FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY
GRADUATE PROGRAMS

SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION
GSEAP offers programs leading to the master of arts degree and the sixth year certificate of advanced study (SYC) in School Psychology. The programs are shaped by the belief that school psychologists are best prepared when they are instilled with a scientist/practitioner problem-solving orientation, encouraged to think reflectively, motivated to intervene at the primary prevention level, and inspired to be proactive agents of change.

The program is approved by the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP). The NASP training standards provide best practice competencies in the areas of assessment, consultation, and direct intervention. Candidates evolve as professionals through classroom experiences and opportunities to apply their growing knowledge and skills in school and clinical agencies.

To be endorsed for state certification, a candidate must complete both the MA and CAS requirements. Upon completing the MA, candidates must formally submit an application for entry into the CAS program. Those wishing to enter the program at the CAS level must hold a related master’s degree and must complete a minimum of 30 credits at Fairfield.

MA IN SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY (33 CREDITS)
- FT 433 Social Justice and Diversity in Professional Practice
- SE 405 Exceptional Learners in the Mainstream
- SE 413 Introduction to Learning Disabilities
- PY 430 Issues in Professional Practice in School Psychology
- PY 433 Behavioral Statistics
- PY 435 Psychology of Personality
- PY 436 Psychopathology and Classification I
- PY 438 Treatment Models for School-Age Youth
- PY 446 Developmental Psychology I: Theory and Application in Professional Practice
- PY 534 Theories of Learning
- PY 537 Psychoeducational Assessment I: Behavioral Approaches
- PY 599 Comprehensive Examination in School Psychology (non-credit course)

SYC IN SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY (30 CREDITS)
- PY 449 Introduction to Clinical Child Neuropsychology
- PY 535 Collaborative Consultation
- PY 538 Psychoeducational Assessment II: Standardized Approaches
- PY 540 Psychoeducational Assessment III: Clinical Approaches
- PY 544 Psychoeducational Assessment IV: Integrated Assessment
- PY 548 Psychotherapeutic Techniques for School-Age Youth

• PY 576 Practicum I: Assessment and Group Process
• PY 577 Practicum I: Counseling and Group Process
• PY 598 Internship in School Psychology I
• PY 599 Internship in School Psychology II

FIELD EXPERIENCE
The program seeks to provide opportunities to apply theory in practical settings. All courses in the three content areas – consultation, assessment, and direct intervention – include both theoretical foundations and practical experience. Experience with teachers, children, and schools culminates in a 1,200-hour internship required for state certification.

PORTFOLIOS
Students complete two types of portfolios. Throughout the program, students maintain a cumulative portfolio documenting their growth. The portfolio consists of assignments required in various courses, including the personal mission statement, the philosophy of school psychology and counseling, case analyses, assessment reports, journal entries, and self- and supervisor evaluations. The portfolio serves as a tool with which to evaluate and establish goals and as helpful documentation when seeking employment or applying to doctoral programs. The second portfolio is an e-Portfolio, which is a culminating scientist-practitioner assessment completed during the three program field placements. Students develop five interventions at a student, teacher, small group, parent/family, and system level. For each intervention data is collected to demonstrate positive measurable outcomes.

PREPARE WORKSHOPS
All students are trained in the national evidenced-based crisis management program, PREPaRE, while in the SYC program during Practicum and Internship.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES
Graduates of Fairfield’s program are employed widely throughout Connecticut and in other states. Many of these alumni are helpful to new school psychologists and students in the program, providing professional and personal support.
The program encourages networking among students and alumni, and sponsors several social events that bring them together during the course of the year. This networking not only fosters support among students but also promotes leadership, reflective discussion and practice.

GRADUATE PROGRAM DIRECTOR
Dr. Paula Gill Lopez
Phone: 203-254-4250
E-mail: pgilllopez@fairfield.edu
Please e-mail Dr. Gill Lopez for more information.
For a complete faculty listing, see www.fairfield.edu/gseapfaculty.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS
Applicants for a master’s degree must hold a bachelor’s degree from a regionally accredited college or university (or the international equivalent) and give promise of meeting the standards set by the school.

FORMAL ADMISSION PROCESS
Application deadline: DECEMBER 1st for Summer or Fall term.

