

2022-2023

**STUDENT HANDBOOK FOR
MASTER OF ARTS IN
Higher Education
(online)**

Approved June 8, 2022

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Welcome

Welcome to the online Master of Arts in Higher Education (online) program in the Department of Higher Education at The University of Mississippi! The program provides professional preparation for persons who are (or who will be) employed in the administration of various areas of postsecondary education. Students in the program will develop the requisite skills, competencies, and dispositions to fulfill these leadership roles at a diversity of types of institutions serving a wide array of enrolled students. This degree program is delivered online.

Admission to the program is available beginning in either the Fall or Spring term, and the curriculum is delivered online in a cohort model. Students complete 30 credit hours of coursework with students taking two courses per term for five consecutive semester, but some students move through the 30 credit hours on individualized schedules based on life circumstances and subject to approval from the Faculty Director for the program.

This handbook contains information about the department, course offerings, and program policies. In addition to the handbook, students in the program should familiarize themselves with the university's [Graduate Catalog](#) and [Policy Directory](#). The Graduate Catalog contains specific information regarding admission policies, academic regulations, and requirements for degrees. Keep in mind that the Graduate Catalog establishes minimum university requirements, and it is within the right of a department or program to establish policies that exceed minimum standards.

The University of Mississippi is dedicated to supporting and sustaining a safe and scholarly community of learning dedicated to nurturing excellence inside and outside of the classroom. Each student has a duty to become familiar with University values and standards reflected in University policies, and each student has a duty to honor University values and standards reflected in University policies as outlined in the [M Book](#).

Equity, Ethics, Inclusion, and Social Justice

The Higher Education Department notes the following definitions as informing its curricular and co-curricular offerings:

- *Equity* – Our programs seek to develop higher education leaders who are dedicated to equality of opportunity for all students, staff, and faculty as they engage in their educational and employment activities; who are aware of the ways in which societal, socioeconomic, cultural, familial, staffing, programmatic, instructional, assessment, and linguistic inequalities play themselves out in inhibiting that equality; and who call out and seek to address those inequities and to advocate for and promote fairness.
- *Ethics* – Our programs seek to develop higher education leaders who engaged in their professional responsibilities in ways that are congruent with the established ethical values of their chosen field and which are aligned with their commitment to equity and social justice.
- *Inclusion* – Our programs seek to develop higher education leaders who recognize the inherent worth and dignity of all people and who work to involve and empower people through both assuring opportunities for their knowledge and skills to be drawn upon and fostering belonging.
- *Social justice* – Our programs seek to develop higher education leaders who are committed to social justice and who evidence that commitment through their personal and professional

engagement in social action to advance human dignity, justice, and equity across all human endeavors.

Program Curriculum

The Master of Arts in Higher Education (online) program currently offers two curricular tracks – regular and athletics administration emphasis. The regular curriculum is designed to support students interested in a wide variety of fields within higher education, and the athletics administration emphasis curriculum is intended to support students interested in careers in the administration of intercollegiate athletics. All admitted students begin in the regular curriculum track. Students interested in the athletics administration emphasis should contact the Faculty Program Director during their first or second semester of enrollment to discuss pursuing that option. The required courses and course sequences for both tracks are shown below.

Required Courses for the Regular Curriculum

- EDFD 609 The Cultural Context of Higher Ed
- EDRS 605 Educational Research I
- EDHE 655 Power, Persuasion, and Politics
- EDHE 658 Organization and Governance of Higher Education
- EDHE 660 History of Higher Education
- EDHE 664 Law and Policy in Higher Education
- EDHE 665 Contemporary Issues in Higher Education
- EDHE 669 Resource Management in Higher Education
- EDHE 671 The College and the Student
- EDHE 702 Program Planning & Assessment in Higher Education

Course descriptions are available at the following link:

<https://catalog.olemiss.edu/education/courses>

Course Sequence for Fall/Spring Cohorts for the Regular Curriculum*

	Fall	Spring	Summer	Fall	Spring	Summer
Fall Cohort	EDHE 671 EDFD 609	EDHE 660 EDHE 664	EDRS 605 EDHE702	EDHE 658 EDHE 669	EDHE 655 EDHE 665	
Spring Cohort		EDHE 660 EDHE 664	EDRS 605 EDHE 702	EDHE 671 EDFD 609	EDHE 655 EDHE 665	EDHE 658 EDHE 669

