Leadership and Foundations

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The Department of Leadership and Foundations offers the following degrees:

- Master of Arts in Teaching in Community College Education;
- Master of Science in Workforce Education Leadership;
- Doctor of Philosophy in Community College Leadership;
- Master of Science in School Administration;
- Educational Specialist in Education with a concentration in School Administration; and
- Doctor of Philosophy in Elementary, Middle, and Secondary Education Administration.

A student applying for admission to a degree program in the Department of Leadership and Foundations must submit a complete admission packet to the Graduate School and adhere to the following deadlines.

M.S. and Ed.S. programs in School Administration will admit students for the summer term of each calendar year. The M.S. application deadline is May 1; the Ed.S. deadline is March 1.

All other programs will admit students twice a year. No applications are accepted after these deadlines for the respective admission semesters.

Spring	October 1
Summer	March 1
Fall	March 1

A complete admission packet includes:

- application to the graduate degree program;
- statement of purpose;
- three letters of recommendation;
- GRE scores; and
- official transcripts from each college or university attended.

In order for applications to be evaluated for admission, the department may require additional information for each program area.

A student admitted to a program must maintain continuous enrollment. A student who is not enrolled for one semester is required to submit a readmission application and a new statement of purpose. The readmission must be approved by the graduate coordinator. If a student has not been enrolled for one calendar year, the applicant must submit a new application and statement of purpose and be considered for readmission into his/her degree program.

General Admission Requirements

Degree Programs in Community College

Minimum Grade Point Average

Master's degrees – 2.75 on last half of bachelor's degree;

Doctoral degree – 3.40 on previous graduate degree(s)

Additional admission requirements

Doctoral degree – demonstrated interest in the mission of community colleges, résumé, writing sample, and interview;

Master of Arts in Teaching in Community College Education – Indication of teaching specialty (e.g., history) in purpose statement

Degree Programs in School Leadership

Minimum Grade Point Average

Master's degree – 2.75 on last half of bachelor's degree;

Educational Specialist degree – 3.20 on Master's degree;

Doctoral degree – 3.40 on previous graduate degree(s)

Additional admission requirements

Master's and Educational Specialist degrees – copy of valid teacher's license, evidence of a minimum of three years teaching experience, résumé, portfolio, and interview;

Doctoral degree – résumé and interview

Community College Programs

Master of Arts in Teaching in Community College Education (M.A.T.)

The Master of Arts in Teaching in Community College Education is an interdisciplinary, distance learning degree program designed to prepare professionals for teaching in a community college setting. The degree prepares educators for service in rural community colleges and requires a minimum of 18 hours in the student's teaching field. The professional education sequence of 15 hours includes an internship experience. The education courses introduce students to the philosophy and culture of the community college and prepare them to teach non-traditional and first-generation students. Sensitivity to diversity and adult learning theory is also included in the curriculum. The program is offered through the Center for Distance Education.

Admission Criteria

To be eligible for admission to the program, the applicant must hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution, meet the basic requirements specified for graduate students at Mississippi State University, demonstrate interest in the mission of community colleges, and demonstrate academic proficiency based on the following indicators:

1. grade point average (GPA) of 2.75 on a 4.00 scale on the last half of the bachelor's degree,
2. GRE score results,
3. three letters of reference, and
4. indication of teaching specialty (e.g., history) in the purpose statement.

Master of Science in Workforce Education Leadership

The Master of Science in Workforce Education Leadership is a distance learning program designed to prepare professionals for employment in workforce education in postsecondary educational institutions and social services entities, advancing the knowledge base of workforce preparation, workforce development education, and professional development. The program is offered through the Center for Distance Education.

Admission Criteria

To be eligible for admission to the program, the applicant must hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution, meet the basic requirements specified for graduate students at Mississippi State University, demonstrate interest in the mission of community college and/or workforce issues, and demonstrate academic proficiency based on the following indicators:

1. grade point average (GPA) of 2.75 on a 4.00 scale on the last half of the bachelor's degree,
2. GRE score results,
3. three letters of reference, and
4. purpose statement.

Doctor of Philosophy in Community College Leadership

The Ph.D. degree program in Community College Leadership is designed to prepare professionals for leadership positions in community colleges. The degree program is designed to prepare the next generation of community college leaders. The program consists of core courses of study in leading and managing in the community college, interdisciplinary courses in a rural context, and courses in research and statistics. The program is offered through the Center for Distance Education.

Admission Criteria

To be eligible for admission to the program, the applicant must hold a master's degree from an accredited institution, meet the basic requirements specified for graduate students at Mississippi State University, demonstrate interest in the mission of community colleges, and demonstrate academic proficiency based on the following indicators:

1. grade point average (GPA) of 3.40 on a 4.00 scale for all graduate-level credit hours completed;
2. GRE score results;
3. writing sample;
4. three letters of reference,
5. structured interview; and
6. current résumé.

