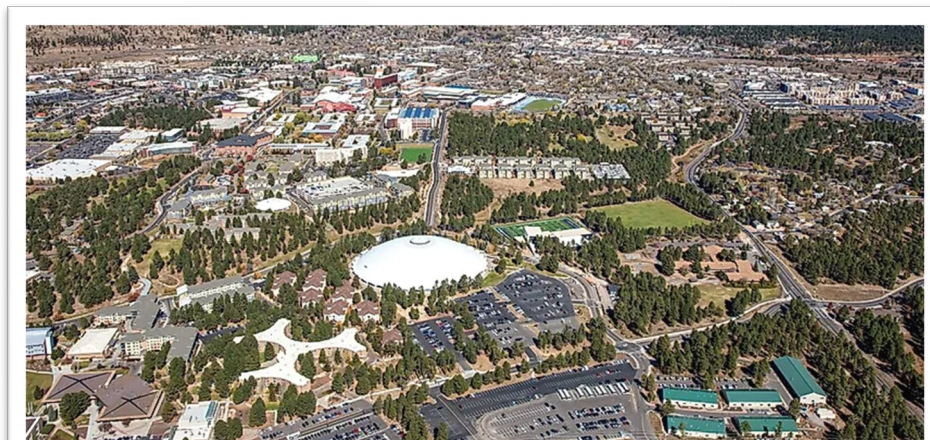


Combined Counseling/School Psychology PhD

Program Information Packet



Northern Arizona University sits at the base of the San Francisco Peaks, on homelands sacred to Native Americans throughout the region. We honor their past, present, and future generations, who have lived here for millennia and will forever call this place home.

This program prepares students to function as well-rounded generalists with a strong foundation in both counseling psychology and school psychology. Students engage in substantive training utilizing a scientist-practitioner model integrating psychological theory, research, and practice. The combined approach promotes the optimal development of individuals, families, groups, and environmental systems using empirically supported, culturally sensitive interventions that include assessment and diagnosis, interdisciplinary teamwork, relatively brief intervention approaches, prevention, consultation, outcome evaluation, career-development, and ethical decision-making, in a broad array of settings including schools, universities, integrated healthcare, community mental health, correctional facilities, and independent practice. We believe that this core is best realized using a scientist-practitioner training model that includes a systematic analysis of human behavior, careful applications of best practice, and a methodical evaluation of the effectiveness of these applications.

Important Contacts

Dr. Ramona Mellott – Doctoral Training Director

Tessa Alexander – Academic Program Coordinator

Program email: EPSDoctoralTraining@nau.edu



If you have any questions and/or would like additional information beyond this packet, please contact us. For example, if you would like to see the full doctoral student handbook or program of study you may request it.

Doctoral Student Organization

Our program has a Doctoral Student Organization that organizes events, provides mentorship, and advocates for students. Our current president is Abby Smits. You may reach out to her at EPS.DSO@nau.edu.



Program Faculty

While it is not required to have a preselected advisor to apply for the program, you may wish to familiarize yourself with the program faculty and their areas of research. You may read their bios on the [NAU directory](#). The link will take you directly to the Educational Psychology department.

Program Overview

- Fully APA Accredited – next site visit scheduled in 2031
- Offered only on the Flagstaff Mountain Campus
- Adheres to the Scientist-Practitioner Model
- 122 credit hours
- Time expectation: a minimum of 3 full-time academic years of graduate study plus 1 year of internship ... more commonly it takes students 5 – 6 years to complete the program
- Practicum experiences: 6 – 8 semester-long practica/fieldwork
 - Includes some travel to sites across the state
- Career Paths: Licensed Psychologist, State Credentialed School Psychologist, and College or University Professor
- Admitted students are required to obtain IVP Fingerprint Clearance Card in Arizona

Program Costs

2026-2027 NAU Tuition and Fees

- The PhD Program fee is currently \$630* per semester for duration of program

	AZ Resident	Non-AZ Resident
Tuition	\$13,582	\$33,800
University Fees	\$1,622	\$1,622
Program Fee	\$1,260	\$1,260
Total Tuition and Fees	\$16,464	\$36,682

- With other costs (e.g., books, off campus housing, food, etc.), the estimated total cost of attendance is \$38,946** per year for Arizona residents and \$59,164** per year for non-Arizona residents. This does not include the cost of summer or winter classes, which may be required.

