

Frequently Asked Questions

Educational Psychology

1. [What is Educational Psychology?](#)
2. [How do I choose the EDPS track that's right for me?](#)
3. [Is Educational Psychology the same thing as School Psychology or Counseling?](#)
4. [What do people do with degrees in Educational Psychology?](#)
5. [Is there an online program available?](#)

Eastern Michigan University

1. [Tell me about EMU.](#)
2. [Is EMU accredited?](#)

Admission to the program

1. [What are the requirements?](#)
2. [What tests are required?](#)
3. [Do I need to have a teaching certificate?](#)
4. [Are there deadlines for application?](#)
5. [How do I apply?](#)
6. [Can I take courses before I am officially admitted to the program? If so, how?](#)

Getting through the program

1. [How long does it take to complete the program?](#)
2. [How and when can I take courses?](#)
3. [Who do I go to if I have questions? Will I have an advisor?](#)
4. [Is there flexibility in the program?](#)

Online Programs – specifics

1. [What programs are offered online?](#)
2. [What is included in a typical online course?](#)
3. [What technology is required for the online program?](#)

Developing Learner Concentration - Online

1. [What courses are included in the online program?](#)
2. [Is this a cohort program?](#)

Research & Assessment Concentration

1. [Is this an online program?](#)

Educational Assessment Certificate – Online

1. [What kind of program is this?](#)
2. [Can I earn both the certificate and a masters degree at the same time?](#)
3. [What do I need to submit to apply for the certificate?](#)

Funding

1. [Where do I get information about tuition and funding?](#)
2. [Are there opportunities to work with faculty?](#)
3. [What types of financial aid are available for graduate students?](#)

International Students

1. [How do I apply as an international student?](#)
2. [Are there any restrictions on my application?](#)

Educational Psychology

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 would include teachers and other educators, parents, adult trainers, and individuals who wish to teach in higher education. [Return to FAQ](#)

How do I choose the EDPS program that's right for me?

Eastern Michigan University offers several possibilities in Educational Psychology, including a master's degree with two possible concentrations, and two certificate programs. Read the descriptions below to identify the one that best meets your needs.

MA: Developing Learner Concentration

(This program can be taken completely online but you can supplement with a few in-person courses if you live near the university.)

A degree that focuses on understanding the individual learner as a whole person: cognitively, emotionally, and socially.

This option is especially useful for

- teachers,
- parents,
- those who are interested in teaching and learning in business or nonprofit settings,
- those who might want to pursue a PhD and teach in higher education or
- those who just want to better understand themselves and others.

MA: Research and Assessment Concentration

(Some courses are online and some are in-class.)

This is a degree that provides a foundation in understanding and conducting educational research and assessments.

This option is especially useful for those wishing to

- pursue further education, such as a PhD,
- conduct research in their jobs,
- conduct and/or supervise assessments in their jobs, and for
- those interested in math and science who enjoy analyzing data.

Graduate Certificate in Learning, Motivation, and Creativity

(All courses are offered online)

A 12-hour certificate that examines some of the key variables in educational psychology: learning, motivation, and creativity. Courses may be applied toward the EDPS Development and Learning Masters concentration.

This is especially useful for teachers and others who want to learn more about learning in any setting. [Return to FAQ](#)

Graduate Certificate in Educational Assessment

(All courses are offered online)

A 12-hour certificate in educational assessment related to student learning. Courses may be applied toward the EDPS Research and Assessment Masters concentration or 6 credits may be applied toward the Developing Learner Masters concentration.

This is especially useful for teachers and administrators who wish to learn more about classroom assessment. [Return to FAQ](#)

Is Educational Psychology the same thing as School Psychology or School Counseling?

No. School psychologists are trained in a variety of individual counseling and testing strategies and may be state or nationally certified. EMU does not have a program in school psychology.

EMU does offer a program in school counseling but it is not offered online. See [Leadership and Counseling](#) for more information. [Return to FAQ](#)

What do people do with degrees in Educational Psychology?

Graduates from this program have

- Continued teaching

- Worked in other educational positions, such as assessment specialists

- Worked in research organizations

- Taken jobs in business related to training & research

- Gone on to complete PhD programs

- Worked at community colleges or, with added study, become professors at universities

- Stayed home to continue raising their families

- Returned to their country of origin and worked in educational settings [Return to FAQ](#)

Is there an online program available?

Yes, the Masters Degree program w/Developing Learner concentration, the Certificate in Learning, Motivation and Creativity, and the Educational Assessment Certificate can both be taken completely online. See below for more information on the online options. [Return to FAQ](#)

Eastern Michigan University

Tell me about EMU.

