

PSY 699 - SPECIALIST PROJECT

Department of Psychology
1906 College Heights Blvd. #21030
Western Kentucky University
Bowling Green, KY 42101

Instructor:

Carl Myers, Ph.D.
Office: GRH 3013
Phone: 270-745-4410
Email: carl.myers@wku.edu
Office hours: As posted/by appointment

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 typically take credit hours during their internship year; however, students will begin to work on the project before actually enrolling for the credit hours (ideally during their first semester 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 School's 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 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 Western Kentucky University's Institutional Review Board if human subjects are involved. 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 the end of March (typically) of the third (internship) year in order to graduate in May.** It can take several weeks for the final editing and approval process, so defending well before March of the third year is strongly recommended. A student who does not successfully defend by the Graduate School's deadline of the third year risks the strong likelihood of being unable to meet certification requirements to continue to practice as a school psychologist.

You will need to review WKU's 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."

Course Objectives and NASP Standard

1. A student will develop a testable hypothesis and appropriate methodology for testing it (NASP 2.9)
2. A student will connect the hypothesis to relevant literature (NASP 2.9)
3. A student will collect data pertaining to their hypotheses and analyze (NASP 2.9)

Required WKU Syllabus Information

Face Coverings

Out of respect for the health and safety of the WKU community and in adherence with CDC guidelines, the University requires that a cloth face covering (reusable or disposable) that covers both the nose and mouth must be worn at all times when in public areas within all buildings. Students must properly wear face coverings while in class regardless of the room size or the nature of the classroom activities. Students who fail to wear a face covering as required will be in violation of the WKU Student Code of Conduct and will be asked to comply or will face disciplinary action, including possible dismissal from the University. Accommodations to face coverings must be determined by the Student Accessibility Resource Center and documented before a student may attend class.

Accommodations

In compliance with University policy, students with disabilities who require academic and/or auxiliary accommodations for this course must contact the Student Accessibility Resource Center located in Downing Student Union, Room 1074. The SARC can be reached by phone number at 270-745-5004 [270-745-3030 TTY] or via email at sarc.connect@wku.edu. Please do not request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a faculty notification letter (FNL) from The Student Accessibility Resource Center.

Title IX/Discrimination & Harassment Statement

Western Kentucky University (WKU) is committed to supporting faculty, staff and students by upholding WKU's Title IX Sexual Misconduct/Assault Policy (#0.2070) and Discrimination and Harassment Policy (#0.2040). Under these policies, discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct based on sex/gender are prohibited. If you experience an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator, Andrea Anderson, 270-745-5398 or Title IX Investigators, Michael Crowe, 270-745-5429 or Joshua Hayes, 270-745-5121. Please note that while you may report an incident of sex/gender based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct to a faculty member, WKU faculty are "Responsible Employees" of the University and MUST report what you share to WKU's Title IX Coordinator or Title IX Investigator. If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you confidentiality, you may contact WKU's Counseling and Testing Center at 270-745-3159.