

## “Webster University has a New Program for Missouri’s School Psychological Examiners to Become School Psychologists

Webster’s new school psychology degree program will help Missouri’s children. In 2020, Missouri ranked 40th in access to mental health care when it was compared to the other states in the USA. Suicide among Missouri adolescents between the ages of 10-24 has been the second leading cause of death for this age group. For young people 18 years and younger, schools are the most likely places for them to receive care. School psychologists know how to support children’s well-being and provide mental health crisis prevention and interventions. Missouri’s school psychological examiners are experts in providing psychoeducational assessments; however, school psychologists can do much more. According to the National Association of School Psychologists, school psychologists provide assessments, but they also “consult with teachers, families, and other school-employed mental health professionals (i.e., school counselors, school social workers) to improve support strategies, work with school administrators to improve school-wide practices and policies, and collaborate with community providers to coordinate needed services.” According to many leaders in the United States, every school should have a school psychologist.

Webster University has a new post-masters Education Specialist (EdS) in School Psychology program that is designed to increase the number of school psychologists in Missouri. The new EdS in School Psychology cohort, which begins in August 2022, is especially intended for graduate students who have already earned a master’s degree as well as Missouri certification as school psychological examiners. The EdS program is 30 hours with courses meeting once a week on Zoom. There are also in-person events to build community. Prospective students need to have their transcripts evaluated by Webster’s Certification Officer who will determine if any additional courses might be required for certification.

To learn more about this program, please contact Deborah Stiles, Ph.D., Professor of Applied Educational Psychology and School Psychology, School of Education, Webster University.

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