

The Profession of School Psychology & UH Specialist School Psychology Program



Elise Hendricker, Ph.D.

- School Psychologist, Licensed Psychologist
- Program Director
- Practicum Coordinator
- Full-time faculty for 12 years



A Little
About Us



Shannon Viola, Ph.D.

- School Psychologist, Licensed Psychologist
- Internship Coordinator
- Full-time faculty for 11 years

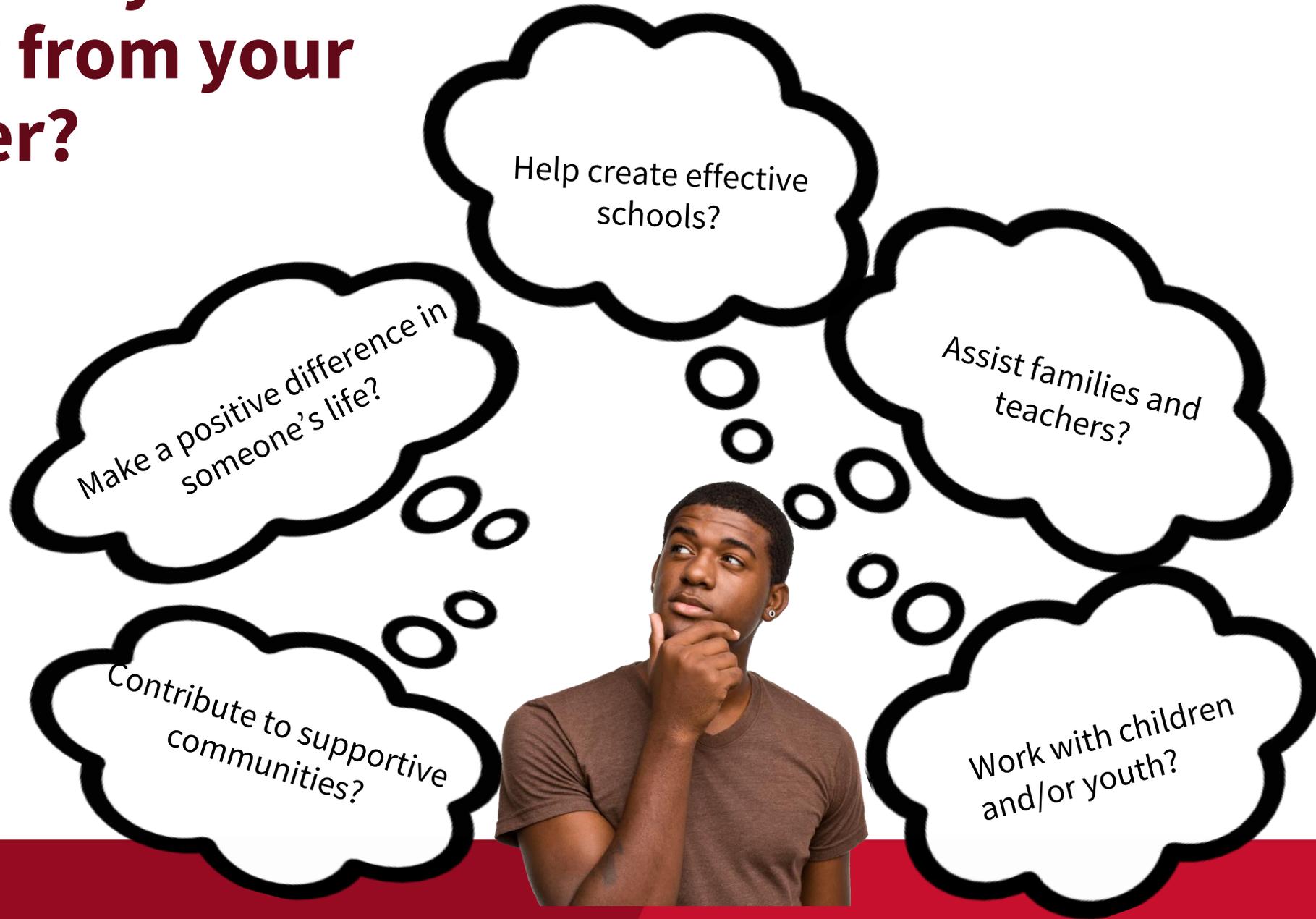
Presentation Outline

- Who are School Psychologists?
- Steps to becoming a School Psychologist
- Difference between a Specialist degree (SSP) and PhD
- UH Specialist in School Psychology Program
- Application Contents
- Questions

Improving the Lives and Learning of Children and Youth



What do you want from your career?



What do School Psychologists do?

- Psychoeducational evaluations
- Consultation and collaboration
- Involved in special education meetings and paperwork
- Counseling services to students with clinically significant emotional difficulties
- Crisis intervention
- They are often placed at multiple campuses and service children ages 3-21 within a school district

Similar & Related Careers:

School Counselor

Diagnostician

Clinical Child Psychologist

Social Worker



A Great Career Choice

- **Positively** impact the lives of youth
- **Help** parents and educators
- **Flexible** school schedule
- **Range** of responsibilities
- **Variety** of work settings



Job Outlook?

