COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND PSYCHOLOGY

OVERVIEW

The College of Education and Psychology (CoEP) is one of six degree-granting colleges at Southern Miss. Students in the College explore the powerful connections between education and success, relationship skills and quality of life, and research and practice. Students use 21st century technology to develop meaningful knowledge and professional skills that yield positive change in their lives and the lives of others. The College delivers 34 undergraduate and graduate programs through the following six departments:

• Child and Family Studies
• Curriculum, Instruction, and Special Education
• Educational Leadership and School Counseling
• Educational Studies and Research
• Library and Information Science
• Psychology

CoEP is also home to the Office of Educational Field Experience.

BACKGROUND

The College of Education and Psychology was established in 1958 and has built on the distinctive heritage of Southern Miss. The College prepares and develops educators, researchers, and mental health professionals equipped for success in a culturally diverse, global community. Students in CoEP develop essential knowledge and skills through exposure to exemplary teaching, research, and professional service. The College is committed to improving the educational attainment of the citizens of Mississippi and, in turn, the economic development of the state.

CoEP has more than 100 faculty and staff, approximately 3,000 students, and programs on both the Hattiesburg and Gulf Park campuses. Students can achieve their academic goals in undergraduate and graduate programs and through online, hybrid, and traditional learning formats. The College offers 11 completely online degree programs.

COEP STUDENTS

The College of Education and Psychology serves approximately 2,200 undergraduate student majors and 800 graduate majors. It offers 19 student organizations designed to enhance students’ college experience and to promote the development of leadership and management skills. The College also has a select group of students called The Scholars. These students serve as ambassadors for the College and as important representatives for CoEP students to communicate comments and concerns with the
Dean’s Office. Membership in The Scholars is an earned honor and includes opportunities to serve the College of Education and Psychology through recruitment and retention activities as well as public relations and service events.

The College of Education and Psychology maintains academic standards that merit national programmatic accreditation and/or national recognition.

- The Professional Education Unit, which encompasses all educator preparation programs at Southern Miss, is a charter member and has been continuously accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) since 1954. The programs are also accredited through the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) following the Mississippi Educator Preparation Program Accreditation (MEPPA) Review.
- The Special Education licensure program is nationally recognized by the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC); the Elementary Education program is nationally recognized by the Association for Childhood Education International (ACEI); the Educational Administration programs are nationally recognized by the Educational Leadership Constituent Council (ELCC); and Reading Education is nationally recognized by the International Reading Association (IRA).
- Academic programs in Child and Family Studies are accredited as appropriate by discipline. Programs have been accredited by the American Association for Family and Consumer Sciences (AAFCS) since 1977, the
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Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE) since 1991, and the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) since 1995.

- The School of Library and Information Science has been accredited by the American Library Association (ALA) since 1980.
- The doctoral programs in clinical (1979), school (1979), and counseling psychology (1983) have been accredited by the American Psychological Association (APA) for over 30 years.

- The Master of Education in Dyslexia Therapy Education is supported by the DuBard School for Language Disorders. The DuBard School’s professional development program has been accredited by the International Multisensory Structured Language Education Council (IMSLEC) since 1998 and meets the International Dyslexia Association’s (IDA) Knowledge and Practice Standards for Teachers of Reading.
As a part of its mission, the College of Education and Psychology supports numerous centers, clinics, grants, and institutes.

- The **Student Advisement and Support Center** is dedicated to total undergraduate student development and is designed to help CoEP students reach their academic and professional goals. The center offers academic advising, course scheduling assistance, peer tutoring and guidance, as well as resource referrals. The center is located in Owings-McQuagge Hall, room 131 and is open Monday-Friday from 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

- The Department of Child and Family Studies operates **two child development centers**, one on the Hattiesburg campus and one near the Gulf Park campus. These centers serve as laboratory and field placement sites for students enrolled in child development laboratory and practicum courses. Both centers model exemplary child-centered and developmentally effective educational programs that promote evidence-based practice and a joyful, lifelong love of learning. The center in Hattiesburg holds a five-star quality rating through the Mississippi Child Care Quality Rating System. This represents the highest rating that can be earned, and the center is one of only eight childcare facilities to hold this designation of approximately 1,500 centers in the state. The newly opened center on the Gulf Coast will pursue this rating immediately.