Required Courses for the Athletics Administration Emphasis Curriculum

- EDFD 609 The Cultural Context of Higher Ed
- EDRS 605 Educational Research I
- SAS 600 NCAA Governance
- SAS 601 Internal Operations in Intercollegiate Athletics
- SAS 602 External Operations in Intercollegiate Athletics

SAS 603 Leadership in Intercollegiate Athletics
 EDHE 658 Organization and Governance of Higher Education
 EDHE 660 History of Higher Education
 EDHE 664 Law and Policy in Higher Education
 EDHE 671 The College and the Student

Course Sequence for Fall and Spring Cohorts for the Athletics Administration Emphasis Curriculum*

	Fall	Spring	Summer	Fall	Spring	Summer	Fall
Fall Admit	EDHE 671	EDHE 660	EDRS 605	EDHE 658	SAS 600 (1 st session)		
	EDFD 609	EDHE 664	SAS 602	SAS 601 (1 st session)	SAS 603 (2 nd session)		
Spring Admit *		EDHE 660	EDRS 605	EDHE 671	EDHE SAS 600 (1 st session)	EDHE 658	
		EDHE 664	SAS 602	EDFD 609	SAS 603 (2 nd session)	SAS 601	

*Students should be enrolled in the courses listed for each term (3 credit hours per course; six units each semester) unless they have requested and received approval from the program’s Faculty Director for an individualized course alternative schedule.

Continued Enrollment and Graduation Requirements

In addition to the policies outlined in the Graduate School catalog, students must (a) maintain an overall B average in all graduate courses; (b) earn a C or better in each graduate course; (c) not earn a C in more than one graduate course. Students may be dismissed from the program for earning lower than a C in any course, a C in two or more courses, or having less than a B average (i.e., B-) in all graduate courses.

Students will be required to apply for re-admission into the program if they do not maintain continuous enrollment. According to the graduate school, “minimum enrollment to fulfill this requirement is 3 hours of graduate-level course work for fall, spring, or summer terms, with enrollment for at least two of these three periods being required for any 12-month period.”

Capstone Portfolio Project

Students in the program are required to successfully complete a capstone portfolio project as one of the requirements for graduation from the program. The capstone portfolio project will provide an opportunity to students to reflect on the knowledge, skills, and dispositions they have developed through their participation in the program and to integrate that reflection into professional

development documents which may prove helpful as they move forward in their careers. Portfolio projects are submitted in the final semester of a student's enrollment in the program. More detailed information, including information on content, submission, and review, will be provided to students by the program's Faculty Director throughout their program experience.

Graduate School Graduation Process

Students are required to adhere to the Graduate School's policies, practices, and deadlines related to filing for graduation. Information on those is available [here](#), and students are STRONGLY encouraged to review the information as they move into the final two semesters of their degree program. The [GS8 Application for Graduate Degree](#) is an important early step.

Faculty Director for the Master of Arts in Higher Education (online) Program

While any of the faculty, affiliated or adjunct faculty, or staff members in our department (see the lists below) will be happy to help you in any way they can as you move through the degree program, an important part of the role of Faculty Director is to serve as a source of information, assistance, and advocacy for students when it comes to being successful in the program. The Faculty Director also serves as the advisor of record for all students in the program. The name and contact information for the Faculty Director is listed below:

Dr. George McClellan, Professor
Guyton Hall, Room 133
gsmcclel@olemiss.edu
(662) 915-4995

Higher Education Faculty

Phillis George, Ph.D. (University of Wisconsin-Madison). Associate Professor, Interim Department Chair
Macey Lynd Edmondson, J.D. (University of Mississippi School of Law), Ph.D. (University of Mississippi). Assistant Professor of Higher Education, Graduate Program Coordinator and Faculty Director of the Ed.D. Program
George S. McClellan, Ph.D. (University of Arizona). Professor of Higher Education, Faculty Director of M.A. in Higher Education (online) and Ph.D. Programs
Ty McNamee, Ph.D. (Teachers College, Columbia University). Assistant Professor of Higher Education
Kerry Brian Melear, Ph.D. (Florida State University). Professor of Higher Education and Affiliate Faculty for School of Law, Faculty Director of M.A. in Higher Education/Student Personnel Program
Amy E. Wells Dolan, Ph.D. (University of Kentucky). Professor of Higher Education, Associate Dean of the School of Education
Whitney Webb, Ph.D. (The University of Mississippi). Assistant Professor of Higher Education, Assistant Dean of the School of Education