School Leadership Programs

Master of Science in School Administration

The program for the Master of Science (M.S.) degree in School Administration prepares educators for careers as school administrators. Program candidates learn to analyze data, evaluate instruction, improve student achievement, make strategic decisions, creatively solve problems, involve families in their children's education, empower others, supervise staff, promote change, establish positive school culture, understand budgets, and manage resources. The program is nationally accredited by the Educational Leadership Constituent Council (ELCC) and approved for administrative licensure by the Mississippi Department of Education. Graduates are prepared for a wide range of professional positions in education, including principal, assistant principal, coordinator, and director.

Admission Criteria

To be eligible for admission to the program, the applicant must hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution, meet the basic requirements specified for graduate students at Mississippi State University, demonstrate interest in the mission of P-12 schools, and demonstrate academic proficiency based on the following indicators:

1. grade point average (GPA) of 2.75 on a 4.00 scale on the last half of the bachelor's degree;
2. GRE score results;
3. three letters of reference;
4. statement of purpose;
5. copy of valid teacher's license;
6. evidence of three years of teaching experience,
7. current résumé;
8. letter of endorsement from current school administrator;
9. portfolio; and
10. interview.

Educational Specialist in Education with a School Administration Concentration

The Educational Specialist degree with a major in Education and concentration in School Administration requires a minimum of 30 hours of coursework above the Master's degree including EPY 6214 and EDL 7000 and a comprehensive examination for individuals. The program is designed for individuals who hold a Master's degree in School Administration and administrator license. Graduates are prepared for professional positions in education including school district level positions.

If the student does not hold administrator licensure, the program of study for the Educational Specialist degree with a major in Education and concentration in School Administration requires a minimum of 43 credit hours of coursework above the Master's degree including EPY 6214 and EDL 7000. The program is designed to provide administrative licensure by the Mississippi Department of Education. Graduates are prepared for a wide range of professional positions in education, including principal, assistant principal, coordinator, and director.

Admission Criteria

To be eligible for admission to the program, the applicant must hold a master's degree from an accredited institution, meet the basic requirements specified for graduate students at Mississippi State University, demonstrate interest in the mission of P-12 schools, and demonstrate academic proficiency based on the following indicators:

1. grade point average (GPA) of 3.20 on a 4.00 scale on the master's degree;
2. GRE score results;
3. three letters of reference;
4. statement of purpose;

5. copy of valid teacher's license;

6. evidence of three years of teaching experience;

7. résumé;

8. letter of recommendation from a school administrator;

9. portfolio; and

10. interview.

Doctor of Philosophy in Elementary, Middle, and Secondary Education Administration

The program for the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree in Elementary, Middle, and Secondary Education Administration is designed for experienced professional educators interested in leading and managing schools, school districts, educational associations, foundations, and state departments of education. Program candidates learn state-of-the-art executive skills, applied theory, ethical decision making and problem solving, organizational structure and function, systems analysis, strategic planning, curriculum assessment and improvement, human resource management, school law, school finance, facility design, and public relations.

Admission Criteria

To be eligible for admission to the program, the applicant must hold a master's degree from an accredited institution, meet the basic requirements specified for graduate students at Mississippi State University, demonstrate interest in the mission of P-12 schools, and demonstrate academic proficiency based on the following indicators:

1. grade point average (GPA) of 3.40 on a 4.00 scale on previous graduate degree(s);

2. GRE score results;

3. three letters of reference;

4. statement of purpose;

5. evidence of three years of teaching experience,

6. résumé; and

7. interview.

Master of Arts in Teaching in Community College Education

Core Courses

CCL 8113	Community College History/Philosophy	3
CCL 8313	Community College Instructional Assessment	3
CCL 8173	Community College Teaching and Learning	3
EDF 8363	Function and Methods of Research in Education	3
Teaching Specialty/Content Area		
Select 18 hours of courses with the same prefix.		18
Total Hours		30

Master of Science in Workforce Education Leadership

Core Courses		24
CCL 8113	Community College History/Philosophy	
CCL 8343	Community Development and Resources	
CCL 8133	Leadership Theory and Practice in the Community College	
CCL 8153	Human Resources Administration	
CCL 8143	Program Planning and Development	
AIS 8523	Teaching Out-of-School Groups in Agricultural Information Science and Education	
EDF 8363	Function and Methods of Research in Education	
CCL 8193	Issues in Community College and Workforce Leadership	
Any two TKT courses at the 6000 level or above.		6
Total Hours		30

Doctor of Philosophy in Community College Leadership

Core Courses	24
Select one of the following:	