*Subject to Change, **Based on 2026-27 rates

Financial Assistance

- Graduate Assistantships
- Tuition Waivers
- Scholarships
- Employment
- Veterans Benefits
- Emergency Funds
- Additional Support (e.g., APA, NASP, NAU's Graduate Student Government, EPS Professional Development, and COE Dean's Travel Grant)

Application Requirements

All applicants must complete the [online application!](#)

- GPA 3.0 (scale is 4.0 = A)
 - If GPA is less than 3.0: GRE revised General Test
- Degree requirements
 - Completion of Bachelor's degree (regionally accredited)
 - Psychology, Education, or closely-related field
 - Preferred: Master's or EdS degree in Counseling or Psychology
- Transcripts
- 3 Letters of Recommendation – at least 2 from faculty
- Responses to specific Essay Questions
- Curriculum Vitae or Resume
- Interview (online via ZOOM)
- International Students have additional admission requirements



Application Review Process

- Files are reviewed by Program Faculty using objective, multi-criteria system:
 - Academic Aptitude for Graduate Study
 - Essay Responses – Autobiographical and Professional Interest
 - Work Related Experiences
 - Potential to Contribute to Profession and Program
 - Professional Activities
 - Letters of Recommendations
 - Goodness of Fit to the Program
 - Areas of focus congruence
 - Fit to COE Mission
 - Professional Characteristics



Admission Decision Process

- Each Applicant is ranked within the Applicant Pool
- Highly ranked candidates are invited to participate in Interview Day
- ALL applicants are informed approximately 2 weeks in advance of interview day
- Interview day includes introductions, and overview of program, a questions/answer session with current students – and – a faculty interview
 - Interview with 2 faculty – approximately 30 minutes
 - Interview day is approximately 5 hours in total
- Students with highest combined scores are offered admission
- Approximately 5 – 7 students are admitted annually
 - Strong candidates are placed on Alternate List

Program Prerequisites

The below program prerequisite courses can be taken after admission.

- Graduate Level Courses
 - Group Counseling / Group Dynamics (EPS 661)
 - Human or Lifespan Development (EPS 580 or EPS 615)
- Graduate or Upper-Level Undergraduate Courses
 - Psychological or Educational Statistics (EPS 525)
 - Applied Behavior Management (EPS 606)
 - Research Methods (EDR 610)
 - Special Education (ESE 548)



PhD Program Curriculum

- **122 total credits from the below categories**
 - History and Systems of Psychology
 - Biological Basis of Behavior
 - Cognitive – Affective Basis of Behavior (2 courses)
 - Social Bases of Behavior
 - Individual Behavior (2 courses)
 - Professional Ethics and Standards (5 courses)
 - Assessment (5 courses)
 - Interventions (13 courses)
 - Research Block (4 courses)
 - Electives (2 courses)
 - Dissertation (9 units)
 - Doctoral Practicum (6 units)
 - Doctoral Internship (2 units)

If you are interested in seeing the full list of courses for the program, please email us to obtain a 2025-26 Program of Study.

PhD Program Milestones

- Residency Requirement (1 full academic year)
- Research Focus
 - Early Research Project (ERP)
 - Preliminary Dissertation Summary (PDS)
 - Dissertation Prospectus
 - Dissertation
- Comprehensive Examinations
 - Research and Statistics
 - Counseling Psychology Emphasis
 - School Psychology Emphasis
- Professional Development Plan, includes, but not limited to:
 - Professional Organizations – Active Membership
 - Conference Attendance and/or Presentations
 - Active Member of Doctoral Student Organization (DSO)
 - Active Participation in Research Colloquia
 - Workshops, trainings, etc.

Open Houses

Dates to be determined!

Please RSVP to
EPSDoctoralTraining@nau.edu to
receive further information as the
events get closer.