I. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The MERITS Program (Measurement, Educational planning, Research methods, Instrumentation, Testing, and Statistics) is a Master of Education distance program\(^1\) 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\(^2\)
- Instructors include faculty with international reputations
- Collaboration with educational practitioners\(^3\)
- Flexible course electives
- Affordable tuition and fee structure with opportunities for financial aid\(^4\)

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\(^1\) For more information about Distance Education in Texas A&M University, visit [http://distance.tamu.edu/](http://distance.tamu.edu/)

\(^2\) 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)).

\(^3\) We can work with international students to support visa applications, conditional on a minimum of 30 credit hours completed from students' home country. Approved students can then complete an EPSY 683 practicum on campus during their final semester.

\(^4\) 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

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5 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 a minimum of 30 credit hours completed from students' home country. Otherwise, with approval by the departmental faculty, students can use a local supervisor to fulfill this requirement.

6 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.
EDTC 654 Instructional Design