CCL 8113	Community College History/Philosophy	
or CCL 8373	Community College Curriculum Improvement	
CCL 8123	Community College Finance	
CCL 8233	Community College Legal Issues	
CCL 8333	Community College Administration	
CCL 8283	Leadership in Community College Administration	
CCL 8353	Applications of Organizational Theory and Behavior in Community College Leadership	
CCL 8383	Ethical Decision Making in Community College Administration	
EDA 8323	Educational Facilities Design	
Interdisciplinary Courses		18
PPA 9613	Rural Government Administration I: Theoretical and Environmental Aspects	
PPA 9623	Rural Government Administration II: Implementation Aspects	
AEC 6313		
AEC 6353	Introduction to Regional Economic Development	
AEC 6323	Applied Region Econ Dev	
AEC 6333		
AEC 8713	Rural Community and Economic Development	
PPA 8733	Public Program Evaluation	
Research Courses		14
EPY 6214	Educational and Psychological Statistics	
EPY 8214	Advanced Educational and Psychological Statistics	
EDF 9373	Educational Research Design	
EDF 9453	Introduction to Qualitative Research in Education	
Dissertation		20
EDA 9000	Dissertation Research /Dissertation in Educational Leadership (hours and credits to be arranged; minimum of 20 hours required)	
Additional Requirements		
CCL 8213	Internship in Community College Leadership [1]	3
Total Hours		79

[1]   Required of students lacking community college work experience.

In addition to successfully completing at least four applied research courses, students are expected to demonstrate competency in research skills in one of two ways:

1. submit a research paper to a peer reviewed journal, or
2. present a research paper at an annual meeting of a regional or national association conference/meeting.

Master of Science in School Administration

Required Courses

First Summer		
EDL 8413	School Legal and Ethical Perspectives	3
EDL 8423	School Leadership	3
EDL 8433	Using Data for School Improvement	3
EDF 8443	Evaluation of School Programs	3
Fall		
EDL 8513	School Leadership Internship I	3
EDL 8523	Educating Diverse Learners	3
Spring		
EDL 8613	School Leadership Internship II	3
EDL 8623	Leading Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment	3
EDL 8633	Human Resources Leadership for Schools	3
Second Summer		

EDL 8713	School Business and Facilities	3
EDL 8723	Leadership for Positive School Culture	3
A culminating assessment is also held during the second summer term		
Total Hours		**33**

Education Specialist, School Administration Concentration

Individuals Holding a Master's degree in School Administration and Administrator License

EPY 6214	Educational and Psychological Statistics	4
EDL 7000	Directed Individual Study in Educational Leadership	6
Graduate-level coursework with at least 15 hours at the 8000-level		20
Total Hours		**30**

A comprehensive examination is required.

Education Specialist, School Administration Concentration

Individuals without Administrator License

EPY 6214	Educational and Psychological Statistics	4
EDL 7000	Directed Individual Study in Educational Leadership	6
Graduate-level coursework with at least 15 hours at the 8000-level		30
Total Hours		**40**

A comprehensive examination is required.

Doctor of Philosophy in Elementary, Middle, and Secondary Education Administration

Leading and Managing in Educational Environments		
EDA 8163	Public School Finance [1]	3
EDA 8190	Workshop in Educational Administration and Supervision	1-3
EDA 8223	Seminar in Administration [1]	3
EDA 8273	Educational Administration and Supervision [1]	3
EDA 8283	Educational Leadership [1]	3
EDA 8293	Professional Development of Educational Personnel	3
EDA 8353	Applications of Theory to Educational Administration [1]	3
EDA 8383	Ethical Decision Making in Educational Administration [1]	3
Applied Research		
Select a minimum of five of the following:		17
EPY 6214	Educational and Psychological Statistics	
EPY 8214	Advanced Educational and Psychological Statistics	
EPY 9213	Advanced Analysis in Educational Research	
EPY 9263	Applied Research Seminar	
EDF 9373	Educational Research Design	
EDF 9463	Qualitative Data Collection in Education	
EDF 9473	Qualitative Data Analysis and Presentation in Education	
Educational Foundations		
Select four of the following:		12
EPY 8223	Psychological Foundations of Education	
EDF 9313	Philosophy of Education	
EDF 8323	Comparative Education	
EDF 8353	Principles of Curriculum Development	
EDF 8383	Issues in Education	
EDF 8393	History of Education in the United States	

Dissertation Research

EDA 9000	Dissertation Research /Dissertation in Educational Leadership (hours and credits to be arranged; minimum of 20 hours required) [2]	20
Additional courses		
EDA 8210	Internship in Supervision and Administration [3]	3
EDA 8323	Educational Facilities Design	3
Total Hours		77-79

[1]   These courses must be completed at MSU. Many of these courses require prerequisites. The specific number of courses in Educational Administration required for a particular student may vary depending on previous degrees and experience.

[2]   The student's dissertation research must address problems particular to elementary, middle, or secondary education administration. In addition to successfully completing at least five applied research courses, students are expected to demonstrate competency in research skills in one of two ways: (a) submit a research paper to a peer-reviewed journal or (b) present a research paper at an annual meeting of a regional or national association conference/meeting.

[3]   Required for students lacking school district-level work experience.

Additional Requirements

All graduate students submitting a thesis or dissertation must attend the thesis/dissertation workshop conducted by Mitchell Memorial Library prior to the application for the written comprehensive examination. All students seeking the Doctor of Philosophy degree must satisfy research skills requirements before taking the written preliminary examination. (Refer to the *College of Educational Doctoral Student Handbook* for options to meet these requirements.)