- High national demand for school psychologists
- Federal education law includes provisions for school psychologists' services
- **Particular need for professionals from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds**
- “School psychologist” has been listed in Top 10 among Best Social Services Jobs in *U.S. News & World Report*.
- School psychologists are certified by state boards of education in most states



Hear from a School Psychologist!

Kimmi Montgomery
School Psychologist, Fort Bend ISD
2024 Alumni

HOW TO BECOME A SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST

Attend college



Preparation for graduate school



Graduate school coursework

PREPARATION FOR GRADUATE SCHOOL

- A bachelor's degree with a major in:
 - Psychology
 - Child Development
 - Sociology
 - Education or related field
- Volunteer or work experience with children and youth
 - For example; camp, school, YMCA, or mentoring program

PREPARATION FOR GRADUATE SCHOOL

Specialist (EdS, SSP)

- 63 graduate semester hours
- 3+ years full-time (includes one year internship)
- Entry-level degree
- Typically allows for work in schools

Doctoral (PhD, PsyD)

- 90+ graduate semester hours
- 5-6+ years (includes one year internship)
- Allows for work in schools, academia, research
- More options for independent practice

Getting a Job.....

- School psychologists must hold a current, valid state credential for practice
- Click the link below for a state-by-state summary of school psychologist certificate and license requirements
 - <https://www.nasponline.org/standards-and-certification/state-school-psychology-credentialing-requirements>
- Independent practice may require an additional credential



UH's Specialist in School Psychology Program



Program Mission/Vision

The **mission** of the UH Specialist in School Psychology program is to train entry-level school psychology practitioners, licensed as School Psychologists in accordance with the standards set by the Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychology (TSBEP).

The school psychology program has a **core philosophy** that emphasizes student development of competencies in the delivery of practical, ethical, and empirically sound services to a wide range of children in diverse learning environments. With emphasis on best practice application of school psychology, faculty and students are expected to be both consumers and evaluators of empirically-based practice, while providing empirically-based school psychological services to a diverse population of individuals including children, families, school personnel, and other related professionals.



NASP Domains of Practice

- SSP Program is nationally accredited through August 2028 and aligns with the 2020 NASP Practice Standards.



What You'll Learn as a School Psychologist

- Knowledge Base
- Application/Interpretation
- Professional Practice/Performance Skills
- Values
- Critical Thinking



Program Overview

63-hour degree leading to a Specialist in School Psychology (S.S.P.) degree.

The **mission** of the UH Specialist in School Psychology program is to train entry-level school psychology practitioners, licensed as School Psychologists in accordance with the standards set by the Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychology (TSBEP).



Program Structure

Format: Hybrid (F2F and online coursework).

Typically, F2F classes meet in Katy, one evening per week, from 7-9:45 PM.

- A few ITV classes offered at Main Campus
- Other coursework is completed asynchronous online.

Typical time to completion: 3 years full-time

First year: Coursework

Second year: Coursework and practicum

Third year: Full-time school-based internship



Internship/Practicum Requirements

- 2nd year, Spring semester: 300-hour practicum
- 3rd year, Fall and Spring: 1200-hour internship

Outcomes

The program meets the following requirements for licensure/certification:

Licensure as a **School Psychologist** in the state of Texas

Nationally Certified School Psychologist through NASP

Coursework prepared to meet requirements for **Licensed Psychological Associate** in the state of Texas

Career Possibilities

- School psychologist in public or private schools in Texas
- Option to work in other states or remotely with additional certification/licensure
- Private practice with additional licensure



Why UH? Find your place to belong!



Faculty who are well-qualified and practice in schools



Hybrid nature- can work full-time if needed!



NASP accredited ensuring high quality training



Cohort model



Close mentoring, supervision, and support



Strong partnerships with local school districts and well-respected in the region

Application Checklist



Bachelor's degree completed by start of program



Prerequisite coursework: Abnormal Psychology, Research Methods, Statistics



GRE General Exam: Waived for Master's degree or GPA of 3.0 or above



Interest Letter & CV/Resume



Letter of Recommendation



*Qualified applicants will be invited for an interview with SSP faculty.

Admissions Timeline



Admission Deadline: February 1



Review of applications and
interviews: February 5-26



Notification of decisions: March 2



Student decisions to program:
March 16

Financial Aid

FAFSA eligible during 1st and 2nd years

3rd year internship: Not full-time status



Common Questions

- Transfer credits
- Cost of program
 - <https://www.uh.edu/financial/graduate/tuition-fees/index.php>
- Location of Program (PhD=main campus, SSP=Katy)
- Assistantships/financial aid (outside of FASFA)
- Part time enrollment
- Practicum and Internship Locations
- International Student Policy (PhD is F1 compliant)
- Applications for Graduate School
 - What is an ideal application?

Your Questions



Our Contact Information & Next Steps

- Dr. Elise Hendricker,
enhendri@central.uh.edu
- Dr. Shannon Viola,
sbviola@central.uh.edu

Link to the Specialist Program:

<https://www.uh.edu/education/degree-programs/school-psych-specialist/>

Link to the PhD School Psychology Program:

<https://www.uh.edu/education/degree-programs/school-psyc-phd/>