Founded in 1849 as the first "normal school" west of the Alleghenies, EMU is a comprehensive university that offers bachelors, masters, and doctoral degrees in a variety of fields. For more information see our [institutional profile](#). [Return to FAQ](#)

Is Eastern accredited?

Yes, the university is accredited by the North Central Association (NCA). The College of Education is accredited by the National Council of Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE). There is no specific accreditation for Educational Psychology programs. [Return to FAQ](#)

Admission to the Master's Degree Program

What are the requirements?

1. Comply with the [Graduate School's admission requirements](#).
2. Hold a 2.75 undergraduate GPA or 3.0 in the last half of the undergraduate work or 3.3 GPA in 12 hours or more of work at the graduate level or a minimum 50th percentile on the GRE writing. International students must meet the university [language requirements](#). *Please note, completing a program completely online is very challenging. In order to be successful in this program strong skills in reading and writing professional English are essential.
3. Provide an analysis of professional goals. This analysis should include a description of how the program will help you you're your selected goals and how your life experiences, accomplishments and interests will contribute to your success in the program.
4. Request and have submitted two letters of recommendation that address your professional commitment, experience and potential.
5. You do NOT need a teaching certificate for application to the Educational Psychology program.
6. International students applying to the online Developing Learner program must provide a statement affirming that they intend to take all their courses online and will not be entering the United States to complete their degree or that you are a permanent resident of the U.S. This should be the first sentence in your personal statement. It is wise to follow up with an e-mail to the Admissions office affirming your intention to take classes without entering the United States. Federal guidelines do not allow international students to complete a fully online program while in the U.S. unless they are legal permanent residents.

International students applying to the in-person Research & Assessment concentration should follow the regular guidelines for visiting international students. See the International Office for specifics.

For more specific information about these requirements see the [catalog description](#). [Return to FAQ](#)

What tests are required?

Regular admission does not require submission of test scores with the following exception. International students must meet [minimum language requirements](#). In addition, the GRE writing score may be used in situations where the undergraduate GPA was not sufficient for entry into the program. See the previous question concerning prerequisites. [Return to FAQ](#)

Do I need to have a teacher's certification?

You do NOT need teacher certification. [Return to FAQ](#)

Are there deadlines for application?

You can apply at any time. However, due to the popularity of this program, there may be limitations on the number of students accepted during any one semester. Therefore, it would be best to apply early. [Return to FAQ](#)

How do I apply?

For information go to the [Graduate Admissions](#) page. Application forms can be found at the [Admissions](#) page. Look at the bottom of the page for a link to Graduate Admissions. [Return to FAQ](#)

Can I take courses before I am officially admitted to the program? If so, how?

You may take some courses—typically one or two-- through [extended programs](#) before being admitted. All online and off campus courses are offered through Extended Programs.

If you want to take regular on-campus courses before being admitted, you can apply as a non-degree student while your materials are being reviewed, using the regular graduate application. Your status will be changed to 'degree' when you are accepted to a program.

In either case, you should register for the courses you intend to take, then apply for degree admission. For example, you might register for summer courses, then (once registered) apply for degree admission for fall. Once you have applied for degree admission, you cannot go back and register as a non-degree student, so it is best to register first. [Return to FAQ](#)

Getting through the program

How long does it take to complete the program?

The Masters degree is a 30-hour program. The length of time will depend on how many courses you choose to take each semester.

Number of courses per semester: A full load, for a student who is not working, is 8 credits during the Fall and Winter semesters and 4 credits during Spring and Summer. Students who are working at the same time take one or, at the most, two courses at a time.

NOTE: Most Educational Psychology courses are 3 credit hours. Thus, most students will complete the program with 11-12 courses. [Return to FAQ](#)

How and when can I take courses?

All courses needed to complete the Masters Degree with the Developing Learner concentration, the Certificate in Learning, Motivation, and Creativity, and the Educational Assessment Certificate are offered online. Electives may sometimes be offered in person as well. Most of the statistics courses in the Research & Assessment concentration are in-person. Other courses in the Research concentration are offered both online and in-class. [Return to FAQ](#)

Who do I go to if I have questions? Will I have an advisor?

Before entering the program, contact the graduate coordinator (Professor Alane Starko, astarko@emich.edu). The graduate coordinator will be your primary contact once you begin the program. Once you have taken several courses and have an idea of your interests, you may choose another faculty member whose interests match your own to be a mentor. In that case, both your advisor and the coordinator will be your mentors and help you through the process. [Return to FAQ](#)

Is there flexibility in the masters programs?

Choice of courses: While there are some courses that everyone must take, there is room for you to choose the courses that interest you. This is especially true in the Developing Learner concentration, where there are more options for meeting the requirements.

Timing: With the exception of the introductory course and culminating courses, you may choose when to take your courses rather than taking them in a prescribed order.

