

# Rural Iowa Grow Your Own School Psychologist Program

## About the Program

The University of Northern Iowa (UNI), in partnership with seven of Iowa's AEAs, is offering a collaborative "grow your own" program that trains new school psychologists to increase access to mental health services in high-need, rural Iowa schools. Participants earn an Ed.S. in school psychology through UNI while continuing to work full-time. Upon graduation, students commit to serving as AEA school psychologists in rural areas, helping address critical local needs.

Two pathways are available:

- **Bachelor's track:** For educators currently working in schools (teachers, paraprofessionals, etc.); Ed.S. in 4 years
- **Master's track:** For professionals in education and related fields; Ed.S. in 3 years
- Two cohorts of ~12 students each
  - Cohort 1 begins in June 2026, Cohort 2 begins in Summer 2027

## Why It Matters

Iowa faces a critical shortage of school psychologists. While NASP recommends 1 psychologist per 500 students, current ratios in Iowa range from 1:1,657 to 1:7,857, limiting student access to mental health supports.

## Program Benefits

- **Financial support:** books provided each semester, travel costs covered for instructional sessions, 90% of tuition and fees covered through grants, internship licensure and national exam fees paid
- Part-time study while working full-time
- Strong professional engagement

## Service Commitment

- Graduates commit to 3 years of service in their AEA after completion
- Early departure may require repayment of some program costs

**Learn more!**

- **Jan. 26, 2026** | 3:30–4:30 PM, [Zoom link](#), Passcode: 724638
- **Jan. 27, 2026** | 4:00–5:00 PM, [Zoom link](#), Passcode: 249336

## Course of Study

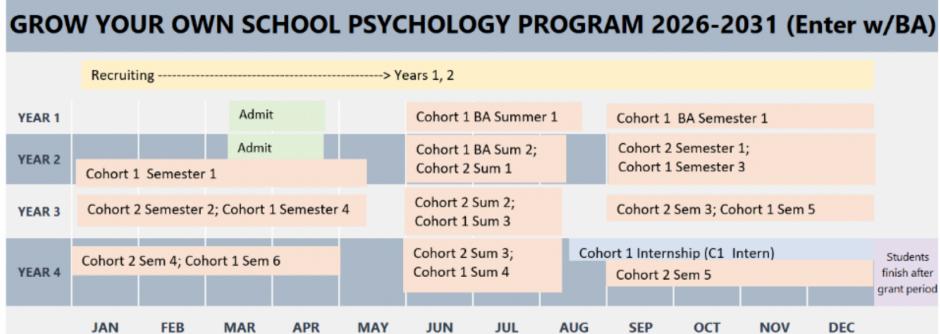
Table 4. GYO Program Plan of Study (65\* Total Credits)

Course Number	Course Title	Credit Hours	Method
<b>Summer 1 (Session 1 &amp; 2)</b>			
MEASRES 6281	Statistics & Measurement	3	Online
EDPSYCH 5232	Risk & Resilience: Child, Family, School & Community	3	Online
<b>Semester 1 (Fall)</b>			
EDPSYCH 6215 or 6214	Science of Learning	3	Online
MEASRES 6205	Educational Research	3	Online
<b>Semester 2 (Spring)</b>			
SPED 5180 or other	Interdisciplinary Study of Disability	3	Online
LITED 5119	Language Development & Emergent Literacy	3	Online
<b>Summer 2 (Session 1 &amp; 2)</b>			
EDPSYCH 6240	Introduction to School Psychology	3	Online
EDPSYCH 6280	Psychological Consultation	3	Online
<b>Semester 3 (Fall)</b>			
MEASRES 6283	Academic Assessment and Interventions	4	Hybrid
MEASRES 6270	Program Evaluation	3	Online
<b>Semester 4 (Spring)</b>			
MEASRES 6282	Individual Intellectual Assessment	4	Hybrid
<b>Summer 3 (Session 1 &amp; 2)</b>			
SPED 6260	Special Education Law and Policy	3	Online
MEASRES 6284	Psychosocial Assessment (8 weeks)	4	Hybrid
<b>Semester 5 (Fall)</b>			
EDPSYCH 6270	Behavioral Interventions in School Settings	3	Online
EDPSYCH 6290	Practicum III	2	Online
<b>Semester 6 (Spring)</b>			
EDPSYCH 6272	Systems Level Consultation	3	Online
EDPSYCH 6290	Practicum IV	3	Online
<b>Summer 4 (Session 1 &amp; 2)</b>			
MEASRES 6287	Early Childhood Assessment & Intervention	3	Hybrid
EDPSYCH 6260	Counseling Intervention in School	3	Online
<b>Semester 7 – Semester 8 (Fall, Spring)</b>			
EDPSYCH 6291	Internship in School Psychology	6	Online

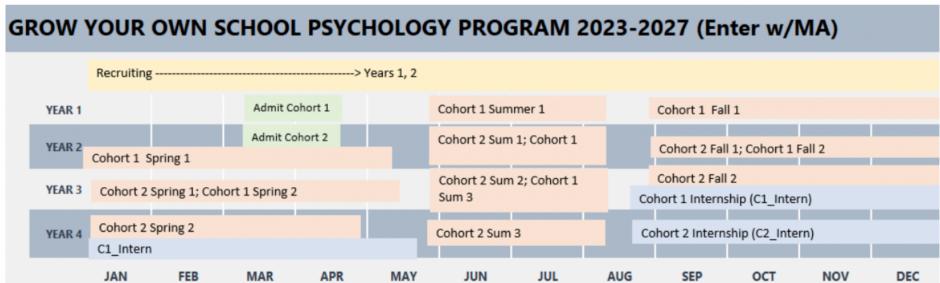
\* Note. An additional 2 credits of practicum are required for the Ed.S.; these credits will be substituted as "credit for prior learning".

## Program 2026-2031

### Bachelor's Track



### Master's Track



## Participating AEAs

Contact your local AEA with any questions.

### Central Rivers

Karl Kurt, kkurt@centralriversaea.org

### Great Prairie

Nathan Wood, nathan.wood@gpaea.org

### Green Hills

Tami Pauley, tpauley@ghaea.org

### Grant Wood

Katie Manske, kmanske@gwaea.org

### Heartland

Kevin Fangman, kfangman@heartlandaea.org

### Northwest

Jerome Schaefer, jschaefer@nwaea.org

### Prairie Lakes

Michelle Dowd, mdowd@plaea.org