- The **Center for Research in Learning and Education** is designed to provide support for P-16 education in South Mississippi by offering opportunities for education professionals to collaborate and pursue targeted research, competitive proposals for external funding, and meaningful professional training.

- The **Community Counseling and Assessment Clinic** is the service, training, and research center of the Counseling Psychology program in the Department of Psychology. The clinic serves both the University and Hattiesburg community by providing low-cost, quality mental health care including counseling and assessment for a variety of issues. The clinic serves approximately 165 Southern Miss students each year for issues related to mental health, relationship distress, academic major/career counseling, and adjustment/transition challenges. The clinic
CENTERS, CLINICS, GRANTS, AND INSTITUTES

contributes to student retention and success by helping students better navigate the University and access available resources.

- The **Frances A. Karnes Center for Gifted Studies** is dedicated to serving gifted and talented students and their parents, as well as teachers, administrators, counselors, school psychologists, and other professionals. The center serves an average of 450 P-12 students annually in the Career Explorations for Girls Conference, Saturday Gifted Studies Program, Leadership Studies Program, Summer Gifted Studies Program, and the Summer Program for Academically Talented Youth. The center celebrates its 35th anniversary in 2014.

- The **Southern Miss Psychology Clinic** provides a wide range of assessment, therapy, and consultation services for adults and children. Cognitive assessments help to determine the presence of learning and attention deficit hyperactivity disorders and to recommend appropriate accommodations. The clinic also offers state-of-the-art assessment services for detecting autism spectrum disorders. Therapeutic interventions are empirically supported and address numerous psychological disorders (e.g., anxiety disorders, mood disorders, personality disorders, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, autism spectrum disorders, and disorders of childhood). The clinic provides high-quality services at a low cost for approximately 70 adults and 40 children each year. Faculty members also serve as consultants with service providers and agencies in the community in supervisory, research, and didactic roles.

- The **School Psychology Service Center** offers assessment and intervention services each year for an average of 70 children, adolescents, and young adults who experience developmental delays or disabilities, learning challenges, and emotional and/or behavioral difficulties at home and/or school. The center also offers consultation services to school districts and Head Start agencies in the area. Additional functions of the center include research, clinical training, and the generation of external funding in the forms of grants and contracts.

- The **University Clinic for Family Therapy** is a training and research clinical site for the Marriage and Family Therapy graduate program. The clinic provides assistance to individuals, couples, and families
experiencing a wide range of personal and/or relationship difficulties. The clinic provides a treatment approach that fosters individual growth and development considered best understood and promoted within the context of family and community relationships. The clinic serves individuals and families in 13 counties and provides approximately 6,000 hours of low-cost therapy services each year to Southern Miss employees, students, and the general public.

- The Autism Project is supported by the Mississippi Department of Education and demonstrates for school personnel and others how to design and implement appropriate school-based programs for children eligible for special education services in the category of autism. The project offers four model classrooms that serve 28 children annually in the Gulf Coast area. The project also provides an average of 40 state-wide trainings each year that engage approximately 570 participants.

- Realizing Excellence for All Children in Mississippi (REACCH MS) is funded by the U.S. Department of Education Office of Special Education Programs. REACCH MS focuses on supporting school-wide and district-wide implementation of Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. REACCH MS works with 37 model sites, seven intense implementation districts, and one juvenile facility.

- America Reads Mississippi (ARM) is an AmeriCorps program with 45 Southern Miss members who serve as reading tutors in 10 partnering elementary schools. ARM trains individuals to provide consistent tutoring for low-performing students, thus promoting higher student reading test scores, improved student behavior, better attitudes toward school, and stronger staff confidence. ARM increases the pool of highly qualified teacher candidates by helping bright, energetic AmeriCorps members who want to become teachers develop professional skills needed for the teaching profession while making a difference in Mississippi.
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND PSYCHOLOGY ACADEMIC DEPARTMENTS

- The Department of Child and Family Studies is to educate and inspire undergraduate and graduate students to improve the lives of children, families, and communities. The department offers undergraduate degrees with an emphasis in child development or family relations, and graduate degrees in marriage and family therapy and child and family studies. Graduates choose rewarding careers as licensed pre-K and kindergarten teachers, early childhood practitioners, administrators of early childhood programs, human service professionals, substance abuse outreach professionals, mental health case managers, and child protective service professionals.

