

Mississippi Valley State University



2010 - 2011 Graduate Course CATALOG



Mississippi Valley State University Itta Bena, Mississippi



The Valley of Scholars

GRADUATE CATALOG 2010-2011

Published by the Office of the Graduate School
Social Science Building
14000 Highway 82 West, #7269
Itta Bena, MS 38941-1400
662-254-3051

Mississippi Valley State University
is accredited by the
**Commission on Colleges of the
Southern Association
of Colleges and Schools**
1866 Southern Lane
Decatur, GA 30033-4097
404-679-4501

to award the Baccalaureate and Masters Degrees

Graduate Catalog

It is the responsibility of students to learn and meet all requirements established by the degree programs, the University, the Graduate College, and colleges or departments. It is the students' responsibility to become knowledgeable of, and to comply with, the policies, the procedures and the regulations of the Graduate College.

Any substitution, waiver, or exemption for any established department or Graduate College requirement must be approved by the Department Chair, the Dean of the Graduate College, and the Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Failure to read the catalog does not excuse graduate students from the requirements and regulations of the University, the Graduate College, colleges, or departments.

This Catalog

This catalog, at the time of preparation for printing, accurately describes the academic programs, course offerings, policies, procedures, and requirements of the University. However, it does not establish contractual agreements. The University reserves the right to alter or change any statement contained herein without prior notice. Students starting graduate study during the period covered by this catalog (Fall 2010 through 2011) are subject to the curricular requirements as specified herein.

Mississippi Valley State University offers equal educational opportunity to all persons without regard to sex, race, religion, national origin, physical or mental handicap, or age as specified by applicable laws and regulations. All policies relating to employees' rights to freedom from sexual harassment are extended to students, also.

Photo Credits

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Accreditation

Mississippi Valley State University is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097, telephone number: (404) 679-6501, to award bachelor and masters degrees.

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Academic Calendar 2010-2011

SECOND SUMMER SESSION 2010

July 2010

6	Tuesday	Residence Halls Open for All Students Registration for Second Summer Session 2010 Charles Lackey Recreation Center, 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. *Academic Advising will take place in the Departments Registration at the Greenwood Center 121 Grand Boulevard Greenwood, MS. 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
7	Wednesday	Registration at the Greenville Center 2900 Highway 1 South, Greenville, MS. 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
8	Thursday	Classes Begin for the Second Summer Session Late Registration Fee Assessed
8	Thursday	Last Day to Receive 100% Cancellation
13	Tuesday	Registration Closes Last Day to Drop and Add Classes
14	Wednesday	Last Day to Receive 75% Cancellation
15	Thursday	Early Orientation/Registration and Advising New Students
15	Thursday	Last Day to Withdraw From a Class - Receive a Grade of "W"
16	Friday	Report of "No Shows" entered via the Banner Web by 12:00 Noon
19	Monday	Last Day to Withdraw From the University
22	Thursday	Early Orientation/Registration and Advising New Students

AUGUST

6	Friday	Final Examinations
6	Friday	Residence Halls Close
9	Monday	Early Orientation, Registration and Advising for New Students
9	Monday	Grades are due in the Office of Student Records

FALL SEMESTER 2010

AUGUST

14	Saturday	Residence Halls Open for New Students
15-16	Sunday-Monday	Orientation for New Students
16-17	Monday	Faculty and Staff Institute Social Science Auditorium at 8AM-4PM
17-18	Tuesday-Wednesday	Registration and Advising for Freshmen and Transfer Students Charles Lackey Recreation Center, 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Residual American College Test (ACT) Education Building, Room 180, 8:00 a.m. [\$32.00 Money Order and a Picture ID are required]
18	Wednesday	Residence Halls Open for All Students
19-20	Thursday-Friday	Registration for Returning Students Charles Lackey Recreation Center, 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. *Academic Advising will take place in the Departments
19	Thursday	Registration at the Greenville Center 2900 A Highway 1 South, Greenville, MS 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
20	Friday	Registration at the Greenwood Center 121 Grand Boulevard, Greenwood, MS 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Residual American College Test (ACT) Education Building, Room 180, 8:00 a.m. [\$32.00 Money Order and a Picture ID are required]
23	Monday	Classes Begin for the Fall Semester Late Registration Fee Assessed ETS Proficiency Profile and Essay (formerly MAPP) Social Science Auditorium 9:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

24 Tuesday Last Day to Receive 100% Cancellation
 27 Friday Weekend College Session I Begins
 Education Building

SEPTEMBER

6 Monday Labor Day Holiday, No Classes
 7 Tuesday Registration Closes
 Last Day to Drop/Add Classes
 8 Wednesday Last Day to Receive 75% Cancellation
 9 Thursday Fall Convocation
 11 Saturday National American College Test (ACT)
 Social Science Building, 7:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
 16 Thursday Last Day to Receive 50% Cancellation
 17 Friday Report of "No Shows" entered via the Banner Web by 12:00 Noon
 18 Saturday PRAXIS Series
 Social Science Building, 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
 24 Friday Writing Proficiency
 Social Science Building, 1:00 p.m.
 Last Day to Receive 25% Cancellation
 25 Saturday Weekend College Session I Ends

OCTOBER

1 Friday Weekend College Session II Begins
 Education Building
 2 Saturday HOMECOMING
 9 Saturday Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT)
 Social Science Building, 7:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.
 GRE (Subject Test Only)
 Social Science Building, 7:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
 11-15 Monday-Friday Mid Semester Examinations, October 11-15th
 18 Monday Mid Semester Grades are to be entered on the web by 12:00 Noon
 19 Tuesday Full Faculty Meeting, 11:00 a.m.
 22 Friday Last Day to Withdraw from a Class - Receive a grade of "W"
 30 Saturday Weekend College Session 2 Ends

NOVEMBER

12 Friday Academic Advisement and Online Registration
 begins for the 2011 Spring Semester
 13 Saturday PRAXIS Series
 Social Science Building, 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
 19 Friday Last Day to Withdraw from the University
 22 - 23 Monday - Tuesday Fall Break
 25 -26 Wednesday - Friday Thanksgiving Holiday
 29 Monday Classes Resume at 8:00 a.m.

DECEMBER

2 Thursday Assessment Day, ETS Proficiency Profile and Essay (Formerly MAPP)
 Social Science Auditorium, 9:00 a.m.
 3 Friday Reading Day - Classes DO NOT Meet
 6 Monday-Friday Fall Semester Examinations, December 6-10th
 10 Residence Halls Close
 11 Saturday National American College Test (ACT)
 Social Science Building, 7:30 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.
 13 Monday Grades are to be Entered on the Web by 3:00 p.m.
 13 Monday WINTER TERM BEGINS, December 13th-22nd
 23 Thursday - Monday Christmas Holiday Break, December 23rd-January 6th
 27 Monday Winter Term Classes Resume
 28 Tuesday Final Exams for Winter Term
 29 Wednesday Grades Due for Winter Term

SPRING SEMESTER 2011

JANUARY

6 Thursday Faculty and Staff Institute
 Social Science Auditorium from 8:00 AM-4:00 PM

9	Sunday	Residence Halls Open For New Students
10	Monday	Residence Halls Open For All Students
10		Registration For New and Transfer Students Charles Lackey Recreation Center, 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Residual American College Test (ACT) Education Bld. Room 180 [\$32.00 Money Order and Picture I.D. Required]
11- 12	Tuesday-Wednesday	Registration for Returning Students Charles Lackey Recreation Center, 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
11	Tuesday	Registration at the Greenville Center 2900 A Highway 1 South, Greenville, MS 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
12	Wednesday	Registration at Greenwood Center 121 Grand Boulevard, Greenwood, MS 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
13	Thursday	Classes Begin. Late Registration Fee Assessed
14	Friday	Last Day to Receive 100% Cancellation Weekend College Session I Begins
17	Friday	Martin Luther King Holiday Observed
20	Thursday	Registration Closes Last Day to Add and Drop Classes
22	Saturday	Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) Social Science Building, 7:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.
25	Tuesday	Applications for Graduation due in the Department Chair's Office
28	Friday	Writing Proficiency Examination Social Science Building, 1:00 p.m.
31	Monday	Last Day to Receive 75% Cancellation

FEBRUARY

8	Tuesday	Last Day to Receive 50% Cancellation
10	Thursday	Report of "No Shows" entered via the Banner Web by 12:00 Noon
12	Saturday	Weekend College Session I Ends National American College Test (ACT) Social Science Building, 7:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
16	Wednesday	Last Day to Receive 25% Cancellation
18	Friday	Weekend College Session II Begins
24	Thursday	Black History Convocation 10:00 a.m., H.G. Carpenter Auditorium
28	Monday	Mid Semester Examinations, February 28th-March 4th

MARCH

4	Friday	Preliminary List of Graduating Seniors Due to the Office of Student Records
12	Saturday	Scholastic Aptitude Test (ACT) Social Science Building, 7:30 a.m. and 12:45 p.m.
14-18	Monday - Friday	Spring Break Holiday
24	Thursday	Honors Convocation 10:00 a.m., H.G. Carpenter Auditorium
26	Saturday	Weekend College Session II Ends

APRIL

1		Weekend College Session III Begins
4	Monday	Final List of Graduating Seniors due to the Office of the Student Records
8	Friday	Last Day to Withdraw from a Class - Receive a grade of "W"
9	Saturday	National American College Test (ACT) Social Science Building, 7:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
11 - 15	Monday - Friday	International Week
13	Wednesday	Academic Advisement for the 2011, Summer I, Summer II and Fall 2011 sessions
14	Thursday	Research Day
19	Tuesday	Last Day to Withdraw from the University
19	Tuesday	Online Registration begins for the 2011 Fall Semester, Summer I Summer II
22 - 25	Friday - Monday	Easter Break
26	Tuesday	Classes Resume
27 - 29	Wednesday - Friday	Final Examinations for Graduating Seniors ONLY

28	Thursday	Seniors Clear for Graduation in their Academic Departments
29	Friday	Founder's Day Convocation Graduating Seniors Grades Due in the Office of Student Records by 12:00 Noon
30	Saturday	Reading Day - Class Do Not Meet PRAXIS Series Social Science Building, 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

MAY

2 - 6	Monday - Friday	Spring Semester Final Examinations Seniors Clear for Graduation in their Academic Departments
6	Friday	Assessment Day, ETS Proficiency Profile and Essay (Formerly MAPP) Social Science Auditorium, 9:00 a.m.
6	Friday	Weekend College Session III Ends Residence Halls Close
7	Saturday	Commencement
9	Monday	Grades Are to be Entered on the Web by 3:00 p.m.

FIRST SUMMER SESSION 2011

JUNE

2	Thursday	Residence Halls Open Registration for the First Summer Session 2010 Charles Lackey Recreation Center, 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. *Academic Advising will take place in the Departments Registration at the Greenville Center 2900 A Highway 1 South Greenville, MS 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Residual American College Test (ACT) Education Room 180, 8:00 a.m. \$32.00 Money Order and Pictured I.D. Required
3	Friday	Registration at the Greenwood Center 121 Grand Boulevard, Greenwood, MS 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
4	Saturday	Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) Social Science Building, 7:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.
6	Monday	Classes Begin for the First Summer Session. Late Registration Fee Assessed Writing Proficiency Examination Social Science Building, 1:00 p.m.
7	Tuesday	Last Day to Receive 100% Cancellation
8	Wednesday	Last Day to Drop and Add Courses Registration Closes
10	Friday	Registration Closes Last Day to Receive 75% Cancellation
11	Saturday	National American College Test (ACT) Social Science Building, 7:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. PRAXIS Series Social Science Building, 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
13	Monday	Report of "No Shows" entered via the Banner Web by 12:00 Noon
14	Tuesday	Last Day to Withdraw from a Class - Receive a grade of "W"
17	Friday	Last Day to Withdraw from the University
23	Thursday	Early Orientation, Registration, and Advising New Students

JULY

5	Tuesday	Classes Resume
6	Wednesday	Final Examinations Residence Halls Close
7	Thursday	Grades are to be Entered on the Web by 3:00 p.m.

Disclaimer: Dates, events and costs indicated are subject to change. In cases of change, proper notice will be given whenever possible.

Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning, State of Mississippi

Mississippi Valley State University is one of eight universities operating under the control of the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning of the State of Mississippi. The Board, established by the State Constitution, consists of 12 members, serving terms of varying lengths, four of whom are appointed by each incoming governor. Each Board normally includes appointees of three successive gubernatorial administrations. All final authority for the operation of the institutions under its control lies within the Board. No outside body exercises any jurisdiction over the administration, the policies, or the financial affairs of the institutions. All legislative appropriations for operating expenses are made directly to the Board, which in turn allocates funds to the eight institutions under its jurisdiction.

Members with Terms Expiring May 2012

Dr. L. Stacy Davidson, Jr.	Cleveland
Dr. Bettye H. Neely	Grenada
Scott Ross	West Point
Amy Whitten	Oxford

Members with Terms Expiring May 2015

Bob Owens	Jackson
Ed Blakeslee	Gulfport
Aubrey Patterson	Tupelo
Robin Robinson	Laurel

Members with Terms Expiring May 2018

Alan W. Perry	Jackson
Christine L. Pickering	Biloxi
Dr. Douglas W. Rouse	Hattiesburg
C. D. Smith	Meridian

Officers of the Board

Amy Whitten, President	Jackson
Scott Ross, Vice President	Cleveland

Commissioner

Dr. Hank Bounds

University Administration



The members of the Executive Cabinet work with, and advise, the President in the determination of administrative policies throughout the University and assist in solving administrative problems. The Executive Cabinet makes administrative decisions on matters submitted by committees, university officials, and others.

