

THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI

INFORMATION ON THE MASTER OF ARTS IN HIGHER EDUCATION / STUDENT PERSONNEL PROFESSIONAL COHORT PROGRAM

The Master of Arts in Higher Education/Student Personnel professional cohort program provides, for those already employed in a college/university environment, professional preparation for employment in the administration of student affairs, student life, student services, and other co-curricular positions in institutions of postsecondary education.

Admission Requirements

Applicants to the program must meet the following requirements:

- 1) Employed at a college/university (at least 0.75 FTE).
- 2) Hold a bachelor's degree from an approved institution with a grade point average of at least 3.0 on the course work attempted. (A 2.7 grade point average, or 3.0 on the last 60 hours, may allow one to enter as a conditional student.)
- 3) Submit competitive scores on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) verbal, quantitative and writing areas. Scores must be no more than five years old.
- 4) Provide a resume, contact information for three references, and statement of purpose that describes the relationship of your personal and professional goals to the attainment of the degree.

Degree Requirements

- 1) Complete a minimum of 42 hours of graduate credit.
- 2) Attain an overall average of B or better on all course work.
- 3) Develop a satisfactory written portfolio based on work completed during the program.
- 4) Complete all course work within a six-year time limit.

Transfer of Graduate Credit

A maximum of 6 semester hours of graduate credit earned in another recognized institution may be applied toward the degree program if approved by the department.

Additional Information / Program Contacts

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Tentative Course Schedule

Summer 2010 Professional Cohort

Summer 2010

EDHE 656 Student Services in Higher Education
EDRS 605 Educational Research

Fall 2010

EDHE 658 Organization and Governance
EDFD 609 Cultural Context of Education

Spring 2011

EDHE 669 Human Resources in Higher Ed. (online)
EDHE 671 The College and the Student

Summer 2011

EDHE 659 Finance of Higher Education
EDHE 667* Practicum in Student Services

Fall 2011

EDHE 660 History of Higher Education
EDHE 665 Contemporary Issues of Higher Education
(online)

Spring 2012

EDHE 657 Comparative Higher Education or
EDHE 661 Community College (online)
EDHE 664 Law in Higher Education

Summer 2012

EDHE 662 College Teaching
EDHE 663 Curriculum in Higher Education
(may be designed as an independent study)

*EDHE 667—Practicum

The practicum involves the completion of 150 hours of work in an area related to a college/university that is outside of a student's current position.

This schedule is tentative. The University reserves the right to make changes to the order of specific course offerings.

The professional cohort M.A. in Higher Education/Student Personnel is a lock-step program designed for students who are working in a college/university environment (must be employed at least 0.75 FTE). Students take two courses at a time, including one practicum experience. A new cohort starts each summer in even-dated years and students complete the program in 26 months. Options are available to allow completion in 24 months if a student takes two elective courses during the University's intersession enrollment terms on the Oxford campus. Courses are offered using a variety of technological delivery modes, including compressed video (video conferencing) to campuses in Booneville, Grenada, Jackson, Southaven, Tupelo, and Oxford; online; web-based audio and video technology; and occasional meetings on the Oxford campus. Meetings on the Oxford campus will vary by course and faculty member, and may range from one to three times per enrollment term (summer, fall, or spring).

Admitted students who are employed at one of the campuses of The University of Mississippi may be eligible for an employee tuition waiver for up to two courses per enrollment term. A full-time (1.0 FTE) University of Mississippi employee may obtain the degree with no tuition costs borne by the student. Admitted students who are employed at one of the University's community college partners may be eligible for a limited number of scholarships offered through the Division of Outreach and Continuing Education. Appropriate officials at each community college will determine whether to offer the scholarships as full or partial scholarships. Admitted students also may be eligible for other scholarships, fellowships, grants (including Sumners grants), or financial aid through the University and other entities. Further information on various financial aid available may be found at the following websites:

http://www.olemiss.edu/depts/financial_aid/ and <http://www.olemiss.edu/gradschool/finaid.php>. Applications for the Division of Outreach and Continuing Education scholarships may be obtained by contacting The University of Mississippi regional campus offices at Booneville, Grenada, Southaven, and Tupelo.

In general, the tuition waiver for University employees and scholarships offered by the Division of Outreach and Continuing Education do not cover courses taken during the University's intersession terms (January and May). If an admitted student chooses to accelerate the cohort sequence by taking two courses during intersession terms on the Oxford campus (and finish May 2012 rather than August 2012), the student is responsible for all costs related to such courses. In addition, scholarships offered by the Division of Outreach and Continuing Education that are awarded to a student in the professional cohort program only cover tuition costs associated with courses within the professional cohort sequence for the enrollment term and under the technological delivery mode that the course is offered for the professional cohort. Commitment to the professional cohort sequence is vital.

For most enrollment terms, the professional cohort sequence includes one classroom class (offered via compressed video or other technology that would not require weekly meetings in Oxford for non-Oxford based students) and one online course or course that may not meet regularly in a classroom setting. When a classroom class meets will depend on the technology used. Friday afternoon (3:30 to 6pm) has worked well for compressed video, although another evening from 6 to 8:30pm may be used if two classroom classes are necessary or if a class uses technology that allows interactive participation from a home or office computer. During Summer 2010 and Fall 2010, we hope to have one of the courses offered via online or as a hybrid course that may combine available technologies. More information on specific meeting times of classes and delivery mode will be available as it becomes known. Students in the professional cohort also may have an opportunity to participate in a Study Abroad experience during Spring 2012, although another elective will be offered as an alternative to those students who are unable to participate or for all if such a Study Abroad experience is not possible.

Pursuing a graduate degree takes sacrifice, but the Higher Education program faculty feel that the cohort design includes the structure and support that incorporates positive group relationships and allows completion of a master's degree in just over two calendar years in a manner that will make such sacrifice worthwhile. If admitted to the professional cohort program, you and your colleagues will face similar issues regarding work, family, and education. In addition to seeking support from, and providing support to, your professional cohort colleagues in those times when your plate is overflowing, it is imperative that you inform someone associated with the program if there is something occurring that may affect your status in the program. Most issues can be addressed, but the options available may be increased the earlier you let the coordinator or faculty member know of your concern.

What's next?

1. If you have not taken the GRE, prepare to take it sometime during the fall of 2009 or at least by February 1, 2010. Have the scores sent to The University of Mississippi.
2. Make an online application to the professional cohort program for Summer 2009-2010 through the following link: <http://www.olemiss.edu/gradschool/applyonline.php>. If there is a choice for M.A. in Higher Education/Student Personnel Professional Cohort Program, choose that. Otherwise, choose the M.A. in Higher Education/Student Personnel.
3. Email Lori Wolff (lawolff@olemiss.edu) the following supplemental materials: a resume, contact information for three references, and statement of purpose. If you are asked to upload the materials as part of the online application process, you may follow that procedure instead of emailing. The statement of purpose should be a 1-2 page document in which you discuss your personal and professional goals and how they relate to the pursuit and attainment of this degree. Please indicate in the first sentence of the statement of purpose that you are interested in the professional cohort program.
4. Submit official transcripts for all institutions attended by requesting an appropriate official at each institution from which a degree was obtained or at which you took classes send the official transcript to the Graduate School.
5. For consideration, your application file must be complete by March 1, 2010, which means that GRE scores, transcripts, and online application must be in the system with the Graduate School and all supplemental materials received by Lori Wolff.