- The Department of Curriculum, Instruction, and Special Education is dedicated to improving education in Mississippi by preparing high-quality teachers for K-12 classrooms. It offers degree programs that lead to licensure in elementary education (K-6), business technology education (7-12), and special education (K-12). The department provides undergraduate and graduate coursework for both pre-service and in-service teachers. The department offers a teacher assistant program, as well as alternate-route licensure programs for teacher certification. Graduates hold teaching positions across the globe and are proud and confident because of the foundation they received at Southern Miss.

- The Department of Educational Leadership and School Counseling is committed to changing the landscape of education in Mississippi through programs designed to develop effective educational leaders in the fields of educational administration and school guidance counseling. Graduates serve as principals, assistant principals, superintendents, directors, school guidance counselors, and university faculty. The department offers degrees at the master’s, specialist’s, and doctoral levels and welcomes students seeking individual coursework for licensure or personal growth.

- The Department of Educational Studies and Research offers graduate degrees in higher or adult education, research, statistics, student affairs administration, and social justice. The department develops students
The Department of Psychology includes an undergraduate program, four doctoral training programs (experimental, clinical, school, and counseling), and a terminal master’s program in counseling psychology. Psychology encompasses the study of human and animal behavior and the application of this knowledge for the betterment of humankind. Accordingly, scientific research is the core mission of all programs in the department. Undergraduates are prepared for a wide range of career opportunities in law, business, mental health, social services, and education. Graduate students become professional researchers, mental health professionals, and psychologists.

The School of Library and Information Science (SLIS) has the distinction of being the only academic program in Mississippi accredited by the American Library Association. Additionally, it is the only program in the state that offers totally online undergraduate and graduate programs in library and information science. SLIS also offers school certification and supplemental endorsement programs for school librarians, as well as graduate certificates in both archives and special collections and youth services and literature. Graduates are successful in a wide variety of settings, including schools, community colleges, colleges, universities, public libraries, government libraries, hospitals, military libraries, museums, special collections, archives, and other information-related and educational environments.
FACULTY AND STUDENT AWARDS:
Faculty and students in CoEP routinely compete successfully for awards and recognition. Most recently, the college was home to faculty recipients of the University Excellence in Teaching, the University Excellence in Service Awards, and the Faculty Research Award. Six faculty members also successfully competed for Summer Grants for the Improvement of Instruction and Lucas Faculty Excellence Awards. Additionally, 23 undergraduate students and 20 graduate students won awards in academic achievement, transformational leadership, undergraduate and graduate research, and more.

EXTERNAL FUNDING:
Faculty members invest considerable time and energy submitting proposals and directing awards for external funding that support faculty research. CoEP was awarded approximately $5 million dollars in external funding this past fiscal year. The following awards are highlighted as they provide support for men and women serving in the military and their families:

- $704,715 in funding from the United States Department of Defense was awarded to faculty members in psychology for a project titled, “Identifying Factors Associated with Future Suicidal Self-Directed Violence Within a Sample of United States Military Personnel.”
- $288,839 in funding from the United States Department of Education was awarded to
SELECTED COEP POINTS OF PRIDE

faculty members in the Department of Child and Family Studies for a project titled, “Increasing Retention and Graduation Rates Through the Provision of Childcare Services to Low-Income and Military-Connected University Students.”

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL STUDENT INTERNSHIPS:

Students in CoEP successfully compete on a national and international level to earn internship placements at prestigious sites such as the Johns Hopkins Hospital, Kennedy Krieger Institute, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, May Institute, Marcus Autism Center, Devereux Foundation Center for Effective Schools, Nebraska Consortium, and more. Most recently, a graduate student in the School of Library and Information Science was awarded a prominent internship working with international archives at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.

FACULTY IN THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL SPOTLIGHT:

CoEP faculty are heavily engaged in research that leads to new knowledge and understanding in the areas of addiction, anger and aggression, cognition, comparative psychology, communication, marine mammals, nonhuman primates, parenting, personality assessment, and more. The following faculty members were featured recently:

- Dr. Stan Kuczaj, professor in psychology, was interviewed by the British Broadcasting Company (BBC) for an episode of its “Natural World” series on the Animal Planet channel. The program featured the behavioral and cognitive research on walruses conducted by Dr. Kuczaj and his graduate students. Dr. Kuczaj’s research focused on pre-birth vocalizations in dolphins and was also featured in the San Francisco Chronicle.