Donna H. Oliver, Ph.D.	President
Anna M. Hammond, Ed.D.	Executive Vice President/Provost
Jerald Jones Adley, Ph.D.	Chief of Staff
Hareshnarayan Khanna, DBA,	Vice President of Business and Finance/CFO
Johnny Jones, Ed.D.	Vice President for Student Affairs, Enrollment Management, and Diversity
A. Zachary Faison, J.D.	Special Assistant to the President
Donald R. Sims, M.S.	Interim Director, Department of Athletics
Archie Tucker II, MBA	Interim Executive Director for University Advancement

University Administrative Officers

EXECUTIVE CABINET

Oliver, Donna H.	President
Hammond, Anna M.	Executive Vice President/Provost
Adley, Jerald J.	Chief of Staff
Khanna, Hareshnarayan	Vice President for Business and Finance/CFO
Jones, Johnny	Vice President for Student Affairs Enrollment Management and Diversity
Faison, A. Zachary.....	Special Assistant to President
Sims, Donald R.	Interim Director, Department of Athletics
Tucker II, Archie.....	Interim Executive Director for University Advancement

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

Shingles, Samuel D.	Associate Provost for Academic Administration, Strategy, and Innovation
Schults, Christopher W.	Assistant Provost for Effectiveness, Assessment, Research, and Strategic Planning
Dixon, Joyce	Assistant Vice President, Fiscal and Administrative Affairs
Reed, Dallas	Assistant Vice President for Development
Adams, Jannette.....	Director, Sponsored Programs
Bland, Edgar	Director, Academic Computer Services
Byrd, Caloron	Director, Administrative Services
Dixon, Lloyd	Interim Director, Financial Aid
Golden, Kathie	Director, International Programs and Services
Haire, Marvin	Interim Director, Delta Research and Cultural Institute
Johnson, John H.	Director, Mass Transit
Jones, Yolanda.....	Director, Comprehensive Counseling Center
Love, Ronald	Director, Continuing Education
Lowe, Bryce	Director, Residential Life
Montgomery, Debbie	Director, Public Relations
Mosley, Rodrick	Director, Sports Information
Parker, Walter	Director, Student Health Center
Henderson, Mantra	Interim Director, J.H. White Library
Wallace, Tiffany	Director, Career Services
Raines, Charles	Director, Property Accountability
Ransom, Glenda	Director, Student Union/Student Activities
Shingles, Letonia	Director, Community Service/Service Learning
Rush, Maxcine	Director, Student Records
Sanders, Robert	Chief, University Police
Scott, Billy	Director, Purchasing
Seals, Chresteen	Director, Academic Programming for MVSU at the Greenville Higher Education Center
Sowell, Frank	Director, Human Resources
Verdell, Tommie.....	Director, Facilities Management

Academic Administrators

Hill, Rickey	Dean, Graduate Studies
Lee, Tazinski.....	Interim Dean, College of Arts and Sciences and Interim Chair of Social Sciences
Brown, Curressia	Interim Dean, College of Professional Studies/Education
Bland, Constance	Chair, Department of Mathematics, Computer, and Information Sciences
Ahanonu, Chukwuma	Interim Chair, Department of Education
Maxwell, Richard	Interim Chair, Applied Technology and Technology Management
Mukoro, Saliba	Chair, Department of Criminal Justice
Osunde, Samuel	Chair, Department of Communication
Sanders, Alphonso	Chair, Department of Fine Arts
Wahome, Joseph	Chair, Department of Natural Sciences and Environmental Health
Wilkinson, James	Interim Chair, Department of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation
Zheng, John	Chair, Department of English and Foreign Languages

General Information

Historical Milestones:

- Legislation authorizing the establishment of the institution under the name Mississippi Vocational College was enacted by the Mississippi Legislature in 1946. The expressed purpose for the new college is to train teachers for rural and elementary schools and to provide vocational training.
- The groundbreaking ceremony is held February 19, 1950, with the late Honorable Governor Fielding Wright, the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning, Dr. James Herbert White, the first president of the University, and interested friends participating.
- The College opens in the summer of 1950 with enrollment of 305 in-service teachers.
- The first academic year, 1950-51, opens with 14 regular students and seven faculty members. The college offers the Bachelor of Science degree in 14 areas and provides Extension Services.
- The name of the institution changes to Mississippi Valley State College in 1964. The College is authorized to offer the Liberal Arts degree, as well as Science and the Education degrees.
- Dr. Earnest A. Boykins, the University's second president, takes office in July 1971.
- The Honorable Governor William A. Waller signs into law the bill granting university status to the institution on March 15, 1974. The institution has since been known as Mississippi Valley State University.
- The University begins offering its first Master's degree in 1976. The University now offers the Master of Science degree in Bioinformatics, Business Administration, Environmental Health, Elementary Education, Criminal Justice, Social Work, Special Education, Rural Public Policy and Planning, and the Master of Arts in Teaching.
- Dr. Joe L. Boyer, the third president of MVSU, takes office in January 1982.
- Dr. William W. Sutton, the fourth president of MVSU, takes office in July 1988.
- The Greenwood Center, an off-campus site of MVSU, opens January 1996.
- Dr. Lester C. Newman, the fifth president of MVSU, takes office on July 1, 1998.
- The Greenville Higher Learning Center, an off-campus site of MVSU, opens January 2001.
- The Business Education Building, the first new academic building in 32 years, opens 2007. A second building, the Science and Technology Building opens in 2009.
- Dr. Roy C. Hudson becomes interim president of MVSU on July 1, 2007, becoming the first alumnus to hold the office in the school's history.

The University is under the jurisdiction of the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning which is composed of 12 members. Funds for the operation of the University come from general appropriations of the Legislature, students' tuition and fees, federal grants, and gifts.

Location

Mississippi Valley State University is located in Leflore County, one mile northeast of Itta Bena, adjacent to U.S. Highway 82. The Institution is located on a 450-acre tract of land. The site for campus development consists of 200 acres.

Mississippi Valley State University is approximately five miles from Greenwood, which has a population of 18,425 and approximately 50 miles from Greenville, which has a population of 41,633. The University is approximately 100 miles north of Jackson, Mississippi, and 120 miles south of Memphis, Tennessee. It is located in the heart of the Mississippi Delta where 34 percent of the black population of the state is located.

Comprehensive Mission Statement

Vision

The vision of Mississippi Valley State University is to attain preeminence in the quality of its students' educational experience and its graduates. In addition, the University wishes to create the optimal living and learning environment that validates its conceptualization as the Valley of Scholars. The Institution ultimately endeavors to produce ethical and capable students who are exceptionally prepared for graduate and professional schools and the world of work in a global society.

Mission

Mississippi Valley State University, located in Leflore County, is a Carnegie Master's I institution, which provides accessible, relevant and quality academic and public service programs. While the University has historically drawn the majority of its students from throughout the Delta, the institution recognizes the need to provide greater services to the south and east Delta areas. MVSU, which recognizes the need to be efficient, effective and productive in all of its operations, offers concentrated study in the arts, business, education, humanities, public services, pre-professional health services, social sciences, sciences, social work, and technology. Master's level programs are offered in Bioinformatics, Business Administration, Environmental Health, Elementary Education, Criminal Justice, Social Work, Special Education, Rural Public Policy and Planning, and Teaching. The University also endeavors to provide additional programs that are vital and unique to the needs of the population it serves. MVSU emphasizes the study and applications of technology, basic and applied research, service learning, health and wellness, and economic and cultural affairs. The University expands its emphasis to incorporate an international focus on governmental, economic, and cultural affairs. Out of this concept, the Delta Research and Cultural Institute provides the avenue for faculty and students to engage in theoretical and applied research on subject matter related to the cultural, social, economic, and political concerns of the Delta.

Institutional Focus

- **The Foundation of Excellence**

Mississippi Valley State University remains committed to its original mission of preparing teachers for elementary and secondary schools and to preparing students to engage in other meaningful and productive careers. MVSU values and strives to gain multi-cultural diversity and to achieve curricular advances that place it in the forefront with high-quality and high-demand technological and professional programs. The programmatic directions incorporated in the Ayers Agreement have produced master's level programs in Special Education, Bioinformatics, leadership administration, and Business administration. Ayers also brings a broadening of the undergraduate curriculum, including an expansion of the teacher education offerings.

- **Meeting Regional Educational Needs/Maintaining Historical Relationships**

MVSU recognizes the Delta area and bordering counties as its primary service areas; however, the University also realizes the need to attract students from geographically diverse areas, both nationally and internationally, including those areas with which it has constituent relationships through alumni and family heritages and collaborative ventures. MVSU sees the need to have strong partnerships with K-12 schools in the Delta and to provide a supportive environment for non-traditional students and those interested in life-long learning opportunities. Educational offerings in learning centers off the main campus help the University provide community-based students greater access and more flexibility in program offerings and course schedules.

- **Community Service/Service Learning**

MVSU is an engaged institution that strives to develop responsible citizens who are sensitive to the needs of a pluralistic society. Community Service/Service Learning is an integral part of MVSU's mission and is carried out through community involvement by administrators, faculty, staff and students and by bringing community people to the campus for programs and services. The Community Service/Service Learning component of each student's educational program also complements the public service mission of the University.

- **Centers of Excellence**

As a means of bringing focus to the academic programs and services that project the direction of the institution, MVSU endeavors to establish centers of excellence that incorporate instructional research and service functions. These include: a center of excellence in teacher education, dedicated to the enhancement of the Delta region's teaching community through such programs as the Institute for Effective Teaching Practices and the Delta Superintendent's Partnership; a center of excellence in science and technology, which seeks to bridge the "digital divide" and improve diversity in science and technology education through programs such as its Saturday Academy and the Summer Science Technology Academy and through cutting-edge programs like Bioinformatics and Automatic Identification Technology; and a center of excellence in entrepreneurship and economic development, which promotes activities and provides continuous information, technical assistance and training through partnerships with such entities as the Mid-Delta Empowerment Zone and the USDA Rural Development Service.

- **Health and Wellness**

In view of the prevalent health issues that are predominant in the University community and the Delta Region, MVSU incorporates health and wellness services into its mission. Although the University includes health and wellness content in its curricular offerings, it incorporates the concepts more intensely through community services and special projects. Through its focus on health and wellness, the University provides educational awareness, resources, screening and fitness facilities.

- **Research and Culture**

As the birthplace of the blues and as a place that has an abundance of creativity in the fine arts, the Mississippi Delta has unparalleled cultural and research opportunities. To date, these elements have been untapped. MVSU endeavors to promote cultural and social research, with an emphasis upon economics and the human condition.

- **A Global Perspective**

In view of the global dynamics that are impacting the University and the future of our students, MVSU sees the need to bring a global perspective to our curricular offerings and our total student experience. Therefore, curricular offerings and the student experience will incorporate international language development, faculty and student exchanges, study abroad programs and research abroad programs. These activities will better prepare our students and faculty for greater participation in an expanding global society.

Institutional Priorities

Mississippi Valley State University endeavors to be an agent of change for the students who attend the institution. In addition to its role in the academic preparation of students, the University attempts to affect change in the students' social attitudes and behaviors in order that they may be better prepared for positive and competitive interaction in the global society.

MVSU aims to produce graduates who demonstrate effective communication, critical thinking, and technological skills. The University also strives to produce students with applicable knowledge in their major field of study to secure employment, to pursue entrepreneurship or to continue on to graduate or professional school. Ultimately, the goal of the University is to produce students who become contributing members of a global society. In view of the adverse economic circumstances that impact the vast majority of its students, the University expects that the experience it provides will result in an improvement in the students' social and economic status.

The priorities are:

Priority I: Prepare students to be critical thinkers who are proficient in oral and written languages and in mathematics.

Priority II: Improve the quality of support services to students especially in the areas of admissions, advising, counseling and career selection, and assistance with graduate school admissions.

Priority III: Develop a solid foundation for students in the arts, humanities, social sciences and pre-professional studies.

Priority IV: Recruit and retain faculty and staff of high quality and academic distinction in areas appropriate or relevant to the mission of the University.

Priority V: Graduate students who are cognizant of the application and use of current technology.

Priority VI: Develop and implement effective fund-raising strategies to improve programs and facilities.

Priority VII: Improve fiscal management and stability.

Priority VIII: Make students aware of the opportunities and challenges of a global environment.

Priority IX: Develop and implement an effective, comprehensive enrollment management program focusing on greater selectivity, cultural diversity and improved retention.

Accreditations

American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance/
The National Association of Sports and Physical Education
Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs
Council on Social Work Education
National Accreditation Council for Environmental Health Curricula
National Association of Schools of Art and Design
National Association of Schools of Music
National Collegiate Athletic Association
National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education
Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS)
State Department of Education of Mississippi

Memberships

American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education
American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admission Officers
American Council on Education
American Forensics Association
American Library Association
American Mathematical Society
American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers
Association for Departments of English
Association of Gerontology and Human Services
Broadcast Music, Inc.
Cooperative Education Association
Council on Colleges and Universities
International Reading Association
Mississippi Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development
Mississippi Association of Colleges for Teacher Education
National Association of College and University Business Officers
National Association of College and University Summer Sessions
National Association of Collegiate Deans and Registrars
National Association of Industrial Technology
National Association of Schools of Performing Arts
National Association of Schools of Art and Design
National Association of Schools of Music
National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators
National Association of Student Personnel Administrators
National Council of Teachers of English
National Collegiate Athletic Association
Southern Association of Colleges Universities Business Officers
Southern Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers
Southern Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators
Southern Business Administration Association
Southwestern Athletic Conference
Speech Communication Association
Teacher Education Council for Schools, Colleges and Universities
University Press of Mississippi

Motto

The motto of Mississippi Valley State University is “Live for Service.”

Colors

The University’s colors are forest green and white.

