Ph.D. in ITD Admission

Admission to The University of Southern Mississippi’s graduate programs in Instructional Technology and Design is selective. Regular admission is contingent on having graduated from a college or university accredited by a recognized regional accrediting agency and submission of the criteria indicated below. In addition, the graduate admissions committees of the Department recommend admittance only for those applicants whose academic background, work experience, demonstrated leadership, and communication skills meet the challenging demands of graduate programs in Instructional Technology and Design. In evaluating applications, the admission committees utilize separate criteria in each degree program offered.

APPLICATION:

The Application for Admission to the program is completed online. Students need to go to the Graduate School’s Web site and apply via admissionspro [https://usmgrad.admissionpros.com/default.asp].

Admission decisions are based on several criteria including GPA (graduate and undergraduate), a writing sample, GRE scores (analytical writing, verbal, and quantitative), letters of recommendation, and an individual interview with program faculty.

- An academic record reflecting a superior undergraduate and graduate grade point average.
- Scores from the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) predictive of the ability to successfully complete the doctoral program.
- All international applicants must provide a recent Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) exam score. Two copies of transcripts of all collegiate study must also be submitted.
- A statement of purpose submitted online from the applicant indicating career goals and expectations, previous academic work experience, publications (if any), and other accomplishments.
- Have 3 letters of recommendation submitted online from academic professionals and/or supervisors who can clearly articulate and address the applicant’s ability to perform doctoral level studies.
- Vita or resume submitted online.
- A writing sample submitted online by the applicant –
  - Preferred format: A scholarly paper of ten to fifteen pages in length (double-spaced) that demonstrates the candidate’s ability to perform research and communicate ideas/arguments related to the field.
  - Other acceptable formats: electronic portfolios, newsletters, two short papers, training or curriculum manuals/materials, online Blogs, etc. Basically, any form to demonstrate one’s writing and synthesizing/critical thinking abilities.
**Required Criteria all Submitted Online**

- GRE scores
- GPA on previous graduate work (transcripts sent to the university)
- Three letters of recommendation from persons qualified to assess the applicant’s readiness for graduate study
- A letter of interest and professional
- A Writing sample
- Vita/resume
- Any other supporting documents

**Conditional Admission**

The initial intake committee will assess all of these requirements to determine whether students are admitted as either regular, conditional, or not at all. If students have deficits before coming into the program (e.g., lower GPA, Master’s is not in a related field), then students will be admitted as either Conditional or Conditional with Pre-requisites. Once the student meets and satisfies the Conditional requirements (e.g., first nine hours with a certain GPA), then he/she must meet with the advisor to discuss the removal of the Conditional Status to Regular admit.

**Graduate Assistantship**

Students, who wish to apply for a graduate assistantship, must send a separate letter requesting consideration directly to the Department Chair and CC: to Dr. Taralynn Hartsell [taralynn.hartsell@usm.edu]. The department has an application process for graduate assistantships that is based on need, academic quality, experience, etc. Tuition fees are covered by the assistantship and a stipend is provided. General hours of work expected for the assistantship is 20 hours per week.

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Last Update: August 24, 2014

**Ph.D. in Instructional Technology & Design**

Department of Curriculum, Instruction, and Special Education

The University of Southern Mississippi

Hattiesburg, MS, United States