

MASTER OF ARTS (Applied Psychology)

The Master of Arts (Applied Psychology) aims to produce graduates who will become leaders in the field of psychological practice.

It is designed to provide theoretical knowledge and research insights as well as practical skills to interested individuals who have the pre-requisite qualifications to train as specialists in the field of Educational Psychology or Counselling Psychology. It also provides graduates with training towards becoming Registered Psychologists in Singapore.

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE & CONTENT

The programme offers the specialisations of Educational Psychology and Counselling Psychology. Successful applicants are only offered one specialization and cannot switch specializations during the course of the programme.

Awards at the National Institute of Education are structured in terms of Academic Units (AU). The Master of Arts (Applied Psychology) comprises 57 AUs. With effect from [January 2025](#), the 57 AUs include 4 core courses, 4 prescribed electives, three practicum attachments, and either:

- a dissertation
- OR
- 2 electives

The program structure is as follows:

DISSERTATION OPTION	AU	NON-DISSERTATION OPTION	AU
8 courses	24	10 courses	30
Practicum 1 @ Work	9	Practicum 1 @ Work	9
Practicum 2	9	Practicum 2	9
Practicum 3	9	Practicum 3	9
Dissertation	6	-	-
Total AU	57	Total AU	57

STUDENTS COMPLETING DISSERTATION

Students who are eligible for dissertation must write a research-based dissertation (6 AU) of between 12,000 to 15,000 words. They are required to complete 8 courses (24 AU) in total: 4 core courses, 2 prescribed electives in their area of specialisation and 2 elective courses (preferably recommended electives from their area of specialisation; and at least 1 elective must be in their chosen area of specialisation). The courses are 39 hours in duration (13 weeks x 3 hours). They are also required to complete three practicum placements (27 AUs), of which the first practicum must be completed in the students' workplace during the course of the student's first two semesters..

STUDENTS NOT COMPLETING DISSERTATION

Students who are not completing dissertation are required to complete 10 courses (30 AU) in total: 4 core courses, 2 prescribed electives in their area of specialisation and 4 elective courses (preferably recommended electives from their area of specialisation; and at least 2 electives must be in their chosen area of specialisation). The courses range from 13 hours (1 AU) to 52 (4 AUs) hours in duration. 1 AU courses are typically completed over 2 full 6.5 hour days in the week before or during the semester, while 3 and 4 AU courses will be conducted over 13 week semester. 4 AU courses often include skills practice and supervision. Apart from coursework, students are also required to complete three practicum placements (27 AUs), of which the first practicum must be completed in the students' workplace during the course of the student's first two semesters.

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW:

Core Courses		AUs
<i>All students must complete all four core courses:</i>		
MAP810 Psychological Assessment*		3
MAP819 Psychological Disorders Across the Lifespan*		3
MAP901 Ethical and Legal Issues in Psychological Practice and Research in Singapore		3
MAP902 Research Methods and Statistics in Applied Psychology		4
Prescribed Electives		
<i>Counselling Psychology Specialization</i>		<i>Educational Psychology Specialization</i>
MCP909 Theories of Counselling and Advanced Counselling Skills*	MEP913 Psychoeducational Assessment for Educational Psychologists*	4
MCP812 Group Dynamics and Counselling*	MEP820 Behavioural Intervention*	3
MCP 821 Cognitive Behavioural Management and Interventions [§]	MEP824 Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) to Build Success in Literacy [§]	3
MCP900 Mental Health Assessment*	MEP900 Basic Counselling Skills for EPs*	1
Practicum (1000 hours)		
MCP931 Practicum in Counselling Psychology I @ Workplace	MEP931 Practicum in Educational Psychology I @ Workplace	9
<i>Duration:</i> FT students - 1 year / 2 semesters; PT students – 2 years / 4 semesters <i>Site:</i> Student's workplace & Coursework*	<i>Duration:</i> FT students - 1 year / 2 semesters; PT students – 2 years / 4 semesters <i>Site:</i> Student's workplace & Coursework*	