The Seal And Logo



The University’s Logo Is:

Mississippi Valley State University

Common Titles At The University

Mississippi Valley State University	The Valley
Athletic Teams	The Delta Devils/Devilettes
Student Newspaper	The Delta Devils Gazette
University Student Yearbook	The Delvian
Employee Newsletter	Communiqué
Alumni Magazine	The Valley Connection

University Traditions

Freshman Orientation, August

Homecoming Activities, October

Annual Christmas Tree Lighting, December

Student Christmas Dinner, December

Honors Convocation, March/April

Founder’s Day (Week), April

Administrative Professionals’ Luncheon, April

Retirement and Years of Service Luncheon, April or May

Commencement, May

Alma Mater

Hail to thee our Alma Mater
Colors Green and White
M.V.S.U. our sons and daughters
Always stand for right.

When the days of joy and laughter
Fade upon our sight
We will love our Alma Mater
Dear Old Green and White

We will love and cherish thee
Through all our lives
Green and White, we will honor
Keeping standards high.

Chorus:

Grateful, loyal, true and faithful
We will be true
May thy name be everlasting
Dear Old M. V. S. U.

Administrative Office Hours

Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

University Holidays

- Labor Day First Monday in September
- Thanksgiving Holidays Fourth Thursday and the following Friday in November
- Christmas See *Official University Calendar*
- New Year See *Official University Calendar*
- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Third Monday in January
- Easter See *Official University Calendar*
- Memorial Day The last Monday in May
- Independence Day July 4 (*See Official University Calendar*)

Physical Facilities of the University

Academic Skills-Communications Complex; Ashley Ambrose Devil's Den; Fielding L. Wright Science Building; H.M. Ivy Cafeteria; H. G. Carpenter Administration Building; Industrial Technology Building; Jacob Aron Student Union Building; Charles R. Lackey Recreation Center; James Herbert White Library; Laundry; Lois Aron Meditation Chapel; Lucile Petry Leone Building; L.S. Rogers Building (Child Development, HEP); Mass Transit; MVSU Baseball Complex; MVSU Softball Complex; Annex I (Noble R. Frisby Building); Annex II (Augusta C. White Building); Olympia P. Lowe Education Complex; Rice-Totten Stadium; Robert W. Harrison Health, Physical Education and Recreation Complex; Student Union Annex; Student Health Center; W.A. Butts Social Science Building; Walter Sillers Fine Arts Building; William W. Sutton Administration Building; Willie Malone Physical Plant.

Residence Halls for Student Housing

Student housing on the University campus consists of 10 residence halls, five for men and five for women. Residence halls are equipped with air conditioning, beds, chairs, desks, desklights, storage areas for clothing and school supplies, cable television outlets, telephone outlets, voice mail and Internet access.

All residence halls are managed by at least one full-time Area Coordinator or Residence Hall Director, Residence Hall Monitor, Weekend Monitor, and student staff persons. Halls are secured by fire detection equipment, residence hall staff, and University police officers.

The resident facilities for female students are:

Clara T. Reed Hall Honors Upper-class Students
College Hall I (scheduled for renovation)
Edna Horton Hall Freshmen/Upper-class Students
Mapluma Ratcliff Hall Upper-class Students
New Women's Hall Honors Upper-class Student (tentative)

The resident facilities for male students are:

John A. James Hall Upper-class/Freshmen Overflow Students
Leflore Hall Upper-class Students
New Men's Hall Honors Upper-class Students
Magnolia Hall Upper-class/Honors Students
William J. Stewart Freshmen Student

Admissions Policies, Requirements, and Procedures

Admission Requirements

Applicants seeking admission to graduate programs at Mississippi Valley State University must be admitted both to the Graduate College and the degree program.

Graduates of regionally accredited institutions in the United States who do not intend to seek an advanced degree from Mississippi Valley State University, but wish to take courses, may register as non-degree status student. A non-degree student, who subsequently seeks full or restricted admission, must complete an application for admission to the Graduate College and be accepted by a department and the Graduate College for the degree study.

Non-degree students initially granted permission to take graduate courses on a non-degree basis are permitted to take up to nine semester hours of graduate credit. If a student later chooses to undertake a graduate degree program, only nine semester hours taken as a non-degree student may be applied to a program.

To be eligible for admission to the Graduate College, the following requirements must be met:

1. An applicant must hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university.
2. An application for admission must be filed with the Office of Graduate Studies.
3. An official transcript of all college work (undergraduate and graduate) must be obtained from the registrar of each college previously attended.
4. A minimum undergraduate cumulative grade point average of 2.50 on a 4.00 grading scale is required for regular graduate degree status.
5. Three letters of recommendation from persons in the field of the applicant's academic major or area of concentration must be supplied.
6. Official scores on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE), Miller Analogies Test or the Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT) for the College of Business are required.
7. The department chair and the dean of the graduate program applied for must recommend admission to the Dean of the Graduate College who must formally accept the student.
8. Immunization record must be submitted.

Deadline for Admission

Admission to a degree program is made in the fall or spring semester. The deadlines for fall and spring applications are March 15 and September 15, respectively. Applicants for conditional status must meet appropriate admission criteria before registering for classes. This policy applies to both regular semesters and to summer school.

Admission of Undergraduates to Graduate Courses

Senior undergraduate Mississippi Valley State University students who have completed all required courses and are within six hours of graduation may enroll for a minimum of six semester hours of graduate work. To be eligible to take graduate courses, undergraduate students must have a grade point average of at least 2.50 overall and in their major field.

Re-Admissions to the University

Graduate students who withdraw from the University in good standing or who have been suspended for academic deficiencies must apply for re-admission by submitting an application to the Graduate College. Re-admission is not automatic nor does it necessarily reinstate the student. The Graduate Council must approve all applications for re-admission to the Graduate College for students who have been suspended for academic deficiencies.

Students who have previously attended the University and have a break in attendance of one or more terms must file an application for re-admission. Re-admission documents required include an official transcript from each institution attended since leaving MVSU, and, if a degree has been received from another institution, an official transcript showing that degree.

Students must meet the minimum admission standards of the University and be in good standing at all institutions attended since leaving MVSU in order to be eligible for re-admission.

Questions concerning re-admission should be directed to the Graduate College.

Academic Dismissal

A graduate student who fails to maintain an overall GPA of 3.00 or who fails to make satisfactory progress in a degree program will be dismissed from graduate study at the University.

Graduate students must maintain a 3.00 grade point average. If a student's overall grade point average on graduate courses drops below a 3.00, the student will be placed on academic probation. A student placed on academic probation is given one semester to raise the overall grade point average to 3.00.

Academic Probation and Suspension

A student who is admitted to Graduate College conditionally must maintain a "B" (3.00 overall grade point average) during the first nine semester hours of graduate course work. Failure to do so will result in notification of dismissal by the Graduate College. The Graduate College is not required to hear a student's appeal of this decision. The chair of the graduate program that assesses the extenuating circumstances should direct letters on the student's behalf to the Dean of the Graduate College. Students are automatically removed from probation upon completion of the first nine semester hours of graduate course work if an overall 3.00 grade point average is attained.

Fully admitted students who fail to maintain a “B” average during any semester will be placed on academic probation for the next semester of course work. If, after completion of the ninth semester-hour credit, the student’s grade-point average is still below 3.00, the student will receive a notification of degree termination from the Graduate College. Students on academic probation are not eligible for appointment to assistantships or fellowships.

Students whose probationary semester does not attain the required minimum grade point average of 3.00 will be notified in writing by the Graduate College of their dismissal.

Advisement

Each student is assigned a departmental major advisor upon admission to the Graduate College. The student then consults the advisor at least once during each semester and receives approval of courses to be taken for the degree. Consultation on all academic concerns should begin with the major advisor.

Appeal of Academic Status

To appeal one’s academic status, e.g. termination from a program or failure to pass an examination, a student must present the request and related explanation in writing to the graduate coordinator and/or head of the department offering the program. The department head/coordinator will review this appeal with the appropriate college or departmental committee and render a recommendation. If the appeal at the departmental level is unsuccessful, a student may then appeal to the college dean. If the appeal at the college of dean level is unsuccessful, a student may then appeal to the Dean of the Graduate College. If the appeal is unsuccessful, the student may then appeal to the Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Appeal of Grade

(A) The student is to take the complaint to the instructor involved.

(B) If the student does not obtain satisfaction, the student may acquire a grade appeal form from any academic dean’s office or from the Registrar’s Office, fill it out and take it to the instructor’s department head. The department head acknowledges receipt of the form and returns the duplicate to the student.

(C) If the department head, upon reviewing the complaint, is unable to resolve the matter to the satisfaction of the student, the student may appeal to the academic dean (reviewing dean) to whom the department head reports. The department head shall immediately forward the appeal form with a letter of recommendation to the dean. The dean will then send copies of all materials to the student’s dean, if different from that of the department head’s dean.

(D) If the reviewing dean is unable to resolve the matter to the satisfaction of the student, the student may appeal to the Dean of Graduate Studies and the Vice President for Academic Affairs. The reviewing dean shall immediately forward the appeal form with a letter of recommendation to Dean of Graduate Studies who should be furnished a complete case file. The Vice President for Academic Affairs may then refer the case to the Graduate Council if needed.

Hearing Procedure

The following guidelines are established for the direction of the Academic Review Board conducting formal hearings on academic appeals:

- (1) The instructor and student shall be informed, in writing, by the Vice President for Academic Affairs of the place and time of the hearing.
- (2) The instructor and student will be allowed 72 hours to prepare for the hearing. The instructor may request additional time by showing cause. The instructor and student shall be advised that they have the right to appear with an advisor if they so choose.
- (3) The majority of the hearing Board (or their alternates) shall constitute a quorum. In the event a quorum is not present, both the student and the instructor must agree to proceed with the hearing, otherwise the hearing will be rescheduled.
- (4) Academic Review Board Hearings are of a private, confidential nature. They are closed to the public.
- (5) The instructor shall be asked to appear in person to present his/her case to the Academic Review Board, and the instructor may call witnesses in his/her behalf. However, the instructor may elect not to appear before the Review Board. Should the instructor elect not to appear, the hearing shall be held in his/her absence. The failure of an instructor to appear must be noted without prejudice; however, the Board will act upon the evidence presented to it and would prefer to have the faculty member present. The student must appear in person to present his/her case and may also call witnesses in his/her behalf. It will be left to the discretion of the Academic Review Board whether or not to permit the introduction of any particular written statements. If written evidence is to be presented against the instructor, the instructor shall be allowed to see the actual signed statements at least 72 hours before the hearing. Unsigned statements shall not be admissible as evidence.
- (6) The instructor or student shall have the right to challenge any member of the Academic Review Board for good cause and request that the individual be disqualified for that hearing. The dismissal of a challenged hearing Board member shall be at the discretion of the hearing Board chairperson. Should the chairperson be directly involved in the case, the chairperson shall excuse himself/herself and a faculty member of the Academic Review Board shall be selected for the hearing's chairperson.
- (7) The instructor shall be presumed to have assigned the proper guide until it is proven otherwise. The burden of proof to the contrary rests with the student.
- (8) The instructor and student shall have an opportunity to be present during the presentation of all evidence and to challenge the admissibility of any evidence. They shall have the opportunity to question all witnesses. The Chair of the Academic Board shall supervise any questioning of this nature, and, at his/her discretion, may strike any questions which are not relevant to the purpose of the hearing. The Board may question the instructor, the student, and any witnesses.

- (9) All matters upon which the decision may be based, must be introduced and discussed at the hearing, and the decision shall be based solely upon the evidence presented. Under no circumstances shall any mention be made during the hearing of past charges made against the instructor.
- (10) The recommendation in each case shall be made by a majority of Academic Review Board members present and voting.
- (11) Recommendations of the Board shall be issued, in writing, to the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. The Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs shall transmit the recommendations and the Provost's decision to the instructor and the student.

Audit

A student may audit a course with the written permission of the department head or dean. The fee for auditing a course is the same as taking the course for credit. Only lecture courses may be audited. Audit enrollment must be approved by the instructor teaching the requested course.

Course Numbering System

Courses numbered "500" and above are classified as graduate courses.

Course Load

The normal load for a full-time student is nine semester hours during the regular session; the maximum load is 12 hours and a course load can exceed these levels only by approval from the dean. The maximum load for persons employed full-time is six semester hours during a regular semester and three semester hours during the summer session.

Degree Plan

The student should file a degree plan within the first semester of matriculation. Degree plan forms may be obtained from the major advisor. The major advisor, the department head, the dean of the college, and the graduate dean must review and approve the degree plan.

Degree Requirements

A minimum of 33-36 semester hours, excluding the thesis, with an average grade of "B" or better in courses approved for graduate credit is required for the Master of Arts and the Master of Science Degrees. The degree programs are:

- Master of Arts in Teaching
- Master of Arts in Rural Public Policy and Planning
- Master of Business Administration
- Master of Science in Bioinformatics
- Master of Science in Criminal Justice
- Master of Science in Elementary Education
- Master of Science in Environmental Health
- Master of Science in Special Education
- Master of Social Work

Federal Regulations

Mississippi Valley State University, as an educational institution and as an employer, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, ethnicity, national origin, age, sex, and marital status or disability.

Grading System

Passing grades for graduate students are “A,” “B,” and “C.” The grade of “D” is not applied toward graduation.

The grade of “I,” Incomplete, may be given only when the completed portion of the course work is passing quality. It is the student’s responsibility to complete the course requirements and to see that the incomplete grade is removed from his/her record.

Immunization Requirements

All students (including transfers) entering Mississippi Valley State University for the first time and enrolling for academic credit must show proof of immunization for measles and rubella. Proof of immunization may be documented in the following manner:

1. A Certificate of Compliance with Immunization (Form No.121-C) from the local Mississippi State Board of Health Office. Two doses of measles vaccine are required. All international students must have a chest x-ray to screen for tuberculosis;
2. Positive measles and rubella serology with date; and/or
3. Physician-documented history of having measles with date of disease. A history of rubella is not accepted.

