School Psychology Program Recruitment
and Admissions Policies

The following strategies are used to recruit candidates for the School Psychology program:

Representation through flyers by the Graduate School at different graduate school fairs across the region.

Faculty recruit at other universities (e.g., University of Wisconsin-Green Bay).

Make a presentation for current Western students during their Psi Chi (undergraduate student organization) meetings.

Graduate student presentations during school psychology awareness week for both psychology and education faculty members.

Actively search for qualified students, especially from diverse backgrounds, through a number of venues.

The following are admission policies for the School Psychology program:

1. Candidates must be accepted into the Western Illinois University Graduate School.

2. Candidates must submit the following:
   a. Transcripts of all prior academic work.
   b. Scores on the general aptitude portion of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE).
   c. Three letters of recommendation.
   d. A brief autobiographical statement (including a description of the relationship between their degree training and future career plans).
   e. The Personal Statement Form from the Psychology Department.

Quantitative results from the last five years of admitted students shows the mean overall GPA is 3.44; GRE Verbal mean score is 464; GRE Quantitative mean score is 595; and the combined Verbal and Quantitative is 1059.
University Admission Requirements
All prospective students must complete the application forms from the School of Graduate Studies. Students are encouraged to apply on-line (www.wiu.edu/grad). Applicants must submit transcripts of all prior academic work, scores on the general aptitude portion of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE), three letters of recommendation, a brief autobiographical statement (including a description of the relationship between their degree training and future career plans) and the Personal Statement Form from the Psychology Department. The School of Graduate Studies (not the Psychology Department) has set the following minimum standards for admission to degree student status:

1. overall undergraduate GPA of 2.75 or greater (based on all hours attempted), or
2. GPA of 3.00 or greater for the last two years of undergraduate work.

Applications screened by the School of Graduate Studies are forwarded to the Psychology Department’s Graduate Committee where they are reviewed. At the time of application, potential graduate students must indicate in which of the three areas of specialization they intend to concentrate (i.e., School Psychology, General Psychology, or Clinical/Community Mental Health).

Psychology Department Admission Requirements
To be eligible for admission consideration, applicants should meet the following criteria:

1. An undergraduate GPA of 2.75 or greater.
2. A score of approximately 500 or greater (approximately the 50th percentile) on each of the Verbal and Quantitative sections of the GRE aptitude test.
3. Each incoming graduate student is expected to have successfully completed a minimum of 15 semester hours of psychology coursework from an accredited institution including work in each of the following three areas: introductory psychology, statistics/experimental psychology, and learning/cognitive psychology. Persons lacking one or more of the required courses or failing to meet the 15 semester hour minimum must either pass proficiency examinations or pass the appropriate undergraduate courses before being admitted to candidacy for a Specialist degree in School Psychology. Courses taken to make up undergraduate deficiencies cannot be applied toward credit requirements for the Specialist degree.
4. Western Illinois University is an institution with a strong commitment to diversity. In that spirit, the Psychology Department is particularly interested in receiving applications from a broad spectrum of qualified prospective graduate students, including minorities and persons with disabilities. WIU has a non-discrimination policy that includes sex, race, color, sexual orientation, religion, age, marital status, national origin, disability, or veteran status.
5. Admission reviews in the School Psychology Program begin each year on approximately March 1 and continue until all the available slots in the Program are filled. At each review, all completed applications compete for the slots unfilled at that time, with the Graduate Committee reserving the right to accept none of the completed applications on any given round of review. Applicants are classified as “degree candidate students” or “rejected.” The School of Graduate Studies has two additional classifications: “Probationary Graduate Students” whose work does not count initially toward the number of hours required, and “non-degree Graduate Students” who do not plan on getting a degree. As a general rule, the Psychology Department’s Graduate Committee does not admit students on a non-degree or probationary basis.