Completion: While you must complete your degree within 6 years, there is no requirement that you take a prescribed number of courses each semester. [Return to FAQ](#)

Online Programs

What programs are offered online?

Both the MA: Developing Learner Concentration, the Certificate in Learning, Motivation, and Creativity, and the Educational Assessment Certificate can be taken completely online. [Return to FAQ](#)

What is included in a typical online course?

This is not an individualized online program where the student completes work and takes quizzes with no interaction with other students or faculty. Instead, courses are set up to span the time period of a traditional semester with student/faculty interaction and project due dates, while taking advantage of the online format, technologies, and flexibility.

While courses vary, they are all designed to help you learn and enjoy doing so. Courses include group and individual projects, discussions, lectures, data gathering, and other ways of interacting with the material. Use of video, audio, web, print, and other media help you to synthesize and make use of content. [Return to FAQ](#)

What technology is required for the online program?

Students in the online program need to have an up-to-date computer including a microphone either built in or added to your computer. Most students will also want a camera for video chats. These accessories are built into Macs and some PCs. A microphone/camera combination can also be purchased for less than \$50 in many local stores.

In order to use all of the media in the online course it is essential to have high speed Internet access. Dial-up access is not sufficient.

Projects must be submitted in Microsoft Office format. You must have access to Word, Excel, and Powerpoint. Please note: Word Perfect is not the same as Microsoft Word and is not compatible with our courses. [Return to FAQ](#)

Developing Learner concentration

Which courses in the Developing Learner Concentration are offered online?

All of the required Developing Learner courses are offered online. Electives are offered on a rotated basis. [Return to FAQ](#)

Is this a cohort program?

No, while we encourage you will to get to know other students in the program, you are not required to move through the program with a group of students at the same pace. You will complete the final two courses for the culminating experience in a cohort that spans the Fall and Winter terms. [Return to FAQ](#)

Research & Assessment concentration

Is this an online program?

This is not a completely online program. Some of the courses are only offered in-person. Others are offered online. [Return to FAQ](#)

Certificate in Learning, Motivation, and Creativity

What kind of program is this?

The Certificate in Learning, Motivation, and Creativity is not a degree program but is a certificate awarded by EMU designating a person with particular expertise in these areas. It provides a good overview of variables in Educational Psychology and can be used as an introduction to the master's degree program. [Return to FAQ](#)

Educational Assessment Certificate

What kind of program is this?

The Educational Assessment Certificate is not a degree program but is a certificate awarded by EMU designating a person with particular expertise in assessment. [Return to FAQ](#)

Can I earn both the certificate and a masters degree at the same time?

Yes, all 4 certificate courses may be applied toward the EDPS Master's program. The Certificate in Learning, Motivation and Creativity applies to the Developing Learning concentration and the Certificate in Educational Assessment applies to the Research and Assessment Concentration.

Important Note: There is no financial aid available for certificate programs. If you intend to apply to both a certificate and a masters program you should apply to the masters program first. [Return to FAQ](#)

What do I need to submit to apply for the certificate?

Students who are already accepted to an EMU graduate program need to submit

1. application and
2. professional statement.

If not already enrolled in graduate school at EMU, applicants need to submit the same materials as other graduate programs including application, professional statement, transcripts, and 2 letters of recommendation. [Return to FAQ](#)

Funding

Where do I get information about tuition and funding?

The main [financial aid](#) site includes information on tuition and fees. Please note: There is no financial aid available for certificate programs.

It is important to note that all online students pay in state tuition no matter where they live. [Return to FAQ](#)

Are there opportunities to work with faculty?

Faculty members are working on various projects. Individual students sometimes work on these projects although this is not a requirement of the program. [Return to FAQ](#)

What types of financial aid are available for graduate students?

Information on financial assistance for masters' degree students is available at the [graduate school](#). [Return to FAQ](#)

International Students

How do I apply as an international student?

The Educational Psychology program welcomes and encourages international students to join us.

Please consult the following offices with further inquiries.

For admissions questions, student can email the Office of International Admissions:

international.admissions@emich.edu

For visa related questions, contact: ois@emich.edu

For general international information see the [Graduate website](#).

[Return to FAQ](#)

Are there any restrictions on my application?

While in the USA, students with F1 and J1 visas are not eligible for the Educational Psychology program.

Students who plan to remain in their home country are eligible for the online Developing Learner concentration but not the Research & Assessment concentration. [Return to FAQ](#)

NOTE:

International students applying for the fully online program should pay particular attention to the need for a statement clarifying their intention to complete all courses without entering the United States (see information on Admissions above) unless they have Permanent Resident status within the United States. Federal guidelines do not allow international students to complete a fully online program while in the U.S. unless they have permanent resident status.