Temporary exceptions for one semester are:

1. Pregnant women;
2. Women suspecting pregnancy; and
3. Women anticipating pregnancy within three months.

Permanent exceptions are:

1. A medical disease which will cause a permanent contraindication to immunization and
2. All persons born prior to 1957.

Incomplete Grades

A grade of “I” (Incomplete) may be submitted in lieu of a final grade when the student, because of illness, death in his or her immediate family, or similar circumstances beyond his or her control, is unable to complete the course requirements or to take final examinations. All grades of “I” (Incomplete) must be complete no later than the last day of class of the next semester (excluding summer) whether the student is enrolled or not. But only that part of his or her work may be made up which was missed during the emergency for which the Incomplete was granted. If a grade of “I” is not resolved into a passing grade within the allotted time, the grade becomes an “F”. “I” grades are not permitted for thesis and credits.

International Students

Students from countries where English is not the dominant language must provide evidence of proficiency in the English language with their application for admission to Mississippi Valley State University. Students must present a score of 500 on the Test for English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) and provide evidence of financial support sufficient to support the cost of enrollment for one school year. International students who have completed degrees from a university where English is the official language of instruction are not required to submit a TOEFL score. Students presenting a score of less than 525 will be evaluated and admitted conditionally on a case by case basis.

Official University Withdrawals

A student's official withdrawal date is the date the student begins the University's withdrawal process as determined by the date of the first required signatures on the "Withdrawal of University Enrollment Form." A student may also give an oral or written notification to the University that he or she has ceased to attend the University and does not plan to resume academic attendance, or will cease to attend the University. In such cases, the earlier of the two dates will be used as the official withdrawal date. An oral notification must be confirmed in writing no later than seven days following the oral notification. If a student both begins the University's withdrawal process and provides official notification orally or in writing of his or her intent to withdraw, the earlier of the two dates is the official withdrawal date and that date must be used for purposes of refund calculation.

Unofficial University Withdrawals

A student may not begin the University withdrawal process or may not notify the University of his or her intent to withdraw due to illness, accident, or other circumstances beyond the student's control. However, the official withdrawal date is the date that the University declares from its consideration of the circumstance. Also, for a student who does not notify the University either orally or in writing of his or her intent to cease academic attendance, the last date of class attendance will be considered the student's withdrawal date.

Repeat Policy

With the approval of the graduate program coordinator and the college dean, a student may repeat one course per degree. This policy applies to all courses (even those not on the program of study) taken as a graduate student related to a specific program. Repeated courses must be taken at Mississippi Valley State University.

A specific course may be repeated only once for those approved for repeated credit (e.g. internships, special topics, individual studies, thesis, etc). Both courses will remain on the permanent transcript and both grades will be computed in final averages. No additional program credit hours will be generated from a repeated course.

Services for Student with Disabilities

Services for students with documented disabilities will be coordinated by the University Counseling Office, Office of Student Affairs, and the Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator's Office. Contact with these offices prior to enrollment is encouraged.

Student Transfer within Graduate Programs at Mississippi Valley State University

A graduate student in good standing (3.00 GPA or above) in one graduate program may transfer to another graduate program within Mississippi Valley State University without penalty. Such student must, however, withdraw from his/her original graduate program, and be prepared to meet all the requirements of the new graduate program. A student with a GPA below 3.00 cannot transfer to another graduate program and may not retain his or her graduate status at Mississippi Valley State University.

Summer Session Admission

Students enrolled at another college or university may apply for summer-session admission only. Such admission carries no commitment for permission to register for either term of the regular academic year. Students from other colleges or universities must be eligible to continue work at their respective institutions and are responsible for determining if these institutions will accept credits earned at Mississippi Valley State University.

The Release of Student Information

The Buckley Amendment-The Family Educational and Privacy Act of 1974

Provisions for reviewing and correcting student information as required under Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (The Buckley Amendment) have been available to Mississippi Valley State University (MVSU) students and parents for many years. Essentially, students have the opportunity to see official copies of personal and academic information which are collected and distributed by the Office of Student Records during each semester of enrollment. Further, students have the opportunity to correct personal and other data and submit such changes to the Office of Student Records during the registration period.

Pursuant to requirements of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, the following types of information are hereby designated as directory information and may be released via official media of MVSU according to the University policy: the student's name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, major field of study, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, degrees and awards received, the most recent previous educational agency or institution attended by the student and other similar information. Students must inform the Office of Student Records in writing if they refuse to permit the release of "directory information" which will result in the University's refusing to release any of this information to anyone except as provided

by law. Such a decision may result in a student's name not appearing in the lists of honors students, candidates for graduation, athletic programs, news releases, and the like. Therefore, students are encouraged to give this matter careful consideration before making the decision. Once made, the decision will remain in effect until notification is received by the Office of Student Records, in writing, to the contrary.

If the student is a minor, the parents or legal guardian may exercise the same rights. If the student is 18 years of age or older, MVSU will not permit the parents or legal guardian to inspect the student's record unless the student has stated, in writing, to the Director of Student Records that the records may be released or opened for inspection.

However, if the parents are supporting the student—that is, if the student is a dependent as defined by the Internal Revenue Code, then the University may choose to disclose the records to the parents. If parents insist on a review of the records and demonstrate that their student is dependent, the University will grant access to the records.

Students have the rights to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the University to comply with the requirements of federal law as they pertain to access and disclosure of student's education records. The name and the address of the office that administers this law is:

**Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20202-4605**

Questions or concerns about the privacy of student education records or these procedures may be brought to the attention of the Director of Student Records located in the Sutton Administration Building.

Time Limit on Work for Master's Degree

A student must complete requirements for the degree within six consecutive years after the first date of enrollment in the Graduate College, exclusive of any time spent in the Armed Forces of the United States. Any graduate work completed by extension or transferred from another institution must have commenced not more than six years prior to graduation in order for credit to be applied toward the graduate degree.

Transfer of Graduate Credit from another Institution

Mississippi Valley State University will accept graduate credits earned at a recognized institution upon the recommendation of the department and the approval of the dean of the Graduate College. Only courses for which the students have received a grade of "B" or higher may be transferred. Unsatisfactory grades that are earned at the University may not be substituted for credits earned at another institution. Grades of "A" or "B" earned at another institution may not be used to offset a lower

grade earned at the University. The institution from which credit is earned must offer a graduate degree in the field in which the credit has been completed. The credit must be recommended by the student department in the University as specifically applicable to the student's degree program.

Policy and Procedure on Cheating and Plagiarism

Philosophy

Honesty and integrity are essential values of Mississippi Valley State University's mission to pursue truth and knowledge. All persons – administrators, faculty, staff, and students – share the responsibility for achieving high standards of excellence. Academic dishonesty of any kind negates this mission and is antithetical to the development of morally and ethically sound human beings. Therefore, Mississippi Valley State University will not tolerate cheating or plagiarism in any form. Cheating and plagiarism compromise the process of fair and equitable evaluation conferred by the University. Students who engage in such activities deny themselves the opportunity to benefit from accurate assessment and feedback and prevent full academic and personal development.

Responsibility

Although the faculty of Mississippi Valley State University is responsible for establishing the standards for moral and academic excellence in teaching and learning, these standards can be reached only with the cooperation and support of students. Each student is expected, therefore, to accept responsibility for maintaining honesty and integrity in all endeavors inside and outside the classroom, studio, or laboratory. Faculty encourages ethical behaviors by: establishing an atmosphere of respect in the classroom; stating clearly on the syllabus their standards and expectations for academic performance; structuring learning situations that encourage honesty and deter cheating and plagiarism; and for presenting and enforcing the University's policy on academic dishonesty.

Definitions

Cheating is the actual or attempted practice of fraudulent or deceptive acts for the purpose of improving one's grade or obtaining course credit. Such behavior also includes assisting another student in such practice. Although cheating is often associated with examinations, it is the intent of this definition that the term "cheating" not be limited to examination situations only, but also that it includes any and all actions by a student that are intended to gain an unearned academic advantage by fraudulent or deceptive means. (See Example of Plagiarism).

Plagiarism is a specific type of cheating which consist of the misuse of the published and/or unpublished works of others by misrepresenting the intellectual property of others as one's own ideas or works. (See Example of Plagiarism).

Academic Sanctions for Cheating or Plagiarism

When a faculty member responsible for a course has reason to believe that an action of a student falls within one or both of the aforementioned definitions, the faculty member should initiate a conference with the student to present the student with the charge and the evidence. If the student admits to the wrongdoing, the instructor shall impose an academic sanction. The instructor has the prerogative of lowering the grade, assigning a grade of “O” or “F” for the work submitted, assigning a “F” for the entire course, or recommending another penalty, including dismissal from the University. In the advent that the student does not admit wrongdoing or that no mutually agreeable settlement is reached as a result of the faculty-student conference, the faculty member will consult the department chair.

Examples of Cheating

The following examples of cheating are intended to be representative, but are not all inclusive:

- Looking at another student’s test during an exam.
- Copying from another student.
- Stealing or arranging for the theft of an exam.
- Knowingly reviewing an unauthorized copy of an exam.
- Using lecture notes or textbooks during an exam when such use is prohibited.
- Possessing crib notes during an exam.
- Having someone else take an exam for you.
- Feigning illness or telling falsehoods to avoid taking an exam at the scheduled time.
- Claiming falsely that you took an exam at the scheduled time
- Storing, receiving, and/or accessing course subject matter in a calculator, pager, cellular telephone, computer, or other electronic device that can be used during an exam period without instructor authorization.
- Utilizing a calculator or other learning aid not expressly allowed by the instructor.
- Obtaining assistance in answering questions on a take-home exam, when such action is prohibited.
- Attempting to bias an instructor’s grading after an exam.
- Using bribery or threats to obtain an undeserved grade.
- Changing an answer on a graded test and claiming the student’s response to the question was incorrectly marked wrong.
- Copying the work of other students in whole or in part and submitting it as your own.
- Submitting a report purchased from a commercial service or downloaded from the Internet.
- Hiring a ghost writer to compose a paper.
- Claiming an assigned share or team report, toward which insufficient or no contribution was made.
- Lying about the reason for not submitting work on time.
- Stealing another’s work and submitting it as one’s own.
- Submitting the same paper to two or more different instructors for credit in their courses without their prior permission.

- Inventing, falsifying, or altering data for a research laboratory experiment.
- Depending on others to complete assignments or homework when instructors have required independent work.
- Sabotaging someone else's work.
- Destroying or altering library material to prevent others from using the material.
- Helping others to accomplish any of the above.
- Other similar activities.

Examples of Plagiarism

The following examples of plagiarism are intended to be representative, but not all inclusive:

- Failing to give credit via footnotes or in-text citations for ideas and concepts, data and information, statements and phrases, and/or interpretations and conclusions derived by another.
- Failing to use quotation marks when quoting directly from another, whether it be a paragraph, a sentence, or any part thereof.
- Minimally paraphrasing the expressions or thoughts of others without appropriate quotation marks or attributions.
- Assembling parts from various works and submitting the synthesis or single paper as your own creation.
- Including references in the bibliography that were not used.
- Falsely citing bibliographic references.
- Other similar activities.

Tuition and Fees



Mississippi Valley State University is supported chiefly by legislative appropriations. Increases in student fees are put into effect only when public support funds are inadequate and no other recourse is available. Increases are made only for support of the institution or improvement of the activity program of the students; therefore, the University must reserve the right to increase or modify fees and expenses without prior notice, but with approval of the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning.

It is difficult to indicate the specific cost of attending the University because of the differences in personal spending habits. However, the information in this section will be helpful. The Office of Fiscal and Administrative Affairs is responsible for administering all business affairs of Mississippi Valley State University; supporting the educational activities; serving the students, faculty, staff and administration; and protecting all University assets. Inquiries should be directed to the Office of Fiscal Affairs, 14000 Highway 82 West, #7265, Itta Bena, MS 38941-1400; 662-254-3301 or 662-254-3300; Fax: 662-254-7575.

Fee Schedule

Graduate Student (*per semester*)

Tuition & Required Fees	\$285.29/hour
Out-of-State Fee (Graduate)	\$387.30/hour
Room & Board	\$2768.50

Summer School

Tuition & Required Fees	\$285.29/hour
Room & Board	\$865.15 per session
Out-of-State Fees	\$387.30/hour

Special Fees

Check Cashing	\$1.00 per check
On-Line Course	\$285.29/hour
Short Course	\$285.29/hour
Bad Check Charge	\$40.00 per check
Late Registration	\$100.00
Orientation Fee (Non Refundable)	\$75.00
Transcript	\$7.50
Faxed Transcript	\$15.00 per transaction
Housing Application Fee (Non Refundable)	\$50.00
Processing Fee	\$65.00
Single Room Charge	\$685.00
Duplicate ID Card	\$20.00
Student Decal	\$20.00
Deferment Fee**	\$50.00
Overload Charge	
20 Undergraduate credit hours	\$199.21/hour
10 Graduate credit hours	\$285.29/hour

***This fee will be charged to any student who, at the time of registration does not pay his/her prior year account balance in full. Award letters will be accepted as payment. Award letters with College Work Study and Plus Loan will not be accepted. The deferment fee must be paid prior to registration. THIS FEE CANNOT BE DEFERRED. (See University Deferment Policy.)*

Cancellation Policy

Cancellation of tuition and required fees will be made after official withdrawal forms are filed as outlined below.

Fall/Spring Percentage of Tuition and Semesters Fees to be cancelled

Prior to and through the first 2 class days	100%
During the first 14 class days	75%
During the first 15-21 class days	50%
During the first 22-28 class days	25%
Withdrawal after the 28th class day	NO CANCELLATION

Summer Sessions

Prior to and through the first 2 class days	100%
During class days 3, 4, and 5 of session	75%
Withdrawal after 5th class day	NO CANCELLATION

Cancellation of Room and Board fees will be based on the date the student leaves a dormitory and files a Dormitory Release Form with the Fiscal Affairs Office. No cancellation of Room and Board Fees will be given after the 42nd class day of the Fall and Spring Semesters. After the 5th class day of the First and Second Summer Sessions, no cancellation of Room and Board will be given. Cancellations will not be

made for a temporary absence from the residence hall.

