The education enterprise—from preschool through graduate school—continues to grow, and no one is sure where this expansion will lead. Professionals who work in this complex system in the 21st century must be prepared to carry out and apply cutting-edge research; analyze and interpret data; give sound advice and guidance; lead effectively; and model life-long learning. A degree from the Department of Educational Studies and Research (ESR) will make a difference! ESR programs at Southern Miss are designed to educate educational researchers and leaders at the master’s and doctoral levels—and develop them into professionals who can solve multifaceted educational problems and promote change for the better in all types of educational settings.

PROGRAMS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL STUDIES AND RESEARCH AWARD DEGREES THAT PREPARE AND OR FURTHER STUDENTS’ CAREERS IN:

- College and university faculty, researchers and social science methodologists;
- Student affairs professionals;
- Leaders, administration, and staff in higher and adult education;
- Grant evaluators and assessment specialists;
- Research consultants;
- Community college professionals;
- Literacy, faith-based and military educators; and
- Data analysts.

IN ADDITION, WE OFFER GRADUATE CERTIFICATES IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

- Adult Education
- Community College Leadership
- Institutional Research

FLEXIBLE SCHEDULING

We teach using different delivery formats such as face-to-face, hybrid and fully online. To accommodate the needs of working adults, we offer some coursework on varied schedules (evenings, Saturdays and compressed formats).

FACULTY EXCELLENCE

Our faculty are committed to excellence in teaching, scholarship and service to the university, profession and community. We engage students in work that is critical and respectful of diversity. Learning experiences are designed to foster an understanding of democratic leadership and authentic teaching and learning in higher education and other organizations. We seek to develop students’ analytical skills in ways that prepare them to conduct sound research that extends the boundaries of knowledge. We are committed to the idea that our graduates will have the knowledge and skills needed to make positive contributions to schools, community colleges, universities, and other community organizations that foster learning.

CURRICULUM

The curriculum in the Department of Educational Studies and Research is routinely updated in response to current trends and societal and technical needs of educators, researchers and leaders. Students gain leadership, research, evaluation and assessment skills they will use throughout their entire professional careers. The diverse curriculum provides students with the essential skills necessary to be reflective and dynamic leaders in educational settings.

PROGRAMS OFFERED | PROGRAM OBJECTIVES | CAREERS INCLUDE
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**Educational Studies and Research (M.S.)**
- Introduces you to:
  - foundations of education,
  - research design, and
  - statistics.
- Designed to help you:
  - think and write critically about education,
  - interpret data, and
  - apply research methodologies.
- Entry-level research positions in a variety of settings including community colleges, universities and policy-making organizations.

**Higher Education - Student Affairs Administration (M.Ed.)**
- Prepares you for:
  - effective practice in a post-secondary setting,
  - understanding the role of an administrator in a higher education setting,
  - and examining how the role of an administrator in higher education affects other faculty, staff and students.
- Entry-level positions in student affairs at colleges/universities and professional careers in Greek life, residence life, admissions, alumni relations, financial aid, student activities and more.

**Higher Education (Ed.D., Ph.D.)**
- Prepares you for:
  - research design, and
  - interpret data, and
  - in higher education law,
counseling, diversity, research, student development, assessment and advising.
- Entry central-level positions in student affairs at colleges/universities and professional careers in Greek life, residence life, admissions, alumni relations, financial aid, student activities and more.

**Research, Evaluation, Statistics and Assessment (Ph.D.)**
- Prepares you to:
  - teach applied statistics and research methodology in institutions of higher learning,
  - advise students about the research process involved in theses and dissertations,
  - undertake applied research,
  - utilize computer packages for statistical and information processing, and
  - advise students about the research process involved in theses and dissertations.
- Entry central-level positions in student affairs at colleges/universities and professional careers in Greek life, residence life, admissions, alumni relations, financial aid, student activities and more.

**Adult Education (Ph.D.)**
- Prepares you to:
  - work with adult learners with diverse backgrounds in varied settings,
  - generate, disseminate and apply knowledge about adult learning and adult education,
  - for lifelong learning in a rapidly changing society, and
  - to adult educators at schools with unique sets of needs, institutions and expectations.
- Entry faculty positions in higher education or policy institutes and advanced professional work in managing and leading programs and services in colleges/universities.

**Graduate Certificates**
- Certificates are available in the following areas:
  - Adult Education
  - Community College Leadership
  - Institutional Research

- Tenure-track faculty, research, statistics, grant evaluators, policy analysts and assessment specialists

*Minors: If you are admitted to a degree program, minors outside the program are also available. These include minors in student affairs administration, higher education administration and educational research.*
Making advances in applied research, leadership, teaching and learning

Graduate Studies in Higher Education, Research, Statistics, Student Affairs Administration, Adult Education and More

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND PSYCHOLOGY
Department of Educational Studies and Research
119 College Drive #5093
Hattiesburg, MS 39406-0001
Phone: 601.266.4621

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL STUDIES AND RESEARCH
Graduate Studies in Higher Education, Research, Statistics, Student Affairs Administration, Adult Education and More

Admission Requirements

- Apply and be admitted to The University of Southern Mississippi Graduate School.
- Pay a non-refundable $50 application fee.
- Submit official GRE scores (Southern Miss’s code is 1479).
- Submit all official transcripts, regardless of degree completed.
- Complete a letter of purpose.
- Submit three letters of reference.
- Submit current CV/résumé.
- Participate in an interview (doctoral programs only) beginning in 2015.

Some programs may require additional materials.

Financial Aid

Many of our students are able to secure financial aid in the form of grants and loans. Full-time students may apply for a graduate assistantship that provides full tuition waivers during fall and spring semesters and pays a modest stipend. There may also be a limited number of on-campus employment opportunities available. A full range of financial assistance is available through the Southern Miss Office of Financial Aid.

“I have found [the program] to be one of my best academic experiences thus far. I really feel I am being prepared to be the top-quality scholar that I want to be.”

–James Bridgeforth, Student

FINANCIAL AID

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Scholarships and Financial Aid

July 2012