What can I do with a degree in Research and Educational Foundations?
A background in Research and Educational Foundations can lead to roles such as university and college faculty, program evaluator, researcher, assessment coordinator, and more. Settings in which Research and Educational Foundations is desirable include:

- business and industry
- community development
- grant work
- government
- junior and community colleges
- public and private education
- health care
- the university setting

What information do I need in order to apply?
The Graduate School requires that you complete an online application, and submit GRE scores as well as all transcripts from all previous institutions. The Research and Educational Foundations program requires that you also submit:

- a résumé or curriculum vitae
- a letter of intent explaining your interest in the program, professional experiences and professional goals
- three letters of recommendation addressing your ability to conduct graduate work from individuals familiar with your academic ability

The admissions committee may request additional materials including, for example, a writing sample or interview.

Please mail the Research and Educational Foundations materials to:

Dr. Kyna Shelley
Department of Educational Studies and Research
118 College Drive, #5093
Hattiesburg MS 39406-001

What if my undergraduate degree does not include research and statistics courses?
Students are not expected to have a research-focused undergraduate degree to apply for the program, and a great variety of undergraduate degrees are accepted. If you do not have introductory courses in research and in statistics, there are appropriate introductory courses available in the Research and Educational Foundations program that can be taken as prerequisites.

Is the GRE required for admissions?
The GRE is required for admission to the Education Specialist’s, Doctor of Education (Ed.D.), and Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) programs.
Are applications due at a certain time of year?
There are no application deadlines but your application materials should be received no less than 8-10 weeks before the semester you wish to begin the program. Admissions are competitive. You may apply at any time of year and begin your program in fall, spring or summer semesters. We recommend beginning in fall semester (unless prerequisites are needed).

How long after I apply will I find out whether I’m admitted?
Once we have your information from the Graduate School and your application is complete, your file will be reviewed for an admission decision. Students are generally notified within 3 weeks of our program committee receiving a complete application packet.

Are assistantships available?
A limited number of assistantships are available, and they are highly competitive. Assistantships are also available in other departments on campus; however, students would need to be resourceful to learn about these.

How many courses can I transfer in to this degree?
Students may be allowed to transfer in a maximum of 6 credit hours, or two 3-credit courses. This decision will be made in consultation with your advisor. You should provide course syllabi for those courses you wish to be considered for transfer.

How long does it take to complete the degree?
A doctoral degree, whether Ed.D. or Ph.D., may generally be completed in a minimum of 4 years, depending the courses taken per semester and how rapidly a student progresses toward completion of the dissertation.

Is there a residency requirement?
Although there is a residency requirement, this requirement is not related to your place of residence but instead, the number of semester credit hours taken within a 4-semester time frame. Students may meet the residency requirements through one of the following options:

- Two consecutive semesters of 12 hours each (12-12)
- Three consecutive semesters of 9 hours each (9-9-9)
- Four consecutive semesters of a minimum of 6 hours each, none arranged (6-6-6-6)
- Two semesters, one of which may be a summer semester, within a 3-year period in which a minimum of 12 hours is taken in each of the 2 semesters and a minimum of 3 hours in each of the intervening semesters (12-3-3-12)

Who is my advisor?
Your advisor will be assigned when you are admitted to the program and you will be informed of this by letter. Your advisor will assist you in selecting courses and understanding program requirements.

How many of the courses are offered online?
Most of the courses in research and all of the courses in statistics are offered in a face-to-face
format. However, several courses are available in a hybrid format, combining face-to-face and online format.

**Can I take classes outside the program and department?**
The Master’s and Ph.D. degrees consist of specific course requirements; therefore, electives are not part of the M.S. degree plan. For the Ph.D., students select a cognate of at least 9 hours in their area of interest. This decision needs to be made in consultation with your advisor.

**When do I take the comprehensive exam?**
Comprehensive exams are scheduled in, or the semester immediately after, the last semester of coursework. The decision of when to schedule comprehensive examinations will be made in consultation with the student’s advisor.

**Do I have to have a computer to complete the program?**
A computer is not required but is highly advisable because the Research and Educational Foundations program requires considerable out-of-class work. Computers are available in Cook Library and the Liberal Arts buildings on the Hattiesburg campus and at the Gulf Coast Service Center.