NOTE: *Students who pre-register and do not return for classes should complete official withdrawal forms. The withdrawal forms must be processed by the Office of Student Records to become official.*

Payments

Students who have been awarded any type of financial aid (loan, work-study or scholarship) must have an award letter.

Payments are to be made by Postal Money Order or Certified Check payable to Mississippi Valley State University. **DO NOT send CASH in the MAIL. Personal CHECKS will be accepted only if they clear the telecheck process.**

Non-resident students--All students classified as non-residents of the state of Mississippi will pay an out-of-state fee of \$3,570.96 (Undergraduate) per semester and \$387.30 per hour (Graduate). .

Books and supplies are purchased from the University Bookstore and the costs are not part of the fees stated in this announcement. All purchases at the Bookstore are cash purchases if a bookstore charge is not granted to the student. Students should estimate \$1,000.00 per semester for books and supplies.

Mass Transit Service--Daily transportation is available to students commuting from several communities. For information, contact *Mississippi Valley State University Mass Transit Program at 662.254.3348.*

All student charges for tuition, room, board and other fees must be paid in full at registration. The following sources will be accepted as cash payment:

- Pell Grants
- Educational Opportunity Grants
- LEAP
- Scholarships and Grants
- Service Grants-in-Aid
- Cash
- Visa and MasterCard
- Discover Card
- Mississippi Resident Tuition Assistance Grant (MTAG)
- American Express Card
- FLEP Stafford and FLEP Unsubsidized Loans

College Work Study awards will not be considered as payment on a student's account until earned and a Work-Study check has been issued to the student.

Federal Loans are first applied to the student's account-balance due and the excess

above the amount owed will be refunded to the student.

All requests for refunds will be granted according to the refund schedule.

Student Identification Cards

The MVSU Student I.D. Card, validated for the current registration period, must be presented each time a student requires service in the Fiscal Affairs Office. The first I.D. is issued free of charge. A lost I.D. card may be replaced at a cost of \$20.00.

University Deferment Policy

A deferment fee of \$50.00 will be charged to any student who, at the time of registration, does not pay his/her account in full. (This includes current charges and past due amounts.) Award letters will be accepted as payment. Deferments will be granted within the guidelines listed below. *Deferment fees must be paid at registration. No exceptions.*

Deferment Guidelines

- (1) **Boarding and Non-Boarding** students should pay full semester fees including past due amounts at the time of registration.
- (2) **Resident Non-Boarding** students with zero balances and no evidence of financial aid at registration must pay a minimum of \$868.37 to complete registration at the University. A deferment fee will be charged. Payment arrangements will be documented for the balance.
- (3) **Resident Boarding** students with zero balances and no evidence of financial aid at registration must pay a minimum of \$2,252.62 to complete registration at the University. A deferment fee will be charged. Payment arrangements will be documented for the balance.
- (4) **Boarding Non-Resident** students with zero balances and no evidence of financial aid at registration must pay a minimum of \$3,414.52 to complete registration at the University. A deferment fee will be charged. Payment arrangements will be documented for the balance.
- (5) **Non-Boarding Out-of-State** students with zero balances and no evidence of financial aid at registration must pay a minimum of \$2,030.27 to complete registration at the University. A deferment fee will be charged. Payment arrangements will be documented for the balance.
- (6) Students receiving financial aid from the University should pay any differences in total semester charges plus past due amounts and the amount of financial aid at the time of registration. The Vice President for Fiscal and Administrative Affairs (VPFAA) may defer a portion of this difference based on conference with the student. In each instance, a deferment fee will be charged.

(7) Students who do not qualify for financial aid must pay according to the following installment plan.

Fall Semester	Resident Boarding	Resident Non-Boarding	Nonresident Boarding	Nonresident Non-Boarding
Due at Registration	\$2,252.62	\$ 868.37	\$2,030.27	\$3,414.52
Due End of September	1,126.31	434.19	1,015.14	1,707.26
Due End of October	1,126.31	434.19	1,015.14	1,707.26
	4,505.24	1,736.74	4,060.54	6,829.04

Spring Semester	Resident Boarding	Resident Non-Boarding	Nonresident Boarding	Nonresident Non-Boarding
Due at Registration	\$2,252.62	\$ 868.37	\$2,030.27	\$3,414.52
Due End of February	1,126.31	434.19	1,015.14	1,707.26
Due End of March	1,126.31	434.19	1,015.14	1,707.26
	4,505.24	1,736.74	4,060.54	6,829.04

(8) All students receiving deferments must have a conference with the Vice President for Fiscal and Administrative Affairs (VPFAA). The VPFAA may make payment arrangements outside of these guidelines based on information provided by the student with proper documentation to the student’s file.

Business & Finance Business Hours

Cashier	Monday-Friday: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Accounting	Monday-Friday: 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Financial Aid Programs

The Office of Financial Aid at Mississippi Valley State University coordinates all financial assistance offered to students. The purpose of the financial-aid program is to provide financial assistance to students who, without such aid, would be unable to attend the University. **Federal financial aid programs for the graduate program fall into one of four categories; loans, work-study, graduate assistantship, and graduate diversity scholarship.**

Loans

Loans are borrowed money that must be repaid with interest. The types of loans available are:

1. **Federal Family Educational Loan Program (FFELP) and Federal Stafford Loans** (subsidized and unsubsidized) are low-interest loans made by the Federal Government to students enrolled at least half time. The Federal Stafford Subsidized Loan is based on financial need, but the Federal Stafford Unsubsidized Loan is not based upon need. The Federal Stafford Subsidized and Unsubsidized Loans combined cannot exceed loan maximums set by the Department of Education per academic year. The loans are \$ 2,625 for a first-year student; \$3,500 for a second-year student; \$5,500 for a third-or-fourth- year student; and \$8,500 for a graduate student. In addition to the above maximums, an independent student may apply for the following Unsubsidized Loan: \$4,000 a year for freshmen or sophomores; \$5,000 a year for juniors and seniors; and \$10,000 a year for graduate students.

Student Loan Entrance and Exit Interviews are required for all loan borrowers. Students may contact the Office of Student Financial Aid for additional information. All students must attend the loan entrance interview prior to obtaining a loan and must attend an exit loan interview as a part of clearance before graduation. See the Student Financial Aid Office for additional information.

2. The **Graduate Plus Loan** is the Direct Graduate PLUS Loan available to Graduate students. Graduate Students are eligible to apply for the Direct Graduate Plus Loan. Please note that only the (Graduate) student is eligible to be the borrower for this loan.

Eligibility for Student Loans

- The student must be enrolled at least halftime in a graduate degree program.
- The student must have completed and submitted a FAFSA for the appropriate year.
- The student must have applied for the maximum annual Federal Stafford Loan (subsidized and unsubsidized).
- The student must complete and pass a credit check with the lender.

Annual Limit

The student may borrow the Cost of Attendance minus Other Financial Aid (including the maximum Federal Subsidized and Unsubsidized Stafford Loan) received during the loan period.

Interest Rate

The interest rate will be fixed at 8.5%; however, some lenders offer lower rates.

Fees

A 3% origination fee is charged. Some guarantors charge a 1% default fee.

Repayment

Repayment begins within 60 days after the final disbursement of each loan. In-school deferments are available to eligible students

Standard of Satisfactory Academic Progress

To be eligible for Title IV aid, a student must maintain satisfactory academic progress (SAP). The MVSU SAP policy for Title IV students is the same as or stricter than the school's standards for students enrolled in the same educational program who are not receiving Title IV aid. The Title IV SAP policy is reviewed and evaluated annually at the end of the spring semester. MVSU Financial Aid Office's policy and a procedure for measuring the academic progress of its students is defined in Section 11.6 of the MVSU Financial Aid Policies and Procedures Manual.

The qualitative measure (grades) is very similar to the Academic Progress standard applied to all MVSU students. However, it is important to note that the Satisfactory Academic Policy is administered by the Office of Student Financial Aid and is separate from the University's Academic standards. The quantitative measure (number of credit hours successfully completed) is used to monitor progress toward degree completion. When these measures are applied, federal regulations require that the student's entire academic history is considered. This includes semesters or terms during which the student did not receive student financial aid. In response to requirements governing these programs, the University has developed this policy to monitor academic progress.

Purpose

The intent of this policy is to (1) ensure that students using financial aid programs are demonstrating responsible use of public funds in pursuit of their educational goals; and (2) set standards for monitoring all financial aid recipients' course completion rates each year, warning individual students when progress is so slow that financial aid eligibility may run out before completion of the degree program.

Mississippi Valley State University (MVSU) is mandated by federal regulations to determine and enforce standards of Satisfactory Academic Progress as it relates to your eligibility to receive federal aid funds including grants, loans, and work-study. The guidelines are established to encourage students to successfully complete courses for which aid is received. Students who are not successfully completing courses are

not considered to be making satisfactory academic progress, and therefore are not eligible to receive financial aid. These regulations apply to all Title IV programs.

Definitions

1. **Attempted course** - A course which remains on the student's record after the first fourteen days of the term.
2. **Completed course/earned credit** - A course in which a grade of A, B, C, D, or P was received. (Note: Withdrawal (W), no credits, blank grades, incomplete grades (I), audits (AU), and failures (F) are not considered "earned credit" for meeting progress requirements).
3. **Financial aid** - the Federal Title IV programs and state and institutional programs listed.
 - Federal Pell Grant
 - Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant
 - Federal Work Study
 - Federal Stafford Loan (subsidized and unsubsidized)
 - Federal PLUS Loan
 - Graduate PLUS Loan
 - Mississippi Tuition Assistance Grant (MTAG)
 - MVSU Grant Programs
 - MVSU Foundation Programs
 - MVSU Scholarships
 - State of Mississippi Grant, Loan, and/or Scholarship Programs
 - MVSU Out-of State Fee-Waiver
4. **Financial aid probation** - A term in which a student who has been identified as not meeting one or more standards in this policy and continues to receive financial aid. At the end of the term of financial aid probation, a student is expected to meet satisfactory academic progress requirements in order to continue receiving financial aid.
5. **Financial aid termination** - The point at which a student is no longer eligible to receive financial aid as defined in this policy; normally, this is following an unsuccessful term of probation.
6. **Incomplete** - A grade of "I" received for an attempted course; no credit until the course is completed.
7. **Maximum timeframe** - Time limit set for receipt of financial aid that is specific to a student's program of study. For undergraduate programs, federal law defines this limit as 150% of normal program requirement. This University policy sets specific timeframes for various programs of undergraduate and graduate study.

8. **Quantitative measure** -time frame for the student to complete the program and a minimum number of credits the student must satisfactorily complete each year. The Office of Student Financial Aid will review the academic records at the end of each year (term if student is on probation).
9. **Qualitative**- measurement of a student's academic standing consistent with the requirement for graduation from their program of study. It is required that students who have attended for a period of two academic years of undergraduate study maintain a 2.0 cumulative grade point average.
10. **Satisfactory Academic Progress/satisfactory progress** - Completion of courses at a rate which meets the standards defined in this policy.
11. **Transfer credit** - Course accepted for credit at MVSU from another institution.

Authority

The Higher Education Act of 1965 as amended and final regulations set by the United States Department of Education (34CFR668.16) require that institutions of higher education establish reasonable standards of satisfactory academic progress as a condition of continuing eligibility for federal aid programs. Nothing in this policy shall be construed as an exemption from the requirements of any other federal or state agency, or other granting or governing authority that apply to a student or to the financial assistance the student receives, nor does this policy limit the authority of the Director of Financial Aid when taking responsible action to eliminate fraud or abuse in these programs.

Programs Governed by this Policy

The Federal Pell Grant, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant, Federal Perkins Loan, Federal Direct and Stafford Loans (includes Federal PLUS loans and Grad PLUS Loans), Federal Work Study Program are governed by this policy.

Satisfactory Progress Standards

To encourage the completion of degree/certificate programs within a reasonable time frame and to comply with federal and state requirements, financial aid recipients attending Mississippi Valley State University (MVSU) must maintain satisfactory academic progress as a condition for receiving financial aid.

Satisfactory academic progress requires financial aid recipients to do the following:

- Meet minimum cumulative grade point averages;
- Earn credit for a reasonable number of credit hours towards a degree or certificate each term;
- Graduate prior to the maximum time frame specific to their degree program;
- Maintain academic standing, usually a specific term and cumulative grade point average, consistent with MVSU academic policy;

**Credit Hours
Attempted**

Maintaining Progress

**Financial Aid
Suspended**

Graduate

Master's Degree

3.00 or greater

0.00 - 2.99

Satisfactorily complete at least 67% of cumulative credit hours attempted as explained below; and complete courses at an overall rate which will, once again ensure graduation within the maximum time frame.

Minimum Cumulative Grade Point Average

Financial aid recipients who do not meet these conditions will lose their financial aid eligibility. Also and unless otherwise stated, a student's entire academic history (including transfer hours) is considered for purposes of this policy regardless of whether or not the student received financial aid at the time the credit hours were completed.

Cumulative Grade Point Average used for purposes of this policy is calculated by Mississippi Valley State University in accordance with established policy and procedure.

Overall Completion Rate

Completion rates reflect the rate at which students earn credit for courses attempted (e.g., a student earning credit for nine of twelve attempted hours would have a 75% completion rate). A student must maintain a standard rate of completion of 67% as he or she moves through the degree program in order to graduate within the maximum time frame. The fourteenth day class listing is used to determine a student's attempted hours.

