

Masters of Science in Education/Education and Social Policy

Masters of Science in Education/ Education and Social Policy

The Master's degree in **Education and Social Policy** offered at the University of Kansas School of Education and Human Sciences provides graduate students a 30 (or 36) credit hour program, with both a non-thesis or thesis option. The program permits students to complete a variety of courses, focusing on foundational questions and applications such as:

- How has the present educational system developed, in the U.S. and worldwide?
- How does poverty and inequality affect the school performance of children?
- What knowledge should schools aim to impart?
- How can education help achieve a more just, democratic and multicultural society?
- What are the ethical responsibilities of teachers and other educators in an unequal and changing society?
- What are the competing purposes of education, and how do we make choices among them?

As a field of study, Education and Social Policy is also known as Social Foundations of Education at some institutions. At KU, this Master's level degree program offers an individualized student experience that addresses big questions in education, such as inequality, multiculturalism and social justice – and **can be completed in less than two calendar years**. The program is designed for full-time and part-time graduate students. Graduate students enrolled in the program can expect to:

- Increase their knowledge and ability to assess problems in contemporary education, particularly concerning questions of inequity, multiculturalism and social justice.
- Apply knowledge from a diverse array of courses and departmental perspectives including: sociology, philosophy, history, political science, and more.
- Examine problems in curriculum and learning, especially around questions of language and culture.
- Gain understanding of schooling & develop an appreciation of the political, economic and social forces that influence the decisions of educational leaders.
- Share in-depth analyses and discussions of theory for application to real-world experiences in classes and other settings.
- Complete a thesis or project, or a comprehensive exam during their final semester demonstrating your competencies in social and cultural dimensions of education.

Graduate Admission to the School of Education and Human Sciences

Graduate programs in education are open to students with acceptable baccalaureate and graduate degrees whose academic records indicate that they can do successful work at the graduate level. Applicants must

provide evidence of ability to work successfully at the graduate level, including experience in and commitment to the profession.

Each department in the School of Education and Human Sciences sets its own application deadlines and admission criteria. Prospective graduate students should contact the appropriate department for more information.

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

Graduate Admission

Applicants for all programs must submit the following materials:

(Individual program concentrations may require additional application materials. Please check the departmental website or program advisor for additional requirements.)

1. Graduate application (<http://gradapply.ku.edu>). (<http://graduate.ku.edu/ku-graduate-application/>)
2. 1 official transcript from each post-secondary collegiate institution attended
3. Statement of purpose with relevance of degree to career aspirations.
4. Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores are not required for master's applicants and are optional for doctoral candidates.
5. 3 letters of recommendation evaluating the applicant's capacity for rigorous graduate study and qualifications for leadership positions in education and related fields.
6. A vita or resume.
7. Proof of English proficiency, for non-native English speakers. Visit <https://gradapply.ku.edu/english-requirements> (<https://gradapply.ku.edu/english-requirements/>) for further details.
8. Writing sample (doctoral applicants).

The following application deadlines apply:

Educational Administration

Summer	Ed.D applicants	April 1
Fall	Ph.D applicants	March 1

Higher Education

Master's degree deadlines

Fall	Master's applicants who intend to enroll full-time and seek graduate assistantships. *The priority deadline is to participate in the assistantship process for full-time applicants. We are unable to guarantee availability of assistantships for students who submit after the priority deadline.	January 5
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Fall	Master's applicants who intend to enroll full time and seek graduate assistantships in housing only are not required to submit an academic application prior to the Oshkosh Placement Exchange (OPE). More information can be found at: https://housing.ku.edu/employment-graduate-staff)	Contact department
Fall	Master's applicants who are working professionals	July 1
Spring	Master's applicants who are working professionals	December 1
Summer	Master's applicants who are working professionals	May 1

Doctoral degree deadlines

Fall	Ph.D. applicants	March 1
Summer	Ed.D applicants	April 1

Education and Social Policy

Master's degree deadlines

Fall	Master's applicants	March 1
Spring	Master's applicants	October 1
Summer	Master's applicants	April 1

Social and Cultural Studies in Education

Doctoral degree deadline

Fall	Ph.D applicants	March 1
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Policy Studies

Doctoral degree deadline

Fall	Ph.D applicants	March 1
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Education and Social Policy

A sample program plan is provided below:

Code	Title	Hours
EPSY 715	Understanding Research in Education	3
ELPS 757	Education in American Society	3
ELPS 830	Foundations of Multicultural Education	3
ELPS Law Class		3

ELPS Class on Education Policy/Social Science Research	3
ELPS Elective	3
Non-ELPS Elective	3
Flexible Elective 1	3
Flexible Elective 2	3

Code	Title	Hours
PROJECT - Additional Requirements		
ELPS 898	Master's Project	3
Project Defense		
TOTAL CREDIT HOURS:		30

Capstone Project: Students will select one of two options for a capstone project:

Policy brief. The policy brief option gives students an artifact they can use on the job market. The brief will analyze a contemporary educational policy issue and may include policy origin, intended objectives, surrounding debates, potential outcomes, unintended consequences, and other policy features.

Online portfolio. The online portfolio option allows students to create a portfolio of their learnings in the master's program. The online portfolio may include a page for curriculum vitae, research, teaching and learning, service, and other educational projects.

Admissions criteria:

- A bachelor's degree and a grade-point average (GPA) of at least a B (3.0 on a 4.0 scale) from a regionally accredited institution, like KU, or a foreign university with substantially equivalent bachelor's degree requirements. Faculty may make exceptions on a limited basis.
- A statement of purpose describing the applicant's interests related to education and social policy. Applicants must address their personal and academic background, professional goals, and life experiences that shaped the decision to pursue a master's degree. Applicants should also describe experiences or achievements that would help them contribute to the ELPS program; KU's mission for promoting diversity, equity, and inclusiveness; and their professional aspirations once they complete the degree.
- A resume or curriculum vitae
- TOEFL scores (only for international applicants).