

EXCEPTIONALITY IN HUMAN LEARNING (HBS Sc)

Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences

Exceptionality in Human Learning (EHL) is an interdisciplinary program offered as a specialist with a focus in human development, abnormal behaviour, and disability issues. This program provides a broad scholarly foundation for addressing issues concerning children and adults who have disabilities and/or are gifted. Interested students might include:

- those who at a later stage may wish to pursue more advanced work in psychology, special education, rehabilitation, social work, group home management, adult retraining, or study in areas related to hearing or visual impairment, learning disabilities, developmental delay, physical disability
- those wanting to know more about the psychology, sociology and biology of exceptional individuals, particularly as these become issues of public policy.

MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR TIME AT UTM!

We want to help you maximize your university experience, so we've pulled together information and interesting suggestions to get you started, although there are many more! As you review the chart on the inside pages, note that many of the suggestions need not be restricted to the year they are mentioned. In fact, activities such as joining an academic society, engaging with faculty and seeking opportunities to gain experience should occur in each year of your study at UTM. Read through the chart and create your own plan using [My Program Plan](http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/program-plans) found at www.utm.utoronto.ca/program-plans

Programs of Study (POSt)

- Specialist Program ERSPE1883 Exceptionality in Human Learning (Science)

Check out...

What was your first word? Ever wondered why? Find out in PSY315H5. Topics include the acquisition of speech sounds and conversational abilities. How do we develop socially? Take PSY311H5 to learn factors that influence social development during infancy and childhood.

What can I do with my degree?

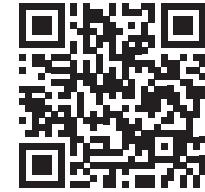
The career you choose will depend on your experience and interests. Visit the Career Centre to explore your career options.

Careers for graduates: Behaviour therapist; Psychologist; Rehabilitation counsellor; Speech-language pathologist; Child and youth worker; Community worker; Crisis worker; Animal assisted therapist; Occupational Therapist; Audiologist; Physiotherapist; Special education teacher; Social worker.

Workplaces: Educational institutions; Medical/health organizations; Not-for-profit agencies; Government; Correction and rehabilitation facilities; Behavioural health clinics; Community services.



EXCEPTIONALITY IN HUMAN LEARNING SPECIALIST Program Plan



HOW TO USE THIS PROGRAM PLAN

Read through each year. Investigate what appeals to you here and in any other Program Plans that apply to you.

Visit www.utm.utoronto.ca/program-plans to create your own plan using [My Program Plan](#).
Update your plan yearly.