1. Minimum completion within a term - A financial aid recipient is to earn credit for at least 67% of all courses attempted per term. A student who receives financial aid but does not earn credit for any courses within a term is not eligible to receive financial aid in subsequent terms. If mitigating circumstances were responsible for zero course completion within a term, a student may appeal and be granted a term of financial aid probation if adequate documentation is provided (e.g., a doctor's statement).

2. Incomplete grades - Students receiving excessive incomplete or "I" grades in their courses may not be progressing satisfactorily. Consequently, a student who has six or more hours of incompletes in mid-term, and has not achieved the minimum 67% will be placed on financial aid probation for the next term of attendance. In addition, the student is expected to complete the courses with "I" grades by the end of that term. If the student has six or more hours of incompletes at the end of the term and has not achieved the minimum 67%, the student must appeal for reinstatement of financial aid.

3. Grade point average/suspension - Students must meet the University's policy on scholastic standing, grades, and grade point average as defined in the appropriate catalog. A student who is on scholastic suspension has not maintained acceptable academic progress. The Office of Student Financial Aid will initially stop that student from receiving financial aid in any subsequent term. If readmitted or reinstated, the student must appeal to receive financial aid.

Minimum Cumulative Credit Hours Completion

Financial aid recipients must satisfactorily complete at least 67% of cumulative credit hours attempted. Grades of A, B, C, D, or P are considered satisfactory. All other grades such as F, W, or I are considered unsatisfactory.

A student who is unable to complete his or her degree program within this timeline may appeal for an additional term of financial aid eligibility in order to complete the degree program. Appeals for an additional term of financial aid eligibility cannot be granted in excess of 150% of program requirement.

Termination of Financial Aid

Students who completely withdraw or drop below half-time status for any semester (fall or spring) after the 14th day of class will automatically have their financial aid terminated for the following semester. The students may appeal the following semester for consideration of future aid.

Ineligible Students

Graduate students must have a degree objective and be officially admitted into a Graduate program. Students who have been counseled regarding acceptance into a graduate program and are enrolled in required prerequisites but are not yet classified as a graduate student may receive a Stafford loan for one year only based on undergraduate loan limits.

Winter session and Summer Session

Students (both undergraduate and graduate) who are deficient in credit hours or Grade Point Average at the end of the Spring Semester may make up the deficiencies during the winter session and/or Summer sessions. *Note: A student may lose financial aid eligibility if the student fails to attain academic progress during the Winter session and/or Summer sessions.*

Monitoring Intervals

Satisfactory academic progress shall be monitored annually at the conclusion of each spring semester or at the time the student is applying for financial aid if a current satisfactory progress assessment is not available. If a student is academically suspended between monitoring periods, the student's eligibility for financial aid will also be suspended and must be reassessed at the time the student is readmitted to the University. Satisfactory Academic Progress for students attending Summer session will be monitored at the conclusion of the Summer session.

Students who have an approved appeal will be monitored annually until the cumulative and qualitative measures are met for the classification. A student must meet at least 67% of the attempted hours per semester with the minimum Grade Point Average in order to continue probation without appealing. At status letter will be issued in mid year on progress. If the student fails to achieve the stated requirements of eligibility at the end of the academic year, eligibility will be immediately terminated for the following semester. The student may appeal for reinstatement aid.

Notification of Financial Aid Probation or Termination

The Office of Student Financial Aid will advise each student with regard to a change in eligibility status with regard to qualifying for Federal Student Assistance or University grants or scholarships, or other financial assistance. All MVSU students must maintain their current local street address and/or personal e-mail address with the Office of the Registrar/Student Records.

In order to maintain eligibility for Federal Student Assistance (Title IV), a graduate student must maintain a 3.0 Grade Point Average (GPA). A student whose GPA falls below a 3.0 will be placed on academic and financial aid probation at the end of the Spring semester of his/her first year of academic study. A graduate student on probation may continue to receive federal financial aid for nine (9) semester hours while making satisfactory progress toward achieving the required cumulative 3.0 GPA during the period of his/her probation.

Any student who fails to achieve a cumulative 3.0 GPA by the end of his/her probationary period shall lose eligibility for all Federal Student Assistance Programs. Any MVSU student who believes that their financial aid has been mistakenly or unjustly terminated or who may have "exceptional circumstances" justifying review of their situation, or reinstatement of that aid may appeal their termination decision by following the procedures set forth below.

Appeals

Students who have been denied financial aid based on the University's Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy (SAP) has the right to appeal that decision to the MVSU Financial Aid Appeals Committee. In order to file an appeal, a student must: (1) Present a letter explaining the details of the situation that justify or explain why financial aid to the student should not be terminated; (2) Complete the Financial Aid Eligibility Appeal Form; and (3) Provide all requested documentation supporting the basis for the appeal. Failure to provide each of these required items will prevent an appeal from being considered by the Financial Aid Appeals Committee.

A student's financial aid is withdrawn or terminated due to failure to meet the U.S. Department of Education/Federal Government's and the University's academic progress standards for the continued receipt of Federal Student Aid, University grants and scholarships, and state assistance. The University's minimum requirement and the Federal regulatory standard (34 CFR 668.34) are the same. MVSU has limited authority under the Federal regulations to make exceptions to the minimum

requirement, in individual cases, if the student can demonstrate that his or her failure to meet the minimum standard was due to certain specific circumstances, i.e. death in the immediate family, serious illness of the student or a close relative, or other exceptional or unusual circumstance that was beyond the student's control.

Any student who wishes to appeal his or her suspension of financial aid should carefully answer and complete each of the questions or blanks on the MVSU Financial Aid Eligibility Appeals Form. A successful appeal must include correct answers to each question and each request for documentation of the circumstances justifying your appeal. Please write legibly, or type/print your answers on the Form, and the letter that accompanies the Form. The student must provide evidence of exceptional or extraordinary circumstances that negatively affected the student's academic performance during the previous academic period during which the student failed to make satisfactory academic progress. Minor interferences or events and undocumented statements will not be credited by the Appeals Committee.

Financial Aid Eligibility Appeal Forms may be obtained from the MVSU Office of Financial Aid. A letter of appeal, the completed MVSU Financial Aid Eligibility Appeal Form, and all required documentation must be returned to the Director, Office of Financial Aid – by certified mail, return receipt requested – within forty-five (45) days from the date of the letter notifying the student of the termination of his/her aid eligibility. The Financial Aid Appeals Committee will review the student's situation described in the Letter of Appeal, the information on the Appeals Form, and the documentation provided to the Committee. The Appeals Committee shall document each decision in writing.

The Office of Financial Aid will advise the student of the final decision in writing. If the student wishes the office to communicate those results via e-mail, the student should include his or her personal e-mail address in the Letter of Appeal or on the Appeal Form. If the student's appeal is successful, the student will be placed on financial aid probation until he/she achieves a cumulative 3.0 GPA on the required nine (9) semester hours consistent with the decision of the Director of Financial Aid, based on the recommendation of the Financial Aid Appeals Committee and the Office of Graduate Studies.

Amendment to the Policy

This policy will be amended whenever applicable federal or state laws and regulations are changed.

Work-Study

Work-study lets the student work and earn money to help pay for school. Work may be in the form of Federal Work-Study (FWS) or University Work-Aid (UWA).

The Federal Work-Study (FWS) program provides part-time jobs for students who have great financial need and who must earn a part of their educational expenses. The federal government provides funds to educational institutions that in turn have

jobs available for students. At Mississippi Valley State University, students work in a variety of offices and departments with their work schedules built around their academic schedules. The amount of the FWS award depends on the student's financial need and the amount of money the school has been allocated for the program. In arranging a job and assigning a work schedule, the financial aid officer will consider the students' class schedule, health, and the skills needed to perform the assigned duties. The salary received will be based on current minimum wages. The students will be allowed to work up to twenty hours per week unless otherwise indicated. The total amount of aid awarded from federal and non-federal sources cannot exceed the student's financial need as determined by the Student Aid Report. The students will receive a check at the end of each month. It is the student's responsibility to report to the Financial Aid Office to see if they qualify. If approved, the students will be given an Eligibility for Employment application to be signed by the employer. The students must then return the form to the Financial Aid Office in order for their names to be placed on the student payroll.

The University Work-Aid program provides jobs for those students who are unable to qualify for the Federal Work-Study program. Mississippi Valley State University students are employed in a variety of University offices and departments with their work schedules built around their academic schedules. In order to qualify, students must be ineligible for Federal Work-Study, enrolled full-time, and maintain a grade point average of at least 2.00. The rate of pay will be the current minimum wage, and the student will be allowed to work up to 20 hours per week unless otherwise indicated. The students will receive a check at the end of month. The criteria for determining student's eligibility for aid under this program are:

- Financial need;
- A high school diploma or a General Education Development (GED) certificate;
- Enrollment as a regular student in an eligible program;
- U.S. citizenship or eligible non-citizen;
- Social security number;
- Satisfactory academic progress; and
- Registration with Selective Service, if required.

Graduate Assistantships

A limited number of graduate assistantships is available to qualified full-time students who have an overall undergraduate grade point average 3.00 or better, and who have been admitted to a graduate-degree program at Mississippi Valley State University. Grants are normally awarded for the academic year. Graduate assistants must maintain a 3.00 GPA and agree to work for a minimum of 20 hours per week. Although awards and assignments are made by the graduate dean, they are done with departmental or college approval. Only students unconditionally admitted are eligible. Applications are available in the Graduate Office.

Graduate Diversity Scholarships

Mississippi Valley State University subscribes to the policy of equal educational opportunity for all students without regard to race, creed or color. A limited number of scholarships is available to other race students who are admitted to the Graduate College. Awards are made based on undergraduate GPA. An applicant for the Graduate Diversity Scholarship must have an undergraduate grade point average of 3.00 or better on a 4.00 scale.

A Graduate Diversity Scholarship pays tuition and fees for courses and programs pursued on Mississippi Valley State University's main campus in Itta Bena, MS.

Applications for the scholarships may be obtained by contacting the Graduate College at 662-254-3051.

Office of Graduate Studies
Graduate Degree Programs

Department of Business Education

Master of Business Administration

Department of Criminal Justice

Master of Science in Criminal Justice

Department of Education

Master of Arts in Teaching

Master of Science in Elementary Education

Master of Science in Special Education

Department of Natural Science and Environmental Health

Master of Science in Bioinformatics

Master of Science in Environmental Health

Department of Social Sciences

Master of Arts in Rural Public Policy and Planning

Department of Social Work

Master of Social Work

Master of Business Administration



Purpose of the Program

The MBA Program will provide an opportunity to pursue an advanced management education for employees in the mid-delta region who have a strong desire for advanced degrees, but jobs and family responsibilities prevent them from traveling a long distance and also for those employees in the public and private sector who need advanced management skills.

The MBA Program at MVSU is modeled to reflect real-work business environments and conditions which require the integration of sound business and management practices, technological innovation, entrepreneurial vision, and effective human resource utilization, in both Domestic and International Business.

PROGRAM GOALS

The goals of the Department of Business Administration are to prepare students to be:

1. Articulate with business communication skills required in business situations and challenges, including non-verbal, written, and all forms of oral communication;
2. Familiar with and able to utilize an international perspective when examining business issues. That is, graduates will be able to meet both the personal and professional challenges in the culturally diverse global community. Students will understand the cultural diversity and the global interdependency that must be considered when contemplating the various aspects of international business including national and international policies (political environment), economics, trade factors (economic environment), ethics, cultural, and ethnic differences (social environment);

3. Computer literate; that is, have an understanding of the concepts, terminology, and operations related to general computer use and have the knowledge and ability to use computers and technology efficiently and effectively to research, prepare, and publish documents; research, prepare, and deliver presentations, charts, graphs, and illustrations. Graduates will have the essential knowledge needed to function independently with a computer, including solving problems, adapting to new situations, keeping information organized, and communicating effectively with other computer literate people;
4. Familiar with and able to utilize a range of theories and theoretical concepts related to core areas of business that are used and useful in today's business environment, including communication theories, business models, economic theory, accounting theory, marketing theory, management theory, among others; and
5. Familiar with and have the entrepreneurial mindset to be able to effectively and efficiently engage in business practices within the mid-Delta region in particular and across the country in general.

Regular Admission

Procedure:

The MBA Program welcomes students with undergraduate degrees in any discipline. Applicants to the MBA Program must submit the following:

- A complete application form for the MVSU MBA Program certified transcripts of collegiate work.
- Official scores on the Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT) or GRE must be submitted to the Department of Business Administration.
- Three letters of recommendation.
- For international students, scores from the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL).
- A written personal statement of career objective and how a MBA Program will aid in achieving the objective, is highly recommended for all applicants, especially applicants who have either a marginal GMAT test score or a marginal grade-point average.

Requirements:

(A) Admission as a degree-seeking student

In order to be admitted as a full degree seeking student, the applicant must meet one of the following two criteria:

1. A composite score of a total of 800 points using the formula: (Overall GPA x

200) +GMAT score.

2. A composite score of a total of 1,000, using the formula: (GPA in the last 60 semester hours attempted x 200) + GMAT score.

Applicants should note that an admission decision cannot be made unless official copies of both transcripts and GMAT scores have been received by the Office of Graduate Admissions. GMAT scores over 5 years old are not acceptable.

Students who are marginally below either of the above stated standards may request “conditional admission” by writing to the Director of the MBA Program. Such appeals will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the Graduate Admissions Committee.

(B) Admission as a Non-degree seeking student

Applicants who have met the undergraduate foundation CPC requirements and have not taken the GMAT, but who have either a 2.80 overall GPA or 3.00 GPA in the last 60 hours of academic work attempted may be accepted on a non-degree-seeking basis. In this case, the student may take no more than six hours of graduate work and will be required to submit his/her GMAT score to the Graduate Admission Office during the first semester following acceptance as a non-degree-seeking student. Acceptance as a non-degree-seeking student does not assure acceptance into the MBA Program, regardless of the course grade received. Once the GMAT score has been received, the student’s admission status will be re-evaluated. If at that time the student meets the criteria for acceptance, the student’s status will be changed to degree-seeking or the student will be rejected.

