

### Why the Chicago School's Ed.S. in School Psychology Program is Perfect for Me

I am excited about working as a school psychologist. Challenging and diverse life experiences have become some of my greatest assets and will serve me well at the other end of the Ed.S. in School Psychology program. To this solid and superior formal education, I will add my finely honed organizational and leadership skills. The desire to be of service completes the mix. I have worked in a hospital in my community, a rehabilitation treatment center, the village municipality in which I live, and am currently employed at a rape crisis center. I know a highlight of my career will be working in a school environment.

For decades, I have devoted much time and energy to helping others. This is my passion, one of the main purposes of my life. I am an empowered, self-aware, and emotionally intelligent woman. I can understand single parenting; being the mother of several "special needs" children; being a victim of sexual assault, addiction, or domestic violence; and more; as only one who has been there can. The solutions to these experiences are priceless and enable me to have a perspective that will enhance my work.

I have recently met with counselors at numerous universities; taken assessments again, as I did years ago, at a career counseling center; met with individuals working as school psychologists; and conducted online research. I know I will be effective and happy doing exceptional work as a school psychologist.

The job security, schedule, and benefits I will enjoy are attractive. In the United States, faster-than-average employment growth is expected for psychologists. Through the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2008, I see that job prospects are great for school psychologists. Faster-than-average employment growth is expected and "since almost every town in the nation has at least one school, there is stability in the profession and a need throughout the country." In addition, the Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that school psychology will be one of the fastest growing careers through 2014 and may afford the best job opportunities in the psychology profession.

I care for people regardless of race, color, sexual orientation, religion, looks, cultural background, financial situation, political views, or gender. I know that I have enjoyed things, being white, that others have not; and I've experienced the challenges of being a bi-sexual woman. Grateful to have been born a person predominately of privilege, I could just as easily been otherwise. I am empathetic, compassionate, and loving. My personal principles and values align perfectly with The Chicago School Commitment to Diversity. This is a part of my personal vision for living so I am highly motivated and even inspired to live this in all areas of my life. I am a woman of integrity, helpful to others, and admit when I am wrong and learn from the experience. I understand the Commitment to Diversity and already act as a positive role model, while being open to further learning.

I know that I want to work in an elementary school to be in a position to have a positive effect on children during their more formative years. While attracted to working with administrators, teachers, the students and their families, I also like having a degree of independence in my work. Testing students, writing reports and recommendations appeals to me. After I have gained experience as a school psychologist, I might consider additional career paths. Maybe I will want to go into private practice or teach at a community college or undergraduate program at a university. I am hopeful that The Chicago School of Professional Psychology will receive NASP approval by the time I graduate in 2013 since that might provide me more easily with more opportunities for work.

I am enthusiastic about completing the intensive Ed.S. in School Psychology program offered by an award-winning graduate school dedicated to the advancement of professional psychology education. I think it is impressive that The Chicago School has four locations: on the Chicago River in downtown Chicago, Los Angeles, China, and University Center, located here in Grayslake! I began my college education at that campus in 1971, riding my bike from home. Because I support myself working full-time, it appears the Ed.S. in School Psychology program at Grayslake is perfect for me.