committee. All other faculty members teach and/or supervise in the program.

Our combined MA./PhD program was designed to meet the requirements of the College of Psychologists of Ontario for registration as a Psychologist (PhD). We were re-accredited in Spring of 2026 with the Canadian Psychological Association. Our next accredditation visit is in Fall 2030.

Office of Accreditation - Canadian Psychological Association

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Email: accreditationoffice@cpa.ca