(C) Post Baccalaureate Students

Students who have received baccalaureate degrees, but have not been admitted to Graduate Studies are classified as post baccalaureate students. Post baccalaureate enrollment is offered to accommodate students who intend to enter Graduate studies at some future time, but need a substantial number of prerequisite or foundation courses.

The Graduate Management Admissions Test (GMAT)

The GMAT score must be received directly from the Educational Testing Service in Princeton, NJ. Applicants should make arrangements to take the test in sufficient time to insure that test results are received by the Office of Graduate Admissions prior to the application deadlines.

Information about the GMAT may be obtained by writing: Graduate Management Admissions Test, Educational Testing Service, Princeton, NJ 08541-6103.

Degree Requirements:

1. For those students who have a business degree and have met all CPC requirements, the following graduate credit hours constitute the requirements for a BA degree.
2. Earn a cumulative grade point average of not less than 3.00.
3. Earn a grade of “B” or better in courses approved for graduate credit.

Common Professional Component

Required Courses

MBA 601	Managerial Communications	3 hrs
MBA 602	Managerial Economics	3 hrs
MBA 620	Organizational Behavior and Leadership	3 hrs
MBA 622	Managerial Accounting Analyses	3 hrs
MBA 628	Statistical & Quantitative Methods for Management Decisions	3 hrs
MBA 634	Marketing Management	3 hrs
MBA 624	Financial Management	3 hrs
MBA 632	Globalization & New Global Economy	3 hrs
MBA 644	Small Business & Entrepreneurship	3 hrs
MBA 652	Business Law, Ethics & Dispute Resolution	3 hrs
MBA 655	Strategic Management	3 hrs
MBA 660	Independent Research	3 hrs
TOTAL		36 hrs

The MBA Program welcomes students with an undergraduate degree in any discipline. However, if a student has a non-business degree and lacks all or part of the course work for the foundation courses, the student needs to take all or part of the following courses prior to taking MBA 600 level courses.

Foundation Courses:

AC 221	Principles of Accounting	3 hrs
BA 212	Principles of Economics II	3 hrs
BA 322	Business Finance	3 hrs
BA 314	Management	3 hrs
BA 205	Business Statistics	3 hrs
BA 343	Principles of Marketing	3 hrs
TOTAL		18 hrs

GENERAL INFORMATION

Advisement

Each student will be assigned a faculty advisor upon the admission to the MBA Program. The student will meet the faculty advisor for course selection and receive approval of courses to be taken for the degree. Consultation on all academic matters should begin with the faculty advisor. Each student is expected to learn all rules, regulations, procedures published in this bulletin, and in departmental publications. Failure to do so may result in unnecessary delay in the student's study progression and thus, his/her graduation.

Admission to Candidacy

When a student completes 30 credit hours of MBA 600 level courses, a student must apply, in writing, for admission to candidacy for the Master of Business Administration.

Academic Grades

The following grades are used in the graduate program: A, B, C, D, F, I (Incomplete), or W (Withdrawal). Students in the MBA Program must earn an overall average of “B” or higher in all graduate work toward the degree. Two “C’s” and one “D” or “F” grade will result in an automatic withdrawal from the MBA Program. Students withdrawn from the program may re-apply after one year of self-development. Any student withdrawn twice shall no longer be accepted into the program.

Class Absences

Students in the MBA Program are expected to attend all regular class meetings. In case a student can not make the classes, the student should inform the instructor prior to the class time. Authorized absences do not relieve the student of his/her class responsibilities such as assignments and tests.

Load Limit

The normal load for a full-time student is nine semester hours during a regular semester and six semester hours per summer session. The recommended load for persons with a full time employment is six semester hours during a regular semester.

Time Limit

The degree must be completed within four calendar years from the time of initial enrollment in the graduate program.

Transfer of Credit

A maximum of six semester hours of graduate credit successfully completed in a graduate school of acceptable standing may be accepted toward fulfillment of the course requirements for the MBA degree provided the following conditions are met:

- A grade of “B” or better has been earned in the courses for which graduate credit is being sought.
- The credit has been earned within five years from the time that the student enrolled in the MBA program.
- The credit to be transferred must be recommended by the MBA Program Director and approved by the Dean.

Exit Examination

MBA graduates will be required to take the Student Learning Outcomes Assessment as an exit examination which is designed exclusively to measure the level of competency in the business management core areas to determine the extent to which the intended program learning objectives have been achieved. The result of this exit examination will be the basis for the quality improvement on a continual basis.

Research Project

All degree candidates are required to conduct a scholarly research deploying contemporary scientific methodology appropriate to the functional areas of business. Students will select a topic of their interest, product and/or region with consultation with the instructor. The major thrust of the research is to apply the methodology and concepts of strategic management. Students must write a research paper, as well as, make a presentation in the class.

Master of Science in Criminal Justice



Purpose of the Program

The Master of Science in Criminal Justice prepares graduate students for entry/supervisory level positions in the criminal justice field, including preparation for doctoral studies. The Master's program offers two curricula options: a "concentration option" of 36 semester credit hours and a "generalist option" of 36 semester credit hours. The "concentration option" is designed for students with determined areas of interest such as criminology, law enforcement, corrections, or criminal justice administration. The "generalist option" is designed for students with no particular chosen area of interest and is thus prepared generally to fit into any area of the criminal justice system. The Master's program is open to bachelor's degree holders in criminal justice or in other academic disciplines from accredited universities.

Admission

An applicant may be granted a regular or conditional admission to the Master of Science program in Criminal Justice.

Regular Admission

Requirements for regular admission are:

1. The applicant must hold a baccalaureate degree from an institution approved by a recognized accrediting agency.
2. The applicant must be eligible to re-enter, in good standing, the last college or university attended.
3. The applicant must provide evidence, by official transcript, of a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.50 for all undergraduate work, or a 3.00 GPA in at least six hours of graduate work from an accredited university or college.
4. The applicant must present official GRE scores (verbal and quantitative

section only). The GRE requirement serves as one of the criteria required for admission.

5. The applicant must submit three letters from persons familiar with the applicant's fitness for graduate studies.
6. The applicant must complete an application for admission.

Conditional Admission

Conditional admission may be granted to applicants who do not meet the GPA requirement for admission, or do not possess acceptable GRE test scores. However, the conditional status may be removed if the student maintains a GPA of 3.00 or better in the first 12 credit hours of completed graduate work.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Advisement

When accepted into the Master of Science program in Criminal Justice, each student will be assigned to an advisor who must be a graduate faculty. The advisor will be responsible for advising the student on courses to take to meet the program requirements. It is, however, the student's responsibility to meet all requirements, including meeting with his or her advisor regularly.

Admission to Candidacy

A student must apply, in writing, for admission to candidacy for the Master's Degree in Criminal Justice by filing the proper application forms through his/her advisor to the graduate program coordinator. Students are to apply for candidacy at least one semester before the degree is conferred, or in some cases, the same semester in which the degree is awarded.

Academic Grades

The following grades are used in the graduate program: A, B, C, D, F, I (Incomplete), or W (Withdrawal). A candidate of the Master of Science Degree in Criminal Justice must earn an overall average of "B" or higher in all graduate work toward the degree. Two "C's", or one "D", or one grade of "F", will result in an automatic withdrawal from the program. Students withdrawn from the program may re-apply after one year of self-development. A student withdrawn twice shall no longer be accepted to the program.

Choice of Concentration

Students under the Concentration Curriculum Option must declare their area of concentration within the first or second semester and promptly inform their respective advisors and the graduate program coordinator. Students wishing to pursue the Generalist Curriculum Option must also declare their interest likewise.

Class Absences

There is no provision for absences from classes. Graduate students are expected to attend all regular class meetings.

Comprehensive Exam

A written comprehensive examination will be administered to all candidates for the Master of Science Degree in Criminal Justice at or near the completion of their required course of study. The examination is designed to test the student's knowledge of the Criminal Justice system, Criminology, and Research Methods. Students must pass the comprehensive examination before they can graduate. Students are allowed three attempts at the comprehensive examination. Students who cannot pass all areas of the comprehensive examination after three trials will be automatically withdrawn from the program. Comprehensive examination candidates are advised to take and pass Criminal Justice Overview, Criminology, and Research Methods before signing up for the comprehensive examination. Failing any area of the Comprehensive Examination will require that the students retake the failed areas.

Load Limit

The normal load for a full-time student is nine semester hours during a regular semester and six semester hours per summer session. The recommended load for persons employed full-time is six semester hours during a regular semester and three hours each summer session.

Time Limit

The degree must be completed within four calendar years from the time of initial enrollment in the graduate program.

Transfer of Credit

A maximum of six semester hours of graduate credit successfully completed in a graduate College of acceptable standing may be accepted toward fulfillment of the course requirements for the Master of Sciences Degree in Criminal Justice, if the following conditions are met:

- A. A grade of "B" or better has been earned in the courses for which graduate credit is being sought.
- B. The credit has been earned within five years from the time that the student enrolled in the Master of Science in Criminal Justice program.
- C. The credit to be transferred must be recommended by the graduate program coordinator and approved by the department chair.
- D. Transfer credit is not granted for courses taken through correspondence.

Workshops

With the recommendation of the graduate program coordinator and the approval of the department chair, a maximum of three semester hours of workshop credit may be applied toward the degree requirements. Such workshops must be graduate credit awarding workshops.

Master of Science in Criminal Justice Program Curricula

The Master's program in Criminal Justice offers two curricula options, a "concentration option" of 36 semester credit hours and a "generalist option" also of 36 semester credit hours.

Concentration Option Curriculum

Under this curriculum, students are required to take 18 credit hours of core courses, 12 credit hours of courses in one concentration area, and six credit hours of elective courses. For thesis students, the 18 hours of core courses include six hours for the thesis. For non-thesis students, the 18 hours of core courses include six hours of elective courses in lieu of the thesis.

Required Courses (<i>Need 18 Credit Hours</i>)	Credit Hours
CJ 550* The Criminal Justice System- An Overview	3
CJ 560* Seminar in Criminological Theory	3
CJ 615 Advanced Research Methods	3
CJ 620 Seminar in Criminal Law and Procedure	3
CJ 640 Thesis (Prerequisite -- CJ630) or (two elective courses for non thesis students)	6

Required Concentration Courses (*Need 12 hours in any one concentration*):

A. Criminology

CJ 561 Crime and Criminal Behavior System	3
CJ 562 Seminar in Juvenile Delinquency	3
CJ 600 Law and Social Control	3
CJ 605 Environmental Criminology	3

B. Law Enforcement Concentration

CJ 563 Seminar in Law Enforcement	3
CJ 570 Seminar in Private and Industrial Security	3
CJ 593 Seminar in Police and Society	3
CJ 602 Seminar in Police Administration and Management	3

C. Corrections Concentration

CJ 564 Seminar in Corrections	3
CJ 589 Special Topics in Correctional Administration	3
CJ 603 Seminar in Rehabilitation and Resocialization	3
CJ 606 Seminar in Community Corrections	3

D. Criminal Justice Administration

CJ 565 Principles of Administration	3
CJ 567 Administrative and Management in Criminal Justice Organization	3

CJ 608	Human Resources Development in Organizational Chart	3
CJ 609	Seminar in Public Administration	3

Electives (*Need 6 Credit Hours*):

CJ 590	Comparative Criminal Justice	3
CJ 591	Special Topics in Criminal Justice	3
CJ 593	Seminar in Police Society	3
CJ 596	Seminar in Organized Crime	3
CJ 597	Seminar in Terrorism and Homeland Security	3
CJ 598	Seminar in Forensic Science	3
CJ 603	Seminar in Community Corrections	3
CJ 609	Seminar in Public Administration	3
CJ 630	Thesis Practicum	3
CJ 640	Thesis	3

Total Credit Hours Required for Graduation **36**

***To be taken in first semester of program**

Single Track (Generalist) Option Curriculum

In this curriculum, students are required to take 24 credit hours of core courses and 12 credits hours of elective courses of which six will be Thesis hours for thesis students.

Required Core Courses (Need 24 Credit Hours)

CJ 550*	The Criminal Justice System-An Overview	3
CJ 560*	Seminar in Criminological Theory	3
CJ 562	Seminar in Juvenile Delinquency	3
CJ 563	Seminar in Law Enforcement	3
CJ 564	Seminar in Corrections	3
CJ 567	Administration and Management in Criminal Justice	3
CJ 615	Advanced Research Methods	3
CJ 620	Seminar in Criminal Justice Law and Procedure	3

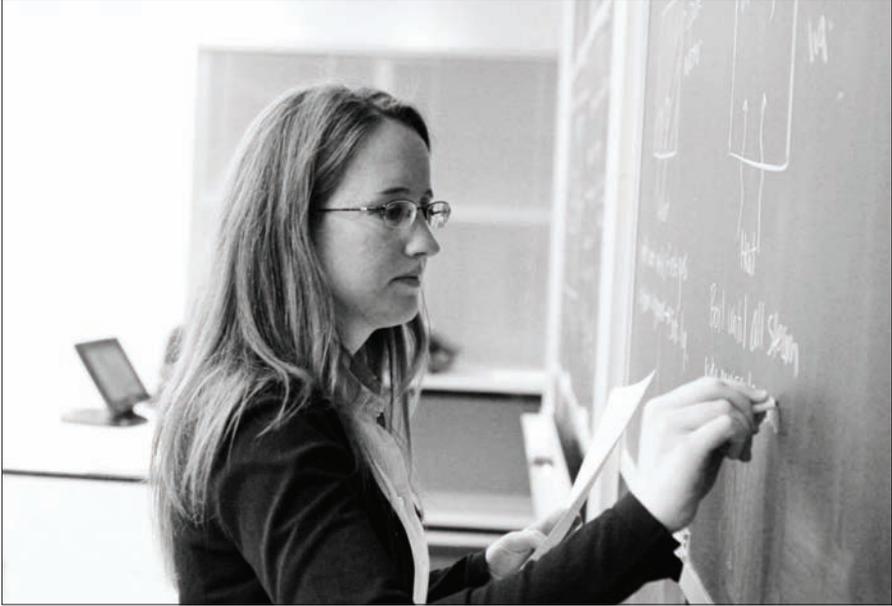
Elective Courses (Need 12 Credit Hours)

CJ 590	Comparative Criminal Justice	3
CJ 591	Special Topics in Criminal Justice	3
CJ 593	Seminar in Police & Society	3
CJ 596	Seminar in Organized Crime	3
CJ 597	Seminar in Terrorism	3
CJ 598	Seminar in Forensic Science	3
CJ 606	Seminar in Community Corrections	3
CJ 609	Seminar in Public Administration	3
CJ 630	Thesis Practicum	3
CJ 640	Thesis	6

Total Credit Hours Required For Graduation **36**

***To be taken in first semester of program**

Master of Arts in Teaching



Purpose of the Program

The Master of Arts in Teaching Degree Program (MAT) is for individuals matriculating from non-teacher education programs. It is designed to prepare such graduates to become teachers, to accept professional responsibilities at the elementary and secondary levels, and to increase their leadership roles as community-change agents. The program was conceived by the Mississippi State Department of Education and approved by the State Legislature to address the teacher shortage problem in Mississippi.