- Dr. Chris Barry, associate professor in psychology, was recently featured on NBC Learn, a website dedicated to offering newsworthy educational videos and resources to students and the public.
NATIONAL AND REGIONAL OUTREACH:
The School of Library and Information Sciences invites supporters of children’s literature to Southern Miss every year to the Fay B. Kaigler Children’s Book Festival. Participants celebrate the joy of children’s books, and individuals that have made significant contributions to the field are recognized. The Children’s Book Festival has been an annual event for 46 years and attracts participants from almost all 50 states.

The Department of Psychology hosts the Dr. Lee K. Hildman Colloquium on an annual basis. The colloquium invites noted scholars in psychology to the Hattiesburg campus where they present research in the field.

RESEARCH INITIATIVE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE:
The Research Initiative on Social Justice in Education (RISE) is an interdisciplinary initiative comprised of faculty and students from multiple departments in the College of Education and Psychology. RISE is committed to critical inquiry regarding systemic inequalities and to making real efforts to improve educational conditions in Mississippi and in the education system at large. This mission is accomplished through a) mentoring students in social justice research, b) conducting outreach activities such as social justice movie nights, c) writing and research workshops/trainings, d) engaging in advocacy efforts within and outside of Mississippi, e) facilitating dialogue and encouraging awareness around systemic inequality, and f) disseminating research to promote social change.
Southern Miss is classified RU/H by the Carnegie Foundation, and the level of extramural funding allocated to the University ranks it among the top 150 universities in the United States. As a proven leader in innovation, we conduct transformative research that translates into real-world applications. We also afford our students meaningful research opportunities through our Center for Undergraduate Research.

We have a diverse student body of approximately 16,000 students from all 50 states and 70 foreign countries, and we offer more than 180 degree programs. As the only dual-campus university in the state, we serve students on campuses in Hattiesburg and Long Beach, in addition to five teaching and research sites in Mississippi. Southern Miss also leads the state in the number of online students.

We offer study-abroad opportunities in 20 countries, maintain a student/faculty ratio of approximately 17:1, and are home to the sixth-oldest acceptance-based Honors College in the nation. From community outreach efforts to excellent academic programs, at Southern Miss we strive to have a positive impact not only on our students, but also the world around us.
Nicknamed the “Hub City,” Hattiesburg is centrally located about one-and-one-half hours from New Orleans, Jackson, Mobile, and the Mississippi Gulf Coast, offering a mix of big-city advantages with small-town charm.

Unlike many cities of comparable size, Hattiesburg has a robust economy which stands strong on three pillars – education, health care, and the military. With these economic assets, the Hub City has become a stable home to families, college students, and retirees alike. While strength in education fuels the region’s workforce, the thriving health care sector is a cornerstone of the local economy and a major value to the region.

Hattiesburg is a leading community in Mississippi and one of the most vibrant regions in the Gulf South. With a population of nearly 150,000, the area boasts a superb quality of life. Low cost of living coupled with first-class schools, engaging area attractions and recreational activities, along with an abundant selection of shopping, dining and cultural events, makes Hattiesburg, Mississippi, the ideal hometown.

Description provided by the Area Development Partnership.
The University of Southern Mississippi’s Gulf Park campus has 5 facilities: the campus is in Long Beach, at the Stennis Space Center in Hancock County, at the Keesler Air Force Base and the Point Cadet Teaching Site in Biloxi, and at the Research Laboratory and Teaching Site in Ocean Springs.

The Mississippi Gulf Coast is a rare mix of cultural influences derived from early French and Spanish explorers, Native Americans, and modern-day military bases that draw service members from all over the United States. With the sparkling waters of the Gulf of Mexico and 26 miles of scenic coastal beaches, visitors and residents alike enjoy everything from adventure-filled days to a slow, relaxing pace.

Each city nestled along the shoreline is a unique community with a personality of its own. From quiet fishing villages to the roar of rocket engines being tested at the Stennis Space Center, the Mississippi Gulf Coast embraces the diversity of its inhabitants with a “live and let live” philosophy.
Hattiesburg and Long Beach

118 College Drive #5023
Hattiesburg, MS 39406-0001
601.266.4568

www.usm.edu/education-psychology