MERITS
Master of Education
Distance Program
in Educational Psychology

Measurement,
Educational planning,
Research methods,
Instrumentation,
Testing &
Statistics
For the next generation of educational leadership!
I. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The MERITS Program (Measurement, Educational planning, Research methods, Instrumentation, Testing, and Statistics) is a Master of Education distance program* offered through the Department of Educational Psychology. MERITS coursework focuses on measurement and research as they pertain to educational settings. The MERITS program enables students to gain essential knowledge in the field, select professional goals, design projects in newly emerging areas, and effectively communicate projects and scholarly findings to a variety of audiences. As part of the MERITS program, students can work alongside educational practitioners and participate in practicum experiences in the field.

When students graduate from the MERITS program, they will have knowledge and skills in the following areas:

- Quantitative and qualitative research methodologies used in applied settings
- Analysis of academic skills and tests, as well as the effects of aptitude, motivation, and task environment on academic performance, and their implications for instruction
- Program planning, program implementation, and program evaluation
- Development of high quality grant proposals
- Development and evaluation of behavioral measurement instruments
- Effective communication of project results and scholarly findings to a variety of audiences
- Primary statistical analysis in educational research

Why choose the distance program in Educational Psychology with MERITS?

- Texas A&M University is a top-ranked, Tier I, research-based university†
- Instructors include faculty with international reputations
- Collaboration with educational practitioners‡
- Flexible course electives
- Affordable tuition and fee structure with opportunities for financial aid§

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* For more information about Distance Education in Texas A&M University, visit [http://distance.tamu.edu/](http://distance.tamu.edu/)
† Visit our website for more information about the institute ([https://www.tamu.edu/about/](https://www.tamu.edu/about/)), the college ([http://education.tamu.edu/about](http://education.tamu.edu/about)), the department ([http://epsy.tamu.edu/about](http://epsy.tamu.edu/about)), and the program ([http://epsy.tamu.edu/degrees-and-programs/graduate-degree-programs/learning-sciences](http://epsy.tamu.edu/degrees-and-programs/graduate-degree-programs/learning-sciences)).
‡ We can work with international students to support visa application conditioning on completion of a minimum of 30 credit hours of course work online from students’ home countries. Approved students can then complete an EPSY 683 practicum on campus during their final semester.
§ Information can be found at financialaid.tamu.edu
II. PROGRAM FEATURES

- 36 minimum credit hours entirely online
- Asynchronous and synchronous formatted courses
- Full or part time enrollment is possible
- No thesis required
- No residency requirements

Required Courses (30 credit hours)
EPSY 602 Educational Psychology
EPSY 622 Measurement and Evaluation in Education
EPSY 635 Educational Statistics
EPSY 636 Techniques of Research
EPSY 638 Qualitative Methodologies in Educational Research
EPSY 689 Special Topics: Grant Writing and Program Planning
EPSY 689 Special Topics: Communication: Practice in Education
EPSY 656 Instrument Development
EPSY 690 Survey Research Methods
EPSY 683 Field practicum*

Electives† (6 credit hours)
EPSY 630 Single Case Research
EPSY 631 Program Evaluation in School and Clinic
EPSY 642 Meta-analysis
EPSY 624 Creative Thinking
EPSY 646 Issues in Child & Adolescent Development
EPSY 673 Learning Theories
EPSY 679 Research on Teacher Effectiveness
EDTC 654 Instructional Design

* Students taking EPSY 683 have an option to be in-residence during their last semester. International students may get an I-20 issued for this purpose conditional on the completion of a minimum of 30 credit hours of coursework completed online from students' home countries. Otherwise, with approval by the departmental faculty, students can use a local supervisor to fulfill this requirement.

† Students may include courses not listed here in their degree program as long as they can show how these courses relate to their career plans. Courses must be taken at the graduate level.
III. COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

a. REQUIRED COURSES

EPSY 602 Educational Psychology
Cognitive analysis of academic skills and tests; current cognitive views of learning, memory, problem solving and development of skill and expertise; effects of aptitude, motivation and task environment on academic performance. Implications for assessment and instruction. Prerequisite: Approval of department head.

EPSY 622 Measurement and Evaluation in Education
Principles of psychological testing applied to education; uses and critical evaluation of achievement and aptitude, interest, and personality tests and performance in educational settings. Prerequisite: Approval of department head.

EPSY 635 Educational Statistics
Introduction to the theory and application of statistical methods in behavioral science research with emphasis on classroom applications. Prerequisite: Approval of instructor.

EPSY 636 Techniques of Research
Fundamental concepts and tools of research applied to psychological and educational problems; rationale of research, analysis of problems, library skills, sampling, appraisal instruments, statistical description and inference, writing the research report and representative research designs. Prerequisite: Approval of department head.