Higher Education Affiliated and Adjunct Faculty

Laura Antonow, Ph.D. (University of Mississippi). Instructional Assistant Professor of Higher Education, Director of College Programs for Outreach and Continuing Education

Katie Busby, Ph.D. (James Madison University). Instructional Assistant Professor of Higher Education, Director of Office of Institutional Research, Effectiveness, and Planning

Katrina Caldwell, Ph.D. (University of Illinois at Chicago). Instructional Assistant Professor of Higher Education, Vice Provost for Diversity and Inclusion and Chief Diversity Officer at John Hopkins University

Casey Cockrell Stuart, Ph.D. (University of Southern Mississippi). Instructional Assistant Professor, Academic Advisor, Health Professions Advising Office

David Cox, Ed.D. (University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana). Adjunct Professor of Higher Education, Professor Emeritus of Educational Leadership at Arkansas State University

Kyle Ellis, Ph.D. (University of Mississippi). Instructional Assistant Professor of Higher Education, Director, Center for Student Services and First Year Experience

Deidre Faye Jackson, Ph.D. (University of Mississippi). Visiting Instructor of Writing in Department of Writing and Rhetoric Interim Writing Center Director

Sara Kaiser, Ph.D. (University of Mississippi). Adjunct Professor of Higher Education, Assistant Director, Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities at the University of North Dakota

Sarah Mason, Ph.D. (Claremont Graduate School). Instructional Assistant Professor of Higher Education, Director of the Center for Research and Evaluation

Patrick Perry, Ph.D. (University of Memphis). Instructional Assistant Professor of Higher Education, Director, Lucky Day Program

Shannon Richardson, Ph.D. (University of Mississippi). Instructional Assistant Professor of Higher Education, Assistant Director of Campus Recreation

Mercy Roberg, J.D. (Stetson University College of Law). Adjunct Professor of Higher Education, Staff Attorney and Director of Operations at the St. Petersburg Community Law Program

Higher Education Staff

Kim Chrestman, Administrative Coordinator I

Student Personnel Association

The Student Personnel Association (SPA) is a registered student organization for individuals interested in the current status of higher education and the development of students. Our chapter of SPA at the University of Mississippi is made up of current graduate students, alumni, and faculty of the Higher Education/Student Personnel program as well as current professionals within the Division of Student Affairs. The SPA Executive Board works closely with the Department of Higher Education and the Student Affairs Professional Development Committee to offer professional development and networking opportunities for our members. More information about SPA is available [here](#).

Needs Security

Any student who faces struggling to maintain secure food or housing and who believes this may affect their performance in the course is encouraged to contact the Dean of Students for support. Furthermore, please notify Dr. McClellan if you are comfortable doing so. This will enable him to share any resources that he may possess (adapted from [Goldrick-Rab, 2017](#)).

Information Technology Appropriate Use Policy

Students are reminded of their obligation under the university's [Information Technology Appropriate Use Policy](#). This policy sets forth the privileges of and restrictions on students, faculty, staff, and other users with respect to the computing and telecommunications systems offered by the University of Mississippi (UM). This includes desktop systems, hand-held computers, lab facilities, centralized servers, classroom technology, the wired and wireless campus networks, cloud-based services, etc. This policy defines and gives examples of various sorts of activities which are detrimental to the welfare of the overall community and which are therefore prohibited. It also describes the process by which violators are identified, investigated, and disciplined. It should be noted that certain legal activities are in violation of this policy and are prohibited with respect to University computing and network systems. This policy is designed to protect the University community from illegal or damaging actions by individuals, either knowingly or unknowingly. Inappropriate use exposes the University to risks, including virus attacks, compromise of network systems and services, and legal issues. This policy directly addresses copyright issues related to illegal downloads and peer-to-peer file sharing.

Student Information and Privacy in Online Education

The [Student Information and Privacy in Online Education Policy](#) applies to all credit-bearing online learning courses and programs offered by the University of Mississippi, beginning with the application for admission and continuing through to a student's graduation, transfer, or withdrawal from study.

Students with Disabilities

It is University policy to provide, on a flexible and individual basis, reasonable classroom accommodations to students who have verified disabilities that may affect their ability to participate in course activities or meet course requirements. Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact their instructors to discuss their individual needs for accommodations. If a student is not already registered with the [Office of Student Disability Services \(SDS\)](#), that student should contact SDS as soon as possible by calling 662-915-7128.