<i>Supervision: 60 hours of group supervision</i>	<i>Supervision: 60 hours of group supervision</i>	
MCP932 Practicum in Counselling Psychology II <i>Duration: 1 semester</i> <i>Site: NWC, External Site & Coursework[^]</i> <i>Supervision: 45 hours of individual supervision and 15 hours of group supervision</i>	MEP932 Practicum in Educational Psychology II <i>Period: 1 semester</i> <i>Site: NWC, External Site & Coursework[^]</i> <i>Supervision: 45 hours of individual supervision and 15 hours of group supervision</i>	9
MCP933 Practicum in Counselling Psychology III <i>Period: 1 semester</i> <i>Site: NWC, External Site & Coursework[§]</i> <i>Supervision: 45 hours of individual supervision and 15 hours of group supervision</i>	MEP933 Practicum in Educational Psychology III <i>Period: 1 semester</i> <i>Site: NWC, External Site & Coursework[§]</i> <i>Supervision: 45 hours of individual supervision and 15 hours of group supervision</i>	9
Make a Choice of either Dissertation[#] OR 2 Electives[§]		
Dissertation <i>#Only available to students with CGPA of 4.25 and above for 4 core courses</i>	<i>Choose 2 out of 3 Electives</i>	6
	MCP815 Family and Marital Counselling	
	MCP823 Complex Traumatic Stress in Children and Adolescents [§]	
	MEP926 Identifying Disabilities and Cognitive-Behavioural Interventions in Educational Psychology [§]	

Note 1: Planning will have to take into account the availability of courses which will depend on staff availability and student demand.

Note 2: Practicum 1 @ Work lasts 1 full year for Full-time students and 2 years for Part-time students. Practicums 2 & 3 last 6 months each, from January to June and July to December. Practicum grades are always submitted in the following semester.

Note 3: Dissertation planning is not a formal course but it is included in the study plan (in brackets) to emphasise the importance of allocating time for this task.

Note 4: Students who obtain CGPAs of 4.25 and above for their 4 core subjects can choose between doing a dissertation or 2 electives. They must inform the Programme Leader of their decision as soon as possible. This decision is **not reversible**.

*Practicum hours obtained via coursework assignments with real clients to be clocked under Practicum 1 @ Work

[^]Practicum hours obtained via coursework assignments with real clients to be clocked under Practicum 2

[§]Practicum hours obtained via coursework assignments with real clients to be clocked under Practicum 3

STUDY PLANS

The programme is designed to be completed in a maximum of 3.5 years for *full-time* candidates and a maximum of 4.5 years for *part-time* candidates who are eligible for dissertation. It is designed to be completed in a maximum of 2½ years for *full-time* candidates and a maximum of 3½ years for *part-time* candidates who do not write a dissertation.

Suggested study plans for full-time and part-time students follow:

Full-time CP Track	
Semester 1 (Jan)	Semester 2 (Aug)
<p>Year 1</p> <p>Core: MAP810 Psychological Assessment*</p> <p>Prescribed: MCP909 Theories of Counselling and Advanced Counselling Skills*</p> <p>MCP812 Group Dynamics and Counselling*</p> <p>Practicum 1.1 @ Workplace & NIE PDS</p>	<p>Core: MAP819 Psych Disorders Across the Lifespan*</p> <p>MAP902 Research Methods and Statistics in Applied Psychology</p> <p>Prescribed: MCP900 Mental Health Assessment*</p> <p>Practicum 1.2 @ Workplace</p>
<p>Year 2</p> <p>CORE: MAP901 Ethical & Legal Issues in Psych Practice and Research in S'pore</p> <p>Prescribed: MCP 821 Cognitive Behavioural Management & Interventions[^]</p> <p>Dissertation Track: Look for Dissertation Supervisor. Write research proposal as part of MAP811 & MAP812 courses</p> <p>Practicum 2 @ NWC & Workplace / External Site</p>	<p>Choose 2 of the 3 Electives (where applicable): MCP815 / MCP823^{\$} / MEP926^{\$} /</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Dissertation (if applicable) Apply for dissertation track. Apply for IRB Write dissertation Chapters 1 & 2 Collect data</p> <p>Practicum 3 @ External Site or Workplace</p>
<p>Year 3</p> <p>Non-Dissertation Track: File for graduation upon submission of Practicum 3 portfolio</p> <p>OR Dissertation (if applicable) Analyse data and complete dissertation. Submit for examination</p>	<p>Dissertation Track Make revisions to Dissertation before filing for graduation</p>