EPSY 638 Qualitative Methodologies in Educational Research
(To be updated as it becomes available)

EPSY 689 Special Topics: Grant Writing and Program Planning
(To be updated as it becomes available)

EPSY 689 Special Topics: Communication: Practice in Education
(To be updated as it becomes available)

EPSY 656 Instrument Development
Instrument development lays the foundation for the development of validity arguments relating to the inferences and decisions that are based on construct measures. This course will provide an in-depth overview of validity concepts and the development of validity arguments. It also presents how analyses, especially those conducted within a Rasch measurement framework, can be used to provide evidence to support validity arguments that are founded during the instrument development process. Prerequisite: EPSY 635

EPSY 690 Survey Research Methods
Introduction on the primary concepts of survey design including current knowledge about sources of error in surveys, sampling, instrumentation, field testing, survey operations, nonresponse bias analysis and correction, and primary and secondary analysis of survey data. No prior experience in survey methods is expected. Prerequisite: EPSY 635.
EPSY 683 Field Practicum
Supervised experience in professional employment settings in educational psychology. Wide range of practical experiences and activities as listed below that are closely supervised by departmental faculty. Repeatable to fifteen hours total. Prerequisite: Approval of instructor.

b. ELECTIVE COURSES

EPSY 624 Creative Thinking
Development of personal creativity across fields of endeavor; analysis of creative potential, including psychometric assessment; experience of methods for stimulating creative processing and productivity. Prerequisite: Approval of department head.

EPSY 630 Single Case Research
Provides skills to conduct research with N=1 designs in the area of special education, school counseling and school psychology; provides the procedures and applications to scenarios in classroom and clinic settings; students are required to collect and analyze data in three mini studies. Prerequisite: Approval of instructor and department head

EPSY 631 Program Evaluation in School and Clinic
Learning of key evaluation skills: establishing focus with client, posing evaluation questions, data collection techniques, designing for internal validity, data aggregation; scenario practice. Prerequisite: Approval of instructor and department head.

EPSY 642 Meta-analysis
Principles and use of quantitative techniques for research integration in education and other behavioral disciplines; computer-based and branching literature searches, coding protocols, theory of effect size estimation, analysis, and reporting. Prerequisites: EPSY 439 or STAT 651, EPSY 636 or its equivalent.

EPSY 646 Issues in Child & Adolescent Development
Theoretical orientations, issues, research strategies and empirical findings of developmental psychology relevant to education. Prerequisite: PSYC 634 or equivalent; approval of department head

EPSY 673 Learning Theories
Comprehensive study of classical and current learning theories; their significance to modern education. Prerequisite: Approval of department head

EPSY 679 Research on Teacher Effectiveness
Considers theory, research and methodologies related to the definition and identification of effective teaching practices; practice, implications and applications of theory and research in educational psychology on effective teaching practices. Prerequisites: Graduate classification; approval of department head.
EDTC 654 Instructional Design
This course provides an introduction to instructional design, the process of specifying conditions of learning. Primary areas of focus include instructional systems design and instructional strategies. This is an applications course in which participants produce portfolio pieces. Students analyze an instructional environment as well as design, develop, and evaluate an instructional product as the major course project. In order to maximize relevance, students are encouraged to identify a client for whom to create products. Possible clients include local businesses, local teachers, A&M faculty and the local medical community.

IV. COURSE SCHEDULE AND RECOMMENDED SEQUENCES (to be determined)

V. TUITION AND FEES
Because tuition and fees can change from year to year, it is best to visit the Student Business Services website to calculate the exact cost of tuition. You can find more information at http://sbs.tamu.edu (Click Tuition Estimator – choose Graduate and Resident/Non-resident).

Below are examples of approximate tuition and fees for academic year 2014-2015

Texas Resident Tuition

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<th>Per 3-Credit Course</th>
<th>For 36-Credit Program</th>
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<td>Tuition</td>
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<td>University Advancement Fee</td>
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Out-of-State (including international) Tuition

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VI. APPLICATION DEADLINES AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Spring admission – October 15 deadline, with admission decisions made in November.
Fall admission – March 15 deadline, with admission decisions made in April.
Summer admission- July 1 alternative deadline, with decisions made in July. (Note: Admissions priority will be given to those students who apply by March 15).

For application information please review our website at http://epsy.tamu.edu/admissions/graduate-admissions

For more information, or if you have any questions, please contact:
Kristie Stramaski
Senior Academic Advisor, II
(979) 845-1833
epsyadvisor@tamu.edu.
Skype advising is available by appointment for current students and applicants.