The Department of Educational Leadership and School Counseling (ELSC) recognizes the importance of P-12 education and the need for highly skilled educational administrators and professional school guidance counselors. ELSC is committed to preparing ELSC graduates to be effective educational leaders in public and private educational settings. All ELSC programs are accredited, and the programs in educational administration are “nationally recognized.” It has a proud history of preparing leaders. The first doctoral degree granted through The University of Southern Mississippi was awarded in the field of educational administration. Graduates serve as principals, directors, superintendents, professional school guidance counselors and university professors.

In addition to the master’s, specialist’s and doctoral degrees, ELSC offers a variety of coursework for professional growth and for renewal of state education licenses.

**NOTABLE ALUMNI**
- Chuck Benigno, PhD, Named Mississippi Superintendent of the Year
- Joe Nelson, MEd, Named Mississippi Middle-Level Principal of the Year
- Hank Bounds, PhD, Mississippi Board of Trustees Commissioner of Higher Education

**LICENSURE**
The department offers coursework for the following:
- MAPQSL Graduates
- Administrator License Renewal
- Educator License Renewal

**ABOUT OUR PROGRAMS**

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<th>PROGRAMS</th>
<th>PATHWAYS</th>
<th><strong>FORMATS</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Master of Education in Educational Administration and Supervision</td>
<td>Entry-level preparation in school leadership • Building Level</td>
<td>Cohort structure beginning each summer and fall. • Fall Cohort Online • Summer Cohort Hybrid</td>
<td>34 hours over four semesters</td>
<td>Three semesters</td>
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<tr>
<td>Master of Education in School Counseling and Guidance Services</td>
<td>Entry-level preparation in professional school guidance counseling</td>
<td>Cohort structure: • Summer cohort is in Hattiesburg/ hybrid format. • Fall cohort is on Gulf Park campus/face-to-face format.</td>
<td>36 hours over four semesters</td>
<td>One Year</td>
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<td>Specialist in Education in Educational Administration and Supervision</td>
<td>Preparation for school leadership • Building Level • District Level</td>
<td>Traditional, online and hybrid formats. Two Programs offered in a variety of teaching formats • Noncertified administrators (Building Level) • Certified administrators (District Level)</td>
<td>36-39 hours</td>
<td>1.25 hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>Doctor of Education or Doctor of Philosophy in Educational Administration and Supervision</td>
<td>Preparation for school leadership • Building Level • District Level</td>
<td>Traditional, online and hybrid formats. Two Programs offered in a variety of teaching formats • Noncertified administrators (Building Level) • Certified administrators (District Level)</td>
<td>60-69 hours</td>
<td>1.25 hours</td>
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*License and or certification is a function of each state department of education, and requirements for licensure or certification vary from state to state. It is the student’s responsibility to be aware of higher education, requirements for licensure and or certification. If you have any questions, contact the department chair.

**For those not interested in a degree program, we also welcome students who are looking for courses for professional growth and/or wishing to take courses to meet educator license renewal requirements.**
Department of Educational Leadership and School Counseling
Graduate Studies in P-12 Educational Administration and School Guidance Counseling

Strong leaders. Strong schools.

The University of Southern Mississippi
College of Education and Psychology
Department of Educational Leadership and School Counseling
118 College Drive #5027
Hattiesburg, MS 39406-0001
Phone: 601.266.4579

Admission Requirements, Scholarships and Financial Aid

Applying online to The University of Southern Mississippi Graduate School
Participating in the interview process
Completing all program requirements
Pay application fee

Most students are able to secure financial aid in the form of loans and scholarships. Full-time students may apply for a graduate assistantship that provides full tuition waivers during fall semester. Additional information can be found on the ELSC website.

Financial Aid

Apply Now

Endorsement Certification

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

Apply Now

Financial Aid

Apply Now

Financial Aid