

Online Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) Programs

General Information:

The Graduate School of Applied and Professional Psychology (GSAPP) in partnership with the Graduate School of Education (GSE) at Rutgers University offers specialized Master of Applied Psychology and Certificate programs in Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS). These programs equip educators, school psychologists, and other professionals with the knowledge and skills to implement, manage, and enhance MTSS frameworks in K-12 educational settings.

MTSS is a proactive, data-driven approach that integrates academic and behavioral supports to improve outcomes for all students. Both the Master's and Certificate programs emphasize the importance of practical, hands-on experience in which students gain valuable insights and skills that they can immediately apply in their professional roles. The MTSS programs at Rutgers GSAPP offer flexible learning options, including part-time enrollment and online classes. This allows students to balance their studies with their professional responsibilities.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of the Master's or Certificate program, graduates will be able to:

1. *Design and Implement an MTSS Framework:* Develop a comprehensive, school-based MTSS framework tailored to the specific academic, behavioral, and social-emotional needs of diverse student populations.
2. *Utilize Data for Decision Making:* Effectively use data to monitor student progress, guide interventions, and adjust supports as needed.
3. *Lead MTSS Initiatives:* Assume leadership roles in educational settings, driving the successful adoption and sustainability of MTSS practices.
4. *Apply Evidence-Based Interventions:* Select and implement interventions that are grounded in research and proven to be effective in supporting students' academic, behavioral, and social-emotional learning needs.
5. *Promote Inclusive Education:* Advocate for and implement practices that ensure all students, including those with disabilities or other learning challenges, have access to the support they need to succeed.

MTSS Program Information:

Master of Applied Psychology-Multi-Tiered System of Support (MAP-MTSS) Option

The MAP-MTSS program is a comprehensive, in-depth course of study that provides students with advanced knowledge of MTSS practices. This program is ideal for professionals seeking leadership roles in education, school psychology, or related fields.

- Duration: 2-3 years (part-time).
- Credits Required: 30 credits.
- Capstone Project: A hands-on project where students design, implement, or evaluate an MTSS framework in a real-world educational setting.

MAP-MTSS Degree Requirements:

Completion of the MTSS Option is based on satisfactory performance (course grades above C+) in each of the three required foundational courses, as well as five elective courses, for a total of 24 graduate credits. Following completion of foundational and elective courses, students will complete a 6-credit applied Capstone Project requiring integration and application of knowledge and skills from across courses.

MAP-MTSS Capstone Project:

The Capstone Project will comprise a written and an applied element. First, each student will identify an issue within a school system (this could include their employer) to be addressed through the implementation or refinement of tiered services. Students will conceptualize the issue from the perspective of psychological theory and empirical data from research literature about MTSS. Second, they will be asked to apply knowledge of MTSS to establish a plan for a local school/district or a sample case provided to them. For this school/district, they will provide a synopsis of existing available resources pertaining to MTSS elements (student assessment, data-based decision-making, core programs, intervention supports) and articulate a plan for integrating/improving a data-driven support system for students across tiers. This plan will include specification of (a) how local leadership could work together to make decisions about and support MTSS implementation, (b) how existing core and intervention programs and practices could be reviewed for their appropriateness given data-identified student needs, (c) how assessment data will be used to determine all students needs and to track progress for students receiving interventions, (d) how data-based decision-making protocols could be developed/refined and implemented to guide system decisions, and (e) how local professional development could be provided to ensure that personnel are prepared to implement MTSS protocols and instructional/intervention practices.

