

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO RENAME A PROGRAM, DEPARTMENT,  
SCHOOL, OR COLLEGE**

**Proposals will only be accepted electronically as a Word document to the Office of the Provost when submitted to [provost.deg.changes@wsu.edu](mailto:provost.deg.changes@wsu.edu)**

Current Name:	Educational Psychology
Proposed Name:	Educational Psychology and Methodology
Campus(es):	Pullman
College(s):	College of Education, Sport, Human Sciences

Contact Name:	Kira Carbonneau	Email Address:	<a href="mailto:kira.carbonneau@wsu.edu">kira.carbonneau@wsu.edu</a>
Date of filing this NOI:		Proposed effective date:	01/01/2026

The rationale for the proposed name change.
<p>The program name change is intended to more accurately reflect the full scope, rigor, and expertise of the educational psychology program. While the current title, <i>Educational Psychology</i>, emphasizes our foundation, it does not adequately capture the significant focus the faculty and curriculum place on research methodology—a core element of the program’s identity and a critical area of professional preparation for their students.</p> <p>Adding <i>Methodology</i> to the program name will better communicate to prospective students, campus partners, and external stakeholders the comprehensive training offered in quantitative, qualitative, and mixed-methods research. This shift would more clearly convey the relevance of the degree for careers in research, data analysis, program evaluation, and assessment—fields that increasingly demand strong methodological skill sets.</p> <p>Additionally, the revised name aligns with the scholarly expertise of the faculty, many of whom are recognized for their contributions to research design and analysis. It reinforces the methodological depth embedded in the curriculum and enhances the clarity of the program’s mission and outcomes. Importantly, the new name also signals to future faculty and graduate students that methodological training is a central and valued component of our program—an increasingly important consideration for those seeking research-intensive environments.</p> <p>Finally, with the college’s rebranding as the <i>College of Education, Sport, and Human Sciences</i>, this is a timely opportunity to ensure the program name aligns with that forward-looking vision. We believe this change will strengthen the identity, clarify course offerings, and better reflect the value the program brings to the college and university.</p>
Explain how <u>all</u> faculty and staff were notified of the potential change, engaged in the discussion, and given the opportunity to provide feedback. Please summarize their responses.

All faculty and staff within the College of Education, Sport, and Human Sciences (CESHS) were notified via the CESHS listserv regarding the proposed name change from *Educational Psychology* to *Educational Psychology and Methodology*. The notification included a detailed justification for the change and provided multiple avenues for feedback.

Faculty and staff were invited to contact the Department Chair, Dr. Kira Carbonneau, directly with any questions or concerns. In addition, a link to an anonymous Qualtrics survey was provided to ensure all members of CESHS could share feedback confidentially.

In total, two faculty members and one staff member responded directly to the email with questions; all questions were addressed individually and transparently. Nine individuals submitted anonymous responses through the Qualtrics survey. Of those, seven expressed support for the proposed name change, citing improved clarity and alignment with common program titles in the field. The two dissenting responses raised concerns that the term *methodology* should not be exclusive to one program, as all faculty engage in research.

Describe the process by which other departments, colleges, or campuses were consulted about this change and summarize the response. Letters of support may be appended.

In addition to internal outreach, all Deans across Washington State University and key program stakeholders—such as those affiliated with Prevention Science—were individually notified via email about the proposed name change from *Educational Psychology* to *Educational Psychology and Methodology*. Each recipient received the formal justification for the change and was invited to provide feedback, ask questions, or express any concerns.

Of the 28 individuals contacted, one responded with a question regarding the rationale and scope of the name change. This question was promptly addressed, and the respondent expressed support for the change following clarification. The overall lack of concern or objection, paired with the one affirmative response, indicates broad administrative and stakeholder alignment with the proposed name change and its intent to more accurately represent the expertise and training offered by the program.

If applicable, describe the process by which other stakeholders (e.g., advisory or alumni groups) were consulted about this change and summarize the response:

To ensure transparency and gather broader input, alumni and external stakeholders were also invited to provide feedback on the proposed name change from *Educational Psychology* to *Educational Psychology and Methodology*. A survey link was included in the program's annual newsletter, which was distributed to 152 recipients. Of those, one individual completed the survey and expressed a favorable opinion of the proposed change. While the response rate was limited, the feedback received was supportive and affirmed the value of a program name that more accurately reflects both the psychological and methodological training provided to students.

Please provide a list of any and all objections raised during the consultations and provide a response to each objection. If none, enter "None."

### Summary of Concern

Two survey respondents were strongly opposed to including the term "*methodology*" in any department name within the College. They argue that research methodology is a shared responsibility across all departments and doctoral programs, not the domain of a single unit. The inclusion of *methodology* in one department's title could suggest sole ownership of methodological expertise, which may:

- Undermine the interdisciplinary and diverse nature of methodological training in the college.
- Create confusion or inequities over who teaches methodology courses.
- Misrepresent the contributions of other departments that also support students in research methodology.

The respondent believes such a change could negatively affect doctoral training and faculty teaching opportunities, while falsely implying that other departments do not engage in methodological instruction or support.

### Justification Against the Concern

While the concern emphasizes the importance of shared responsibility in research training—a principle that we fully acknowledge and value—the proposed name change to *Educational Psychology and Methodology* does not imply exclusivity or ownership of all methodological instruction within the College.

Instead, the name change is intended to:

- **Clarify the specific expertise and curricular emphasis** within this particular program, which includes advanced and dedicated training in research methodology (quantitative, qualitative, and mixed-methods) as a core component of both master's and doctoral pathways.
- **Attract prospective students and faculty** seeking programs with clearly defined strengths in methodological development.
- **Align the program's title with national trends**, where similar departments (e.g., "Educational Psychology and Research," "Educational Psychology and Methodology") use naming conventions that accurately reflect their academic focus without diminishing the contributions of others.

It is important to emphasize that this name change:

- **Does not impact curricular authority** or determine which faculty may teach college-wide methodology courses.
- **Does not prevent or discourage** other departments from continuing to teach, mentor, and support students in research methodology.
- **Does not suggest exclusivity**, but rather highlights a defining characteristic of this program, in alignment with the college's broader rebranding and goals of academic clarity.

**SIGNATURES: The names typed below certify that the relevant academic and campus officials have reviewed and approved this proposal:**

Chair or Director Signature:		Date:	09/09/2025
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Dean Signature:		Date:	10/8/2025
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**Signatures are required from all Chancellors (or delegates). A signature denotes endorsement if the degree will be offered and/or impact the respective campus. A signature will also denote receipt of notification if the degree is not being offered and/or will impact the respective campus. If needed, a signature abstention box is provided immediately below.**

Everett Chancellor Signature:		Date:	10/01/2025
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Global Chancellor Signature:		Date:	09/23/2025
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Spokane Chancellor Signature:	N/A	Date:	
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Tri-Cities Chancellor Signature:		Date:	9/16/25
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Vancouver Chancellor Signature:		Date:	9/16/25
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Comments regarding abstention of signature(s)

**Submit completed form as a Word document to the Provost's Office at [provost.deg.changes@wsu.edu](mailto:provost.deg.changes@wsu.edu)**

Provost's Office Signature:		Date:	
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