

Graduate Certificate in Educational Psychology (EDPY) 2018-2019

The University of Arkansas Graduate Certificate program in educational psychology prepares graduates for evaluating educational or training programs, consulting with schools about implementing teaching and testing changes, and consulting with business and industry regarding implementing changes or evaluating programs. Graduates of this certificate program develop a foundational understanding of educational psychology theories, application of theory to educational practices and evaluation, and methods for identifying issues that arise in the learning process for learners of all ages.

An assessment of the effectiveness of the program would include students' ability to:

1. Compare psychological theories
2. Apply psychological theories to student or client behaviors
3. Design and conduct research to test hypotheses in the field of educational psychology
4. Critique interpretations made by others in the field

In order to assess the effectiveness of the student training in the EDPY graduate certificate program this year, we aggregated student data from course projects, research / scholarship activities, academic or professional awards, and degree completion. However, it is important to note that this certificate underwent significant changes in admission and program requirements in 2018-2019. It was converted from a post-masters certificate to a graduate certificate with a more detailed explanation given in the "Changes Planned" section below. We had one new student enroll and complete all courses earning a 4.0 in all coursework. ESRM faculty are discussing whether to continue this certificate as we are in the process of searching for a new educational psychology faculty member.

Summary of new course requirements (cumulative gpa of 3.50 required):

The following 4 courses are required (12 hours):

- EDFD 5373 Foundations of Teaching and Learning
- EDFD 5573 Lifespan of Human Development
- EDFD 5673 Principles of Motivation
- EDFD 5773 Advanced Topics in Educational Psychology

Pick ONE courses from the following (3 hours)

- ESRM 5013 Research Methods in Education
- ESRM 5393 Statistics in Education and Health Professions
- ESRM 6403 Educational Statistics and Data Processing

Changes Planned Based on Assessment Findings

This certificate changed substantially last year. Because the majority of the courses were listed at the masters' level, we revamped this certificate to be one that students with a bachelor's degree could enroll in. Our new educational psychology faculty member designed the new changes to admission and program requirements and facilitated the certificate's approval through all the required administrative levels in 2018-2019. However, this faculty member moved to the University of Kansas in 2018, thus discussions are underway about continuation.