

UtahStateUniversity[®]

SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY PROGRAM

PhD Training Aims & Competencies

The overarching aims of the Program are to train competent graduates who contribute to the profession of school psychology by:

1. Conducting sound scientific research that informs and improves practice
2. Engaging in psychological service delivery that is squarely grounded in scientific theories, principles, and techniques
3. Ensuring that science-based practice is also systemically-appropriate, ethically-informed, legally-compliant, and culturally-competent “best practice”
4. Transmitting and regulating science-based “best practice” by communicating and collaborating with supervisors, caregivers, other professionals, and trainees who serve youth in schools and related settings

Following are the training competencies associated with each of these aims.

Aim 1. Program graduates conduct sound scientific research related to practice

Aim 1: Competency A

Program graduates will be competent in reviewing and synthesizing the relevant literature within an area of scientific inquiry to build a case for meaningful research problems, questions, and hypotheses.

Aim 1: Competency B

Program graduates will be competent in designing and implementing research studies using a variety of methodologies to address meaningful research problems, questions, and hypotheses.

Aim 1: Competency C

Program graduates will be competent in selecting and applying various data analysis techniques that align with particular research designs.

Aims 1: Competency D

Program graduates will be competent in Interpreting and discussing results from data analysis within the context of the present study and the broader, relevant scientific literature.

Aim 1: Competency E

Program graduates will be competent in communicating and presenting scientific research in accord with expectations for professional writing and speaking.

Aim 2. Program graduates provide science-based psychological services

Aim 2: Competency A

Program graduates will be competent in selecting and applying relevant science-based theories and principles for guiding practice in the areas of assessment, intervention, and consultation.

Aim 2: Competency B

Program graduates will be competent in selecting and using science-based assessment techniques for guiding problem identification, diagnosis/classification, intervention planning, outcome monitoring/evaluation, and implementation integrity.

Aim 2: Competency C

Program graduates will be competent in selecting and using science-based intervention techniques for producing desirable behavior change in youth with a variety of presenting problems.

Aim 2: Competency D

Program graduates will be competent in selecting and using science-based consultation techniques for producing desirable behavior change in caregivers and other professionals intervening with youth with a variety of presenting problems.

Aim 3. Program graduates ensure science-based practice is also “best practice”

Aim 3: Competency A

Program graduates will be competent in applying a problem-solving model to optimize the effectiveness of science-based practice and troubleshoot challenges that arise during regular practice.

Aim 2: Competency B

Program graduates will be competent in applying a multitiered service delivery framework to ensure science-based practices are delivered efficiently in schools systems and related settings.

Aim 3: Competency C

Program graduates will be competent in applying ethical principles and guidelines to inform science-based practice in the areas of assessment, intervention, and consultation.

Aim 3: Competency D

Program graduates will be competent in complying with the legal requirements that govern science-based practice in the areas of assessment, intervention, and consultation.

Aim 3: Competency E

Program graduates will be competent in identifying and resolving concerns that arise from conflicts between ethical mandates and legal requirements in practice.

Aim 3: Competency F

Program graduates will be competent in applying cultural awareness, knowledge, and skills that inform science-based practices in the areas of assessment, intervention, and consultation.

Aim 3: Competency G

Program graduates will be competent in identifying and resolving concerns that arise from conflicts between cultural considerations and legal or ethical mandates.

Aim 4. Program graduates transmit and regulate science-based “best practice”

Aim 4: Competency A

Program graduates will be competent in communicating in writing with supervisors, caregivers, other professionals, and trainees when producing reports and summaries of their work.

Aim 4: Competency B

Program graduates will be competent in communicating in-person (orally) with supervisors, caregivers, other professionals, and trainees when presenting and discussing their work.

Aim 4: Competency C

Program graduates will be competent in responding effectively to supervision and obtaining professional development to improve their effectiveness as practitioners.

Aim 4: Competency D

Program graduates will be competent in collaborating with caregivers, multidisciplinary teams, and other professionals who serve youth in schools and related settings.

Aim 4: Competency E

Program graduates will be competent in providing training and supervision to trainees and professionals who serve youth in schools and related settings.