	1 ST YEAR	2 ND YEAR	3 RD YEAR	4 TH OR FINAL YEAR
PLAN YOUR ACADEMICS*	<p>1ST YEAR</p> <p>Enrol in PSY100Y5. Choose first or second year Biology, Anthropology or Sociology courses appropriate to your program. View the Academic Calendar for course selection.</p> <p>Use Degree Explorer and the Academic Calendar to plan your degree. After completion of 4.0 credits you may apply for a program of study (Subject POST).</p> <p>Develop academic skills and strategies by enrolling in a utmONE First-Year Foundations Course. Build community and gain academic support through LAUNCH. Join a RGASC Peer Facilitated Study Group.</p>	<p>2ND YEAR</p> <p>Enrol in PSY201H5, PSY210H5, and PSY240H5. Choose one of the following: PSY202H5, PSY270H5, PSY274H5, PSY280H5, or PSY290H5. Consider taking courses in either Anthropology, Sociology, or Biology (view the Academic Calendar for details). Apply to the Specialist once 8.0 credits have been completed.</p> <p>Considering a specialist in exceptionality in human learning? Speak to the Psychology Academic Advisor about entry requirements.</p>	<p>3RD YEAR</p> <p>Ensure you are enrolling in courses that fulfill the program requirements of your degree. View the Academic Calendar for course options.</p> <p>Throughout your undergraduate degree:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use Degree Explorer to ensure you complete your degree and program requirements. • See the Office of the Registrar and the Psychology Academic Advisor for support. 	<p>4TH OR FINAL YEAR</p> <p>Dig deeper into studying psychology and enrol in on thesis/research project from courses: PSY400Y5, PSY403H5/ 404H5/ 405H5/ 406H5, or PSY499H5. Speak to the Psychology Academic Advisor for details.</p> <p>Log on to ACORN and request graduation.</p>
BUILD SKILLS	<p>BUILD SKILLS</p> <p>Use the Co-Curricular Record (CCR). Search for opportunities beyond the classroom, and keep track of your accomplishments.</p> <p>Attend the Get Hired Fair through the Career Centre (CC) to learn about on- and off-campus opportunities.</p> <p>Attend the Experiential Education Fair to learn about for-credit EL opportunities.</p>	<p>Use the Career & Co-Curricular Learning Network (CLNx) to find postings for on- and off-campus work and volunteer opportunities.</p> <p>Work on-campus through the Work-Study program. View position descriptions on the CLNx.</p> <p>Apply to become an Experiential Education Unit Student Ambassador and earn a CCR notation</p>	<p>Explore your interests. Why not support individuals who have intellectual disabilities? Volunteer with Community on Campus. Visit their office in MN2131.</p> <p>Speak to the Psychology Academic Advisor to learn about the variety of opportunities.</p>	<p>Participate in a practical work-based experience through PSY442Y5 (Practicum in Exceptionality in Human Learning). Students should submit an application to the Psychology office the April prior. Speak to the Psychology Academic Advisor.</p> <p>Interested in mental health education? Apply to become a Wellness Ambassador with the Health & Counselling Centre.</p>
BUILD A NETWORK	<p>BUILD A NETWORK</p> <p>Networking simply means talking to people and developing relationships with them. Start by joining the Psychology Association of Undergraduate Students of Erindale (P.A.U.S.E.). For upcoming events and workshops, make sure to follow the social media platforms associated with the Psychology Department:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • utm.pause on IG • utmpsychology on IG and X 	<p>Do you have a professor you want to connect with? Ask them a question during office hours. Discuss an assignment. Go over lecture material. Don't be shy! Learn Tips On How to Approach a Professor available through the Experiential Education Unit (EEU).</p> <p>It's always a good idea to visit the UTM Library Reference Desk.</p>	<p>Establish a professional presence on social media (e.g., LinkedIn).</p> <p>Attend the Psychology department's "GReAT Talks" (Graduate, REsearcher, And Trainee) or the Perception, Cognition, and Language Research Talk Series to mingle and learn about new psychological discoveries.</p>	<p>Join a professional Association. Check out the Canadian Psychological Association which has a student mentorship program.</p> <p>Go to the Canadian Society for Brain, Behaviour and Cognitive Science Conference.</p>
BUILD A GLOBAL MINDSET	<p>BUILD A GLOBAL MINDSET</p> <p>Engage with the many programs offered by the International Education Centre (IEC), whether you are an international or domestic student. Consider joining the Canada Eh? day trips or English Language Conversation Circles to deepen your global mindset.</p> <p>First-year international students can also take advantage of THRIVE-IN, a one-day conference dedicated to helping you start your UTM journey successfully.</p>	<p>Participate in International Education Week and engage in programs like Global and Intercultural Fluency Training Series (GIFTS) to build on your leadership and communication skills in global citizenship.</p> <p>Learn about and prepare for a future UTM Abroad Experience through the IEC to strengthen and enhance your intercultural skill set, and learn about other cultures while sharing your own!</p>	<p>Expanding your intercultural awareness and developing intercultural skills will help you in your academics, personal growth and are highly sought out by employers.</p> <p>Earn credits overseas! Apply to study for a summer term, or year at one of 170+ universities. Speak to the IEC for details about Course Based Exchange, funding and travel safety. Attend Global Learning Week to learn about the various opportunities available to you!</p>	<p>Engage in programs like ISTEP and THRIVE to support your transition out of the University!</p>
PLAN FOR YOUR FUTURE	<p>PLAN FOR YOUR FUTURE</p> <p>Start by exploring the UTM Career Centre Model—a chance to reflect and choose what's right for you with guided support. Access MyCareerCentre 24/7 for flexible, interactive career learning at your own pace.</p> <p>Connect with support in-person: Drop-in to an Academic & Career Planning Session to chat with Advisors and Career Counsellors. Visit the Career Corner in the Student Services Hub to chat with a Peer Career Assistant about resources that fit your goals.</p>	<p>Explore your options with the CC's Job Shadow Program, In the Field, or a one-on-one with a Career Counsellor.</p> <p>Thinking about grad school? Attend the Graduate & Professional School Fair, research application requirements, admission tests, and explore funding options.</p> <p>Getting ready for work? Join workshops, drop-ins, and networking events to build experience and confidently share your skills – Register on CLNx.</p>	<p>Need job search support? Book a coaching appointment with an Employment Strategist for personalized guidance.</p> <p>Ready to take the next step for grad school, visit the Pursue Learning section on MyCareerCentre and drop-in to chat with a Career Counsellor about grad school prep tips.</p> <p>Want to grow your network? Attend the Career Centre Networking Series and Let's Talk About events — Register on CLNx.</p>	<p>Join the Now That I'm Graduating, What's Next? session to start building your job search plan. Attend the Sweats to Suits Job Search Conference and discover diverse career pathways.</p> <p>Work with the Employment Strategist team to review your resume and prep for interviews.</p> <p>Still figuring things out? Meet with a Career Counsellor to create a career plan and attend a Career Wellness session to support your well-being along the way.</p>