Candidates admitted for the fall semester may take courses in the summer prior to their first fall term after obtaining approval from an advisor, or they may wait and begin courses in the fall.

Students seeking admission must complete and submit the following online:

1. A completed formal application. (Apply online at www.fairfield.edu/atcapp.)
2. A non-refundable $60 application fee.
3. A professional résumé. Applicants are required to submit a current résumé that includes employment and educational history.
4. A personal statement. Students should describe why they want to undertake graduate studies in the program for which they are applying.
5. Official transcripts from all universities/colleges attended. We generally expect applicants to have a minimum undergraduate cumulative GPA of 3.0. Any applicant whose undergraduate GPA is lower than 2.67 must request and receive a GPA waiver from the department. Waivers are granted on a case by case basis and may require supplemental undergraduate coursework to increase the undergraduate GPA and/or earning a B or better in two or more approved graduate-level courses. All foreign transcripts must be evaluated by an approved evaluating service. A list of approved evaluators is available at www.fairfield.edu/eval. Students may be required to take one or more English writing courses if their writing skills do not meet graduate level standards. Upon the granting of a GPA waiver, an approval form signed by the Department and the Dean’s office will be placed in the student’s file. Candidates who are granted a GPA waiver and are admitted must maintain a minimum GPA of 3.0 to be permitted to continue in the program. Candidates applying for admission to a certification program should note that Connecticut State certification program standards for formal admission to an approved initial educator certification program require candidates to possess a minimum undergraduate cumulative grade point average of B- (2.67 on a 4.0 GPA scale), unless an approved GPA waiver form documents that a waiver was granted.
6. At least two recommendations. Suggested recommendations include your undergraduate or graduate professors, your major advisor, your work supervisor, or a professional in the field that you wish to study who knows you. Note that recommendations from friends or co-workers are not accepted.
7. The Graduate School of Education and Allied Professions requires passing scores for the Praxis Core Test or a waiver of the requirement based on appropriate SAT, ACT, GRE or PAA scores. For a waiver, provide an electronic copy of your test scores from ETS uploaded to the application file. If students provide their social security number to Educational Testing Services (ETS) www.ets.org/praxis when registering for the Praxis Core exam, the reported score will automatically be uploaded to their Fairfield application file. Our code is 3390.
8. Participate in an admissions interview (applicants are notified regarding an interview after a paper review of their credentials.)
9. All international students whose native language is not English must demonstrate proficiency in the English language by taking either TOEFL or IELTS exams. For admission to the graduate school, a TOEFL composite score of 550 for the paper test, 213 for the computer-based test, 84 on the internet-based test with a minimum score of 21 in reading and 23 in writing is required. An IELTS score of 7.5 is required. Scores must be sent directly from the Educational Testing Service (TOEFL) or www.IELTS.org. Fairfield’s ETS code is 3390.

Submit transcripts and any other documents that cannot be uploaded to:
Fairfield University
Office of Graduate Admission
Kelley Center
1073 North Benson Road
Fairfield, CT 06824

BACKGROUND CHECK AND FINGERPRINTING
In compliance with Connecticut state law effective July 1, 2010, applicants whose programs of study will require participation in school-based field experiences (e.g., observations, practica, student teaching, internships, etc.) must undergo State and National criminal history background checks before beginning their program of study. The regional educational service centers (RESCs) that are authorized to conduct fingerprinting services and provide the background check results to the Connecticut State Department of Education and local school districts are listed at www.fairfield.edu/documents/admission/ga_fingerprinting.pdf. University students who have a history of a federal or state conviction may be barred from participating in school-based field work and may be exited from their degree program, depending on the nature of the conviction. Confirmation of fingerprinting at a RESC must be received by the Dean’s office (Canisius 102) prior to course registration.

The background check is valid for 3 years if the student remains an active student. It is the student’s responsibility to maintain documentation of current fingerprinting on file with the dean’s office. Students whose background check has expired will not be permitted to register for courses. Note, too, that school districts and other clinical sites may have more stringent requirements and may mandate a new background check prior to students beginning a placement.

The program encourages networking among students and alumni, and sponsors several social events that bring them together during the course of the year. This networking not only fosters support among students but also promotes leadership, reflective discussion and practice.

