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Recommended Citation

College of Education, Georgia Southern University, "College of Education News" (2012). *College of Education News (2011-2023)*. 43.

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College of Education School of Psychology Program Earns National Recognition

February 20, 2012



Georgia Southern College of Education recently received National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) approval for its graduate program in school psychology. NASP is one of the specialized professional associations (SPAs) of the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE). COE's approval is conditional at present although NASP treats programs with full or conditional status equally in terms of the rights and benefits of NASP approval. Georgia Southern is one of only two schools in Georgia to earn this recognition at the Ed.S. level.

"NASP recognition is a big step for COE's school psychology program," said Dr. Thomas Koballa, COE Dean. "It indicates the high achievement level of our faculty and the academic rigorousness of our program content and field experience," he continued.

According to Dr. Jeff Tysinger, School Psychology Program Coordinator and Associate Professor, NASP approval also means that Ed.S. students in school psychology are automatically eligible for the National Certified School Psychologist (NCSP) credential through NASP. This certification may facilitate licensure and lead to additional stipends for graduates in some states. Conditional approval allows students now in the program, and those in the program a year prior to submitting papers to NASP, to be eligible for their NCSP.

COE's Ed.S. in School Psychology program includes didactic and practical instruction in foundations, assessment, intervention, consultation and research in campus-based and online formats. Candidates are trained to assess cognitive and academic skills, provide intervention for students and families in crisis, conduct original research on program effectiveness and provide instructional strategies to educators for children 'at risk' for academic failure.

The school psychology program has been in existence for 43 years at Georgia Southern. The program faculty worked for four years preparing the program and materials for the successful submission for NASP approval.