

PSY 699 - SPECIALIST PROJECT

Department of Psychology
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Instructor:

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Overview:

The WKU School Psychology Educational Specialist degree requires the completion of six (6) credits of Psy 699, Specialist Project. The specialist project consists of a thesis or project and includes both an oral proposal and an oral defense. School psychology graduate students take one (1) credit hour both Fall and Spring semesters of their 2nd year in the program and the other four (4) hours during their internship year (unless other arrangements are made with Dr. Myers). However, students can and should begin to work on the thesis before actually enrolling for the credit hours (i.e., during their 1st year in the program).

The specialist project is directed by one faculty member, called the Major Advisor or Thesis Chair. This faculty member does not have to be a school psychology faculty member, but he or she must be a member of the graduate faculty. (Such faculty are listed on the Graduate Studies website.) You can choose who you want as your Chair but the faculty member does not have to accept the role. In addition to the Chair, you will need to pick two additional faculty members with graduate faculty status to serve on your committee. It is best to clear with your Chair who you want as additional committee members. Your research proposal must go through the University Human Subjects Review Board. The thesis proposal meeting should be held PRIOR to beginning the internship. **The completed project must be defended and approved by the student's committee members by April (typically) of the third (internship) year in order to graduate in May.** It takes several weeks for the final editing and approval process. A student who does not successfully defend by April of the third year risks the possibility of being unable to meet certification requirements to continue to practice as a school psychologist.

You will need to review WKU's The Graduate School requirements for a thesis. (Go to www.wku.edu/graduate/ and look under the dropdown menu entitled, "Current Students." There you see a link for "Dissertation, Theses and Specialist Projects."