GRADUATE PROGRAM DIRECTOR
Dr. Paula Gill Lopez
Phone: 203-254-4250
E-mail: pgilllopez@fairfield.edu
Please e-mail Dr. Gill Lopez for more information.
For a complete faculty listing, see www.fairfield.edu/gseapfaculty.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS
Applicants for a master’s degree must hold a bachelor’s degree from a regionally accredited college or university (or the international equivalent) and give promise of meeting the standards set by the school.

FORMAL ADMISSION PROCESS
Application deadline: DECEMBER 1st for Summer or Fall term.

Candidates admitted for the fall semester may take courses in the summer prior to their first fall term after obtaining approval from an advisor, or they may wait and begin courses in the fall.

Students seeking admission must complete and submit the following online:

1. A completed formal application. (Apply online at www.fairfield.edu/atcapp.)
2. A non-refundable $60 application fee.
3. A professional résumé. Applicants are required to submit a current résumé that includes employment and educational history.
4. A personal statement. Students should describe why they want to undertake graduate studies in the program for which they are applying.
5. Official transcripts from all universities/colleges attended. We generally expect applicants to have a minimum undergraduate cumulative GPA of 3.0. Any applicant whose undergraduate GPA is lower than 2.67 must request and receive a GPA waiver from the department. Waivers are granted on a case by case basis and may require supplemental undergraduate coursework to increase the undergraduate GPA and/or earning a B or better in two or more approved graduate-level courses. All foreign transcripts must be evaluated by an approved evaluating service. A list of approved evaluators is available at www.fairfield.edu/eval. Students may be required to take one or more English writing courses if their writing skills do not meet graduate level standards. Upon the granting of a GPA waiver, an approval form signed by the Department and the Dean’s office will be placed in the student’s file. Candidates who are granted a GPA waiver and are admitted must maintain a minimum GPA of 3.0 to be permitted to continue in the program. Candidates applying for admission to a certification program should note that Connecticut State certification program standards for formal admission to an approved initial educator certification program require candidates to possess a minimum undergraduate cumulative grade point average of B- (2.67 on a 4.0 GPA scale), unless an approved GPA waiver form documents that a waiver was granted.
6. At least two recommendations. Suggested recommendations include your undergraduate or graduate professors, your major advisor, your work supervisor, or a professional in the field that you wish to study who knows you. Note that recommendations from friends or co-workers are not accepted.
7. The Graduate School of Education and Allied Professions requires passing scores for the Praxis Core Test or a waiver of the requirement based on appropriate SAT, ACT, GRE or PAA scores. For a waiver, provide an electronic copy of your test scores from ETS uploaded to the application file. If students provide their social security number to Educational Testing Services (ETS) www.ets.org/praxis when registering for the Praxis Core exam, the reported score will automatically be uploaded to their Fairfield application file. Our code is 3390.
8. Participate in an admissions interview (applicants are notified regarding an interview after a paper review of their credentials.)
9. All international students whose native language is not English must demonstrate proficiency in the English language by taking either TOEFL or IELTS exams. For admission to the graduate school, a TOEFL composite score of 550 for the paper test, 213 for the computer-based test, 84 on the internet-based test with a minimum score of 21 in reading and 23 in writing is required. An IELTS score of 7.5 is required. Scores must be sent directly from the Educational Testing Service (TOEFL) or www.IELTS.org. Fairfield’s ETS code is 3390.

Submit transcripts and any other documents that cannot be uploaded to:
Fairfield University
Office of Graduate Admission
Kelley Center
1073 North Benson Road
Fairfield, CT 06824

BACKGROUND CHECK AND FINGERPRINTING
In compliance with Connecticut state law effective July 1, 2010, applicants whose programs of study will require participation in school-based field experiences (e.g., observations, practica, student teaching, internships, etc.) must undergo State and National criminal history background checks before beginning their program of study. The regional educational service centers (RESCs) that are authorized to conduct fingerprinting services and provide the background check results to the Connecticut State Department of Education and local school districts are listed at www.fairfield.edu/documents/admission/ga_fingerprinting.pdf. University students who have a history of a federal or state conviction may be barred from participating in school-based field work and may be exited from their degree program, depending on the nature of the conviction. Confirmation of fingerprinting at a RESC must be received by the Dean’s office (Canisius 102) prior to course registration.