The Master of Arts in Teaching program at Mississippi Valley State University, like other graduate programs in education, adheres to the conceptual model of the teacher as a Holistic Transformer and the expected outcomes of the model, i.e., the teacher as a scholar, a facilitator, a reflective thinker, and a life-long learner as well as fosters the dispositions expected of a professional teacher. As such, the MAT program develops these skills by:

1. Providing the knowledge base in education to provide leadership and to guide the learning process (Scholarship);
2. Fostering students' personal growth and independence (Facilitator);
3. Improving problem solving and critical thinking skills (Reflective Thinkers);
4. Nurturing students to seek professional growth throughout their careers (Life-long Learners); and
5. Inculcating in students an understanding and appreciation of diversity and professional disposition.

Admission to the Program

For admission to the Master of Arts in Teaching Degree Program, applicants must:

- 1.*Hold a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution;
- 2.*Have left the last college or university attended in good standing;
3. Present evidence, by official transcript, of a minimum grade point average of 2.50 on all undergraduate study on a 4.00 GPA system;
4. Present PRAXIS I (Professional Skills Test-PPST) or Computer-Base Test scores which meet Mississippi Certification requirements for all subjects;
5. Present PRAXIS II Specialty Area scores which meet Mississippi Certification requirements in the content area required;
6. Submit three letters of recommendation which address professional qualifications, potential for success as a classroom teacher, and potential for program completion. **Applicants must request their references to address these characteristics; and**
7. Demonstrate writing ability. All applicants are required to submit a two-page (minimum), computer generated, self-created essay on their philosophy of education and why they wish to pursue the Master of Arts in Teaching Degree.

Note: **These must be on file to qualify for conditional admission. Applicants are responsible for securing their own transcripts, even from Mississippi Valley State University.*

An applicant who meets all admission requirements specified above is granted full admission.

Conditional admission may be assigned to students who either (1) have not fulfilled one or more admission requirements, or (2) do not possess a GPA of 2.50 at the undergraduate level (on a 4.00 scale), but meet other criteria for full admission. Students can earn full admission in the first semester of full-time enrollment or in the first 12 hours of part-time enrollment (1) by supplying any missing credentials and (2) by acquiring a GPA of 3.00 on all graduate work within the first 12 hours as well as a “B” average in the courses prescribed to correct deficiencies.

Academic Grades

The following grades are assigned to graduate work: A, B, C, D, F, I, (Incomplete), and W, (Withdrawal). Other grade requirements are as follows:

- Master of Science Degree candidates in Elementary Education, Special Education or Master of Arts in Teaching must maintain an overall GPA of 3.00 (“B” average) on all graduate work leading toward the degree.
- A grade of “C” within the first 12 hours will require the student to take the GRE.
- Students who have been in the graduate program for two or more semesters and do not have a 3.00 GPA will be terminated.
- Students who do not have a 3.00 GPA after one semester will receive a letter of academic probation.
- Students who are placed on academic probation will have one semester to bring their average to a GPA of 3.00. Failure to raise the GPA will result in termination.

Non-Degree Status

Applicants with no intention of pursuing a graduate degree and with an undergraduate grade-point average of 2.50 or higher will be admitted as non-degree seeking students. Non-degree students who later apply for and are accepted in a degree program may transfer a maximum of nine hours earned in this category. Enrollment is restricted to courses at the 500 level.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Advisement

When admitted to the program, each student will be assigned an advisor from the graduate faculty. Coordinators of Graduate Programs of each college or department will serve as advisors for all conditional students.

Candidacy

Students must apply for admission to candidacy when: (1) all admission criteria have been met and (2) all core courses have been successfully completed with at least a 3.00 GPA.

Graduate Comprehensive Examination

A final examination is required of all degree candidates. This may include a written examination, an oral examination, or both. This examination will assess the candidate's familiarity with the content, knowledge, and the literature and assess the candidate's proficiency in oral and written communication. The purpose of the examination is to ensure that candidates have acquired the knowledge, skills, and dispositions expected of them. Candidates must take and pass the Comprehensive Examination two months before graduation.

Students applying to take the Comprehensive Examination must be within six hours of completing course work. Application forms for the Graduate Comprehensive Examination may be obtained from the department. All candidates intending to take the Comprehensive Examination must enroll in ED 599.

Graduate Requirements

To exit the program, MAT candidates must:

1. Complete 33 hours of course work with a 3.00 GPA with not more than one "C" grade;
2. Take and pass the Comprehensive Examination; and
3. Submit a professional portfolio.

Off-Campus Credits

Graduate credits earned at either the Greenville Higher Education or Greenwood Centers may be applied to the degree program as long as those courses meet program requirements. Graduate credits from correspondence courses cannot be used to meet degree requirements.

Professional Portfolio

MAT candidates will develop and present a portfolio highlighting and tracing their development through the program. The portfolio will include, but will not be limited to, the following details:

1. Autobiographical information and educational philosophy
2. Knowledge of subject matter
3. Knowledge of Human Development and Learning
4. Adapting Instruction for Individual Needs
5. Multiple Instructional Strategies
6. Classroom Motivation and Management
7. Communication Skills
8. Instructional Planning Skills
9. Assessment of Student Learning
10. Professional Commitment and Responsibility
11. Partnerships

Program Requirements

1. A minimum of 33 semester hours of course work is required in the Master of Arts in Teaching Program. Students must maintain a minimum GPA of 3.00.
2. A special license can be obtained through the State Office of Teacher Licensure in order to secure employment in a school district. The license, valid for three years, is issued upon completing the two pre-teaching courses and upon receipt of test scores, transcript, application, and institutional recommendation.
3. Upon completion of the first 12 hours of coursework, a five year standard teaching license (class A) will be issued by the State Office of Teacher Licensure, MDE. It is the student's responsibility to pursue this.
4. A Graduate Comprehensive Examination is required of all degree candidates.

Residence

At least 27 semester hours applied to the degree must be met in residence. Other residence requirements of the University must be met, also.

Responsibilities of the Graduate Student

Each graduate student is responsible for knowledge of all regulations and procedures published in this catalog and in departmental publications. The student must assume the initiative in such matters as securing approval of a program of study and arranging for the required tests and examinations. Failure to do so may result in unnecessary delay or interruption of graduate study.

Special Provisions

1. Applicants must have a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution in any discipline.
2. Applicants must present successful scores of the PRAXIS I & II. The PRAXIS II must be taken in one of these areas: Social Science (History), Mathematics, English, Science (e.g., General Science, Biology), Music, Physical Education, or Elementary Education (4-8).

3. An applicant in the secondary areas must take six hours of content courses at the graduate level in the discipline in which he or she took the PRAXIS II, the discipline in which he or she is preparing to teach.
4. Only six hours of transfer courses will be accepted. Only three credit hours can be transferred from the pre-teaching area. These issues must be discussed during the semester of admission.
5. Persons with **Class-A Alternative Route Certification are also eligible for the program**, provided they choose to complete the total program, including the pre-teaching courses.
6. The approved teacher education areas at MVSU as of July 1998 are:

Biology Education
Mathematics Education
Elementary Education
Physical Education
Social Studies Education
English Education
Music Education

Time Limit

Only course credits less than six years old may be applied to degree requirements.

Transfer Credit

Transfer credits from another university may be accepted toward fulfilling the requirements for the master's degree. These credits must be from an accredited university and must be appropriate to the program. A maximum of six hours may be transferred; however, grades below "B" are not acceptable. Internship credit hours cannot be transferred, and only three credit hours may be transferred from the pre-teaching category.

PRAXIS I and PRAXIS II (Content Area) Codes

For admittance to the Master of Arts in Teaching program, candidates **MUST** take and pass Praxis I and Praxis II (Content Area). The approved content areas and test codes include:

Biology 0235	Elementary Education 0014
English 0041	Physical Education 0091
Mathematics 0061	Social Studies 0081
Music 0113	

Master of Arts in Teaching Program Curricula

REQUIREMENTS FOR CLASS A LICENSURE

<u>Pre-Teaching Required Courses</u>		<u>Hours</u>
ED 502	Classroom Management and Organization	3
ED 503	Development, Assessment and Evaluation	3
Receive a 3 year license		
<u>Internship</u>		
*ED 506	Dimensions of Learning/Internship	3
*ED 507	Dimensions of Learning/Internship	3
Receive a 5 year license		

*** Candidates must secure employment in a school district in order to sign up for this internship (one year duration).**

REQUIREMENT TO COMPLETE AA LICENSURE

<u>Core Courses</u>		<u>Hours</u>
SE 550	Assessment and Individual Programming for Children with Disabilities	3
ED 512	Technology for Teachers	3
ED 528	Languages & Communication Arts	3
ED 510	Research in Education	3

Note: At this point candidates may elect to complete either the Elementary or Secondary Track.

Elementary Track

ED 520	Reading in the Elementary School	3
ED 521	Children's Literature	3
ED 540	Effective Teaching Strategies, 4-12	3

Secondary Track

ED 540	Effective Teaching Strategies, 4-12	3
Six hours of Approved Content in a Specified Disciplined Area		6

SECONDARY TRACK-CONTENT COURSES

<u>English Education</u>		<u>Hours</u>
EN 500	Seminar in Literary Stylistics	3
EN 501	Contemporary Perspective on Literary Conditions	3
<u>Science</u>		
SC 534	Physical Sciences for Secondary School Teachers	3
SC 544	Biological Sciences for Secondary School Teachers	3

Social Science

HI 601D	Colonial America	3
HI 601E	History of the South	3
HI 603	Readings in Latin American History	3

Mathematics

MA 525	Probability and Statistics	3
MA 533	Concepts of Math III	3

Physical Education

PE 530	Physiological Aspects of Exercise	3
PE 605	Curriculum Design in Physical Education	3
PE 607	Advanced Teaching Methods of Physical Education	3
PE 611	Research Methods in Physical Education & Sports	3

Music

MU 541	Instrumental Conducting	3
MU 543	Music Methods and Materials	3

Master of Science in Elementary Education



Purpose of the Program

The Master of Science Degree program in Elementary Education is designed to prepare students to accept professional responsibilities at the elementary school level and to increase their leadership role as community change agents. Consistent with the larger education unit, this program not only adheres to the Conceptual Model of the Teacher as Holistic Transformer, but also has as its goals the extension of the four expected outcomes of the model:

1. Acquiring the knowledge base in education to provide leadership to guide the learning process (Scholarship);
2. Fostering students' personal growth and independence (Facilitator);
3. Solving problems and thinking critically (Reflective Thinker);
4. Continuing professional growth throughout their careers (Life-long Learner), as well as;
5. Inculcating in students an understanding and appreciation of professional disposition.

Admission to the Program

To be considered for full admission to the graduate program in Elementary Education, the applicant must:

1. Have at least a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution.
- 2*. Have appropriate undergraduate preparation and Mississippi Teacher Licensure in the proposed major field (Class A Certification). **
3. Have left his or her last college or university attended in good standing.

4. Present evidence, by official transcript, of a grade point average of at least 2.50 on all undergraduate studies.
5. Present PRAXIS II or NTE scores which at least meet the Mississippi Certification requirements. Students from states not requiring NTE or PRAXIS II for certification must present GRE scores on the General Test (verbal and quantitative). Applicants licensed in Mississippi may not have to show PRAXIS or NTE scores.
6. Submit three letters of recommendation which address:
 - a. Professional qualifications
 - b. Potential for success as a classroom teacher
 - c. Potential for program completion

* Applicants must request their references to address these characteristics.
7. Demonstrate writing ability. All applicants are required to submit a two-page (minimum), computer generated self-created essay on their philosophy of education and why they wish to pursue a master's degree in Elementary Education.

* Applicants with certification from other states must seek reciprocity from the Mississippi Department of Education.

* Applicant who meet all admission requirements specified above are granted full admission.

Conditional Admission may be granted to students who:

1. have not fulfilled one or more of the admission requirements and
2. do not possess a cumulative GPA of 2.50 at the undergraduate level on a 4.00 scale-only in the case of candidates with other strong qualities.

Students must earn regular admission by:

1. supplying all missing credentials and
2. acquiring a GPA of 3.00 on all graduate work within the first 12 hours with a "B" average in the undergraduate courses prescribed.

Non-Degree Status

Applicants with no intention of pursuing a graduate degree program and whose undergraduate grