Master of Science in Education in Educational Psychology and Research

M.S.E. in Educational Psychology and Research

The department of Educational Psychology (EPSY) (http://pre.soe.ku.edu) offers the Educational Psychology and Research (EPR) program leading to a Master of Science in Education (M.S.Ed.) degree. This program includes instruction within two specialized areas of emphasis referred to as "tracks:" Development & Learning (D&L) and Research, Evaluation, Measurement and Statistics (REMS).

The Development & Learning track for the M.S.Ed. degree program prepares students for work in schools, nonprofit agencies, and other applied settings, or for future doctoral training. The program includes coursework in the areas of human development, learning and cognition, and educational research methods, as well as completion of a data-driven master's thesis. The M.S.Ed. is typically completed in 2-3 years of full-time study.

The Research, Evaluation, Measurement, and Statistics (REMS) track prepares students for careers in educational measurement and quantitative methods. The program includes coursework in research methods, psychometrics, and statistical analysis. Students typically complete the M.S.Ed. in 2-3 years of full-time study.

Program Coordinator: William Skorupski (Research, Evaluation, Measurement and Statistics), 639 J.R. Pearson, 785-864-9700, wps@ku.edu

Program Coordinators Development & Learning: Meagan Patterson (632 J.R. Pearson, mmpatter@ku.edu, 785-864-9763) and David Hansen (642 J.R. Pearson, dhansen1@ku.edu, 785-864-1874).

Graduate Admission to the School of Education

Graduate programs in education are open to students with acceptable baccalaureate and graduate degrees, as specified by the admitting departments, whose academic records indicate that they can do successful work at the graduate level. Regular admission requires a grade-point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale. Departments that offer provisional admission require a grade-point average of at least 2.5. Individual departments may require additional information and may have more stringent admission and retention requirements.

Some departments may offer special provisional admission categories to students who may not qualify under traditional admission criteria. Applicants must provide evidence of ability to work successfully at the graduate level, including experience in and commitment to the profession. Exceptions to established policies must be sought individually by petition to the Graduate Division of the School of Education.

See Admission in the Graduate Studies (http://catalog.ku.edu/graduate-studies) section of the online catalog for more information.

Each department in the School of Education sets its own application deadlines. Prospective graduate students should contact their departments for application deadlines.

Graduate Admission

Prerequisites for Regular Admission

Prerequisites include the following:

- Undergraduate grade-point average of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale
- Graduate grade-point average of 3.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale
- Graduate Record Examination general test scores
- Completed bachelor's or master's degree in counseling, psychology, or a related area. (An applicant who does not have an undergraduate degree in education or psychology should have a minimum of 14 undergraduate credit hours in the behavioral sciences.)

At the first enrollment, a doctoral student reviews any previous graduate work with an advisor to identify any course work in which the student is deficient. Students holding master’s degrees in other areas should recognize that such course work may require up to a year to complete and, in some instances, must be taken before the actual doctoral course requirements.

See individual programs for specific admission requirements and deadlines.

Submit your graduate application online (http://www.graduate.ku.edu). Send 1 copy of all original transcripts to the department:

The University of Kansas
Department of Educational Psychology
Joseph R. Pearson Hall
1122 W. Campus Road, Room 621
Lawrence, KS 66045-3101

Admission

In order to be eligible for admission to the M.S.Ed. degree program in EPR, students must first meet the admission requirements for graduate study at the University of Kansas. Admission to the degree program also requires recommendation for acceptance by the Educational Psychology and Research Program Committee.

December 15th is the application deadline for the M.S.Ed. program in Educational Psychology and Research. If accepted as an M.S.Ed. candidate, enrollment begins in the fall semester following the application deadline. The Educational Psychology and Research Program Committee can review only complete applications. It is the applicant’s responsibility to ensure that her or his application is complete. Applicants are encouraged to email the department at preadmit@ku.edu if they wish to check on the status of their application.

Required Admission Materials

STEPS AND REQUIREMENTS FOR A COMPLETE APPLICATION

1 Prepare First – The online application will require upload of several documents including your resume, statement of purpose, test scores, and transcripts. In addition, the form will ask you to submit the names and email address of those providing your references in support of your
application. There is space for you to upload a writing sample however this is not a required part of the application process.

2 Submit the Graduate Studies online application (http://www.graduate.ku.edu/apply) and non-refundable application fee. Print a copy of your application for your personal files.

3 Statement of Purpose and Resume. For EPR applicants, be sure to note in your Statement of Purpose which track (D&L - Development and Learning or REMS – Research, Evaluation, Measurement and Statistics) you intend to pursue. In your Statement of Purpose, please:

• Describe your career goals.

• Describe how you see your career goals relating to this degree program; that is, describe how you see this program preparing you to meet your career objectives.

• Describe past work or educational experiences related to this degree program.

• Describe what skills/competencies and experiences you hope to gain in this program.

• Describe any past research experiences and accomplishments.

• Describe one research topic/issue that you would like to pursue in this program.

• Please provide additional information concerning your background, experience, goals, or accomplishments/awards you believe are pertinent to your application.

4 Official GRE scores. Scores must be sent directly from the institution.

• The GRE should have been taken within five years of the application date, and scores should typically equal or exceed the 50th percentile: 150-151 on Verbal and 149-150 on the Quantitative sections.

• The institution code for the University of Kansas is 6871.

• The major field codes for our department are: § 2005 for Counseling Psychology

§ 3403 for Educational Psychology and Research

§ 3406 for School Psychology

5 Official transcripts from each institution of higher education attended. You may upload a copy of your official transcripts for review purposes. However, if you are admitted, official transcripts, sent directly from the institution, will be required before second semester enrollment. If your school offers electronic transcripts, you may request the paperless version be sent directly to preadmit@ku.edu.

• An undergraduate grade point average of 3.0 or higher is required for regular admission. If applicable, a graduate grade point average of 3.5 or higher is required for regular admission.

• At the discretion of the university, an applicant may be admitted as a provisional graduate student when either the quality or kind of undergraduate preparation is deficient, i.e., the undergraduate grade-point average is below 3.0 or the student has not met the prerequisites for graduate study.

6 Three recommendation forms and/or letters from individuals in a position to evaluate the applicant’s qualifications for graduate study. Recommendation forms and letters can be solicited for three recommenders through the online application.

7 Official TOEFL or IELTS scores are required for non-native speakers of English. Scores must be sent directly from the institution. • TOEFL or IELTS scores must be achieved not more than two years prior to the semester of admission.

• For Regular admission, all TOEFL part scores should be at least 20 -or- the minimum overall IELTS score should be 6.0 with no part score below 5.5.

• In lieu of TOEFL or IELTS scores, English proficiency can be verified by graduation with a baccalaureate degree (or higher) earned in residence from an accredited US institution of higher education, or from such an institution whose medium of instruction is English.

• KU’s English Proficiency Requirements can be found on the Graduate Studies website http://www.graduate.ku.edu/english-proficiency-requirements.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR INTERNATIONAL APPLICATIONS

All international students are required to check-in at the Applied English Center (AEC) upon arrival to campus. At that time, the AEC will confirm the student’s level of English proficiency and determine if additional English courses are required.

Some degree programs, such as Counseling Psychology, set higher minimums for the TOEFL and may also require the applicant to submit SPEAK or TSE scores.

It takes approximately eight to twelve weeks to process requests for visa documents to enter the United States for incoming international students. These requests cannot be processed unless all documentation has been received. Please consult the KU web site for International Students and Scholar Services http://www.iss.ku.edu for important information.

M.S.E. Degree Requirements

Area of Focus

Students in the M.S.Ed. degree program select a track—D&L or REMS—on which to focus their studies.

M.S.Ed. students are required to:

• Take courses to satisfy our “Core Course Requirement” (16 credit hours),

• Take an additional two EPR courses (minimum of six credit hours) to establish an area of emphasis in one of the two tracks,

• Take an additional two courses (minimum of six credit hours) from departments other than PRE, one of which must be from a department in the School of Education,

• Complete a data-driven thesis.

Core Course Requirement

Students must take at least one course in each of the 5 core areas:

Learning and Instruction
Human Development

Research and Evaluation Methods

Measurement

Statistics

Examples of courses that satisfy the core course requirements include, but are not limited to:

- **Learning and Instruction**
  EPSY 704 Advanced Educational Psychology: Learning Processes in Education

- **Applied Human Development**
  EPSY 705 Human Development Through the Life Span

- **Research and Evaluation Methods: EPSY 715**
  All students must take "EPSY 715: Understanding Research in Education" to satisfy this core course requirement.

- **Measurement and Assessment**
  EPSY 725 Educational Measurement

- **Statistics**
  EPSY 710 Introduction to Statistical Analysis and EPSY 711 (http://www2.ku.edu/~distinction/cgi-bin/index.php?id=2006&dt=courses_201112_combined&classesSearchText=PRE+711) (Required lab section for EPSY 710 (http://www2.ku.edu/~distinction/cgi-bin/index.php?id=2006&dt=courses_201112_combined&classesSearchText=PRE+710))

**Program Emphasis Courses**

Students must take an additional two courses beyond the core requirements. These courses should reflect your area of interest. EPSY offers a variety of elective courses and seminars on special topics that satisfy this requirement.

**Outside PRE Courses**

Students must take at least two courses offered by departments outside of EPSY. One of these courses must be from a department in the School of Education and one from another department at the University of Kansas. For example, students have enrolled in courses from the Department of Psychology, Applied Behavioral Science, Mathematics, Communication Studies, the School of Social Welfare, and the School of Business.

**Thesis**

All Master's students in EPR must complete a data-driven thesis: qualitative or quantitative. Each student must take a minimum of six Master’s thesis credit hours. These credit hours allow students to focus on completing their thesis.

The EPR Master’s *Plan of Study* is used by students and their adviser to track progress toward their degree and can be downloaded by clicking on highlighted link above.