The background check is valid for 3 years if the student remains an active student. It is the student’s responsibility to maintain documentation of current fingerprinting on file with the dean’s office. Students whose background check has expired will not be permitted to register for courses. Note, too, that school districts and other clinical sites may have more stringent requirements and may mandate a new background check prior to students beginning a placement.
MANDATORY IMMUNIZATIONS
Connecticut State law requires each full-time or matriculated student to provide proof of immunity or screening against measles, mumps, rubella, varicella (chicken pox), meningitis and tuberculosis. Certain exemptions based on age and housing status apply. Matriculating students are defined as those enrolled in a degree seeking program. More detailed information and the required downloadable forms are available online at www.fairfield.edu/immunization. Completed forms should be submitted directly to the Student Health Center. Although this is not required to complete an application, you must provide proof of immunity/screening prior to course registration. Please consult your private health care provider to obtain the necessary immunizations. Questions may be directed to the Student Health Center: 203-254-4000 ext. 2241 or e-mail health@fairfield.edu.

NON-MATRICULATED STUDENT STATUS
Under our Non-Matriculated Status option, qualified students may take two or three courses (depending on the program of study) before gaining admission to a degree or certification program. This option provides a wonderful opportunity for qualified students to explore degree options and to confirm personal goals and readiness for graduate study. Qualifications to be considered include a bachelor’s degree (required) and other qualifications related to your preparedness for graduate-level studies in the field of interest to you. Successful completion of coursework does not guarantee formal admission.

Individuals enrolled as non-matriculated students are not eligible for any tuition and/or financial support.

NON-MATRICULATED ADMISSION
Qualified applicants who have not completed the formal admission process may apply for permission to enroll as a non-matriculated student and earn up to 6 credits in a certification program and up to 9 credits in a non-certification program.

For non-matriculated admission, use the following procedure:
1. Please call the GSEAP Dean’s office at 203-254-4250 to be directed to the advisor for the program that interests you.
2. Schedule an appointment.
3. Obtain a copy (official or unofficial) of your transcripts that shows the degrees you have earned. You will need to bring your transcripts with you to the University to be reviewed. International students must submit certified English translations and course-by-course evaluations, done by an approved evaluator (found on our website at www.fairfield.edu/eval), of all academic records.
4. Complete the online admission application at least 24 hours in advance of your appointment and pay the $60.00 application fee at www.fairfield.edu/applynow.

MAXIMUM CREDITS ALLOWED BEFORE FORMAL ADMISSION
The total number of credits earned before formal admission to a program (i.e., the total number of transfer credits plus any credits earned as a non-matriculated student) may not exceed 6 (six) credits for applicants to certification programs or 9 (nine) credits for applicants to non-certification programs.

TUITION/FINANCIAL AID
Academic Year 2016/2017
Tuition: $725 per credit hour
A graduate education can provide countless professional and personal rewards in the future. Many students need to look beyond their own financial resources or the resources of their employer for assistance. There are many ways to finance a graduate education, including graduate assistantships, federal direct loan programs and our Veterans Pride Program, which are all discussed at www.fairfield.edu/gradfa.

OFFICE OF FINANCIAL AID
Advisors from the Office of Financial Aid are committed to helping students find the options that best suit each of their needs. We encourage all Fairfield University graduate students to contact the Financial Aid office with any questions or to make an appointment to speak with a counselor.

FINANCIAL AID CONTACT INFORMATION
Phone: 203-254-4125
Fax: 203-254-4008
E-mail: finaid@fairfield.edu

FINANCIAL AID OFFICE OPERATIONS
Days: Monday-Friday
Hours: 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Location: Aloysius P. Kelley, S.J. Center

MORE INFORMATION
ADMISSION QUESTIONS
Questions about the application process should be directed to the Office of Graduate Admission.
Phone: 203-254-4184
Fax: 203-254-4073
E-mail: gradadmis@fairfield.edu

OFFICE OPERATIONS
Days: Monday-Friday
Hours: 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Location: Aloysius P. Kelley, S.J. Center

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION AND ALLIED PROFESSIONS WEBSITE
www.fairfield.edu/gseap

ONLINE CATALOG
For detailed course descriptions and other University information, please refer to our online catalog www.fairfield.edu/catalogs.

For gainful employment disclosures, see www.fairfield.edu/gainfulemploy.