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# School Psychology Program Earns National Recognition

February 5, 2013



*Only Approved Specialist Level Graduate Program in Georgia*

Georgia Southern University's College of Education recently received National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) full 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). The College of Education School Psychology Program is the only program in Georgia to earn this recognition at the specialist level.

"We are extremely proud of our dedicated faculty who earned this distinction for our College and University," said Dr. Thomas Koballa, COE Dean. "It's a clear indication of the high achievement level of our faculty and the academic rigorousness of our program content and field experience," he continued.

According to Associate Professor Jeff Tysinger, School Psychology Program Coordinator, NASP approval is an important step for graduates of the program. "As the only school in the state with an approved Ed.S. in school psychology, our students are automatically eligible for the National Certified School Psychologist (NCSP) credential through NASP," Tysinger said. "This certification may facilitate licensure and lead to additional stipends for graduates in some states," he continued.

The College of Education was notified last February of conditional approval by NASP. NASP treats programs with full or conditional status equally in terms of the rights and benefits of NASP approval. "Our response to conditions was very minimal. Our program is outstanding and approval moved very quickly," Tysinger said.

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.