*Consult the Academic Calendar for greater detail on course requirements, program notes and degree requirements.

Revised on: 06/06/2025

Visit www.utm.utoronto.ca/program-plans for the online version and links.

EXCEPTIONALITY IN HUMAN LEARNING

Skills developed in Exceptionality in Human Learning

To be competitive in the job market, it is essential that you can explain your skills to an employer. Visit the Career Centre to learn how to articulate and market the following skills:

Communication: Formulate and defend positions; adapt language for different audiences; sharpen your sensitivity to cultural and ethnic diversity.

Research: Use criteria to evaluate and make decisions, as well as carry out tasks with thoroughness and precision.

Critical thinking & problem-solving: Understand complex problems and identify potential solutions, as well as approach problems from a variety of perspectives.

Organizational: Identify goals; manage time; multitask; and work independently and collaboratively with others.

Get involved

Check out the 100+ student organizations on campus. Here are a few:

- Psychology Association of Undergraduate Students of Erindale (P.A.U.S.E.)
- UTM Student Union (UTMSU)
- UTM Athletics Council (UTMAC)

For a listing of clubs on campus visit the **Student Groups and Societies Directory**

Services that support you

- **Accessibility Services (AS)**
- **Career Centre (CC)**
- **Centre for Student Engagement (CSE)**
- **Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Office (EDIO)**
- **Experiential Education Unit (EEU)**
- **Health & Counselling Centre (HCC)**
- **International Education Centre (IEC)**
- **Office of the Registrar (OR)**
- **Recreation, Athletics and Wellness Centre (RAWC)**
- **Robert Gillespie Academic Skills Centre (RGASC)**
- **UTM Library, Hazel McCallion Academic Learning Centre (HMALC)**

FUTURE STUDENTS

Admission to UTM

All program areas require an Ontario Secondary School Diploma, or equivalent, with six Grade 12 U/M courses, or equivalent, including English. The admission average is calculated with English plus the next best five courses. The Grade 12 prerequisites for this program are Advanced Functions and Biology. The approximate average required for admission is mid- to high-70s. More information is available at utm.utoronto.ca/viewbook.

NOTE: During the application process, applicants will select Psychology admissions category, but will not officially be admitted to a formal program of study (Major, and/or Minor) until after first year or after second year (Specialist).

Sneak Peek

How different is a 3 year-old from a 5 year-old? Take PSY210H5 and get introduced to developmental psychology. Topics include historical and philosophical perspectives as well as empirical research on age-related changes in perceptual, cognitive, and social processes. What is abnormal adult behaviour? Take PSY240H5 and learn about the causes and treatment of disorders, diagnosis and assessment, biological and psychological interventions, prevention, as well as legal and ethical issues.

Student Recruitment & Admissions

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Mississauga ON Canada L5L 1C6

905-828-5400
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