Part-time CP Track	
Semester 1 (Jan)	Semester 2 (Aug)
Year 1 Core: MAP810 Psychological Assessment* Prescribed: MCP909 Theories of Counselling and Advanced Counselling Skills* Practicum 1.1.1 @ Workplace & NIE PDS	Core: MAP819 Psych Disorders Across the Lifespan* Prescribed: MCP900 Mental Health Assessment* Practicum 1.1.2 @ Workplace
Year 2 CORE: MAP901 Ethical & Legal Issues in Psych Practice and Research in S'pore Prescribed: MCP812 Group Dynamics and Counselling* Practicum 1.2.1 @ Workplace	CORE: MAP902 Research Methods and Statistics in Applied Psychology Practicum 1.2.2 @ Workplace
Year 3 Prescribed: MCP 821 Cognitive Behavioural Management & Interventions# Practicum 2 @ NWC & External Site Dissertation Track: Look for Dissertation Supervisor. Write research proposal as part of MAP811 & MAP812 courses	Choose 2 of the 3 Electives (where applicable): <i>MCP815 / MCP823 / MEP926*</i> Or Dissertation (if applicable) Apply for dissertation track. Apply for IRB Write dissertation Chapters 1 & 2 Collect data Practicum 3 @ NWC & External Site
Year 4 Non-Dissertation Track: File for graduation upon submission of Practicum 3 portfolio Dissertation Track^ Analyse data and complete dissertation. Submit for examination	Dissertation Track^ Make revisions to Dissertation

Full-time EP Track	
Semester 1 (Jan)	Semester 2 (Aug)
<p>Year 1</p> <p>Core: MAP810 Psychological Assessment*</p> <p>Prescribed: MEP820 Behavioural interventions for Special Needs*</p> <p>Practicum 1.1 @ Workplace</p>	<p>Core: MAP819 Psych Disorders Across the Lifespan*</p> <p>MAP902 Research Methods and Statistics in Applied Psychology</p> <p>Prescribed: MEP900 Basic Counselling Skills for Educational Psychologists*</p> <p>MEP913 Psychoeducational Assessment for Educational Psychologists*</p> <p>Practicum 1.2 @ Workplace & NIE PDS</p>
<p>Year 2</p> <p>CORE: MAP901 Ethical & Legal Issues in Psych Practice and Research in S'pore</p> <p>Prescribed: MEP824 Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) to Build Success in Literacy ^</p> <p>Dissertation Track: Look for Dissertation Supervisor. Write research proposal as part of MAP811 & MAP812 courses</p> <p>Practicum 2 @ NWC/External Site</p>	<p>Choose 2 of the 3 Electives (where applicable): MCP815 / MCP823 [§] / MEP926 [§] /</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Dissertation (if applicable) Apply for dissertation track. Apply for IRB Write dissertation Chapters 1 & 2 Collect data</p> <p>Practicum 3 @ NWC/External Site</p>
<p>Year 3</p> <p>Non-Dissertation Track: File for graduation upon submission of Practicum 3 portfolio</p> <p>OR Dissertation (if applicable) Analyse data and complete dissertation. Submit for examination</p>	<p>Dissertation Track Make revisions to Dissertation before filing for graduation</p>

Part-time EP Track	
Semester 1 (Jan)	Semester 2 (Aug)
Year 1 Core: MAP810 Psychological Assessment* Practicum 1.1 @ Workplace	Core: MAP819 Psych Disorders Across the Lifespan* Prescribed: MEP900 Basic Counselling Skills for Educational Psychologists* Practicum 1.2 @ Workplace & NIE PDS
Year 2 Core: MAP901 Ethical & Legal Issues in Psych Practice and Research in S'pore Prescribed: MEP820 Behavioural interventions for Special Needs* Practicum 1.2.1 @ Workplace	Core: MAP902 Research Methods and Statistics in Applied Psychology Prescribed: MEP913 Psychoeducational Assessment for Educational Psychologists* Practicum 1.2.2 @ Workplace
Year 3 Prescribed: MEP824 Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) to Build Success in Literacy ^ Dissertation Track: Look for Dissertation Supervisor. Write research proposal as part of MAP811 & MAP812 courses Practicum 2 @ NWC/External Site	Choose 1 of the 3 Electives (where applicable): MCP815 / MCP823 ^{\$} / MEP926 ^{\$} / Or Dissertation (if applicable) Apply for dissertation track. Apply for IRB Write dissertation Chapters 1 & 2 Collect data Practicum 3 @ NWC/External Site
Year 4 Choose 1 elective OR Dissertation (if applicable) Analyse data and complete dissertation. Submit for examination	Dissertation Track Make revisions to Dissertation before filing for graduation