MAP-MTSS Option Degree Requirements

Master of Applied Psychology in MTSS (30-Credits)			
Required Foundational Courses			
Course #	Course	School	Cr.
18:820:525	Prevention and Intervention in Tiered Systems (Fall)	GSAPP	3
18:820:526	Assessment and Data-Based Decision Making (Spring)	GSAPP	3
18:820:610	Leadership and Systems Consultation (Fall)	GSAPP	3
Electives (Select 5)			
18:820:533	Data-Based Decision Making in Early Reading (Fall)	GSAPP	3
18:820:541	Using MTSS to Build Comprehensive School-Based Mental Health Programs (Fall or Spring)	GSAPP	3
15:293:523	Teaching in Inclusive Classrooms (Fall and Spring)	GSE	3
18:820:540	Multi-Tiered Systems of Support in Secondary Educational Settings (Spring)	GSAPP	3
18:820:539	Data-Based Decision Making in Early Math Skills (Spring)	GSAPP	3
15:293:TBD	Classroom Organization for Inclusive and Special Classroom	GSE	3
18:820:TBD	Multi-Tiered Social Emotional Learning and Behavioral Supports	GSAPP	3
18:820:TBD	Restorative Practices in Psychological Wellness	GSAPP	3
Capstone Project (Required)			
Course #	Course	School	Cr.
18:820:TBD	Capstone Project (Fall and Spring)	GSAPP	6

Proposed MAP-MTSS Course Sequence

The order in which students take MTSS courses may vary depending on course availability and student schedules.

Semester 1 (6 credits)

Prevention & Intervention in Tiered Systems
Leadership and Systems Consultation in MTSS

Semester 4 (6 credits)

Elective #4
Elective #5

Semester 2 (6 credits)

Assessment and Data-based Decision Making
Elective #1

Semester 5 (3 credits) & Semester 6 (3 credits)

Capstone Project

Semester 3 (6 credits)

Elective #2
Elective #3

Certificate Program in Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS)

The goal of this certificate program is to provide current or future educational professionals with training to become consultants and leaders within their school systems in the implementation of evidence-based practices designed to enhance outcomes for all students. Intended for education professionals currently or soon to be working within New Jersey schools, our MTSS certificate training program will involve a sequence of 6 courses designed to provide foundational knowledge of psychological principles in learning and teaching, training in state-of-the-art assessment and intervention practices, and guidance in how to plan for change at the systems level. Completion of the certificate program is based on satisfactory performance (course grades above C+).

The Certificate program is designed for professionals who wish to enhance their knowledge and skills in MTSS without committing to a full master's program. This program is suitable for current educators, administrators, and school psychologists who want to deepen their expertise in this area.

- Duration: 1.5-3 years (part-time).
- Credits Required: 18 credits.

MTSS Certificate Option Requirements

MTSS Certificate (18-Credits)			
Course #	Course	School	Cr.
18:820:525	Prevention and Intervention in Tiered Systems	GSAPP	3
18:820:526	Assessment and Data-Based Decision Making	GSAPP	3
18:820:533	Data-Based Decision Making in Early Reading	GSAPP	3
18:820:610	Leadership and Systems Consultation	GSAPP	3
15:293:523	Teaching in Inclusive Classrooms	GSE	3
15:293:TBD	Classroom Organization for Inclusive and Special Classroom	GSE	3

Proposed MTSS Option Course Sequence:

One Course Per Semester*	Two Courses Per Semester*
<u>Semester 1 (3 credits)</u> 1. Prevention & Intervention in Tiered Systems	<u>Semester 1 (6 credits)</u> 1. Prevention & Intervention in Tiered Systems 2. Leadership and Systems Consultation in MTSS
<u>Semester 2 (6 credits)</u> 1. Assessment and Data-based Decision Making	<u>Semester 2 (6 credits)</u> 1. Assessment and Data-based Decision Making 2. Data-Based Decision-Making in Early Reading
<u>Semester 3 (3 credits)</u> 1. Leadership and Systems Consultation in MTS	<u>Semester 3 (6 credits)</u> 1. Teaching in Inclusive Classrooms 2. Classroom Organization for Inclusive and Special Classroom
<u>Semester 4 (3 credits)</u> 1. Data-Based Decision-Making in Early Reading	
<u>Semester 5 (3 credits)</u> 1. Teaching in Inclusive Classrooms	
<u>Semester 6 (3 credits)</u> 1. Classroom Organization for Inclusive and Special Classroom	

*Note: Doctoral students in the school psychology program at GSAPP should contact the Director of the MTSS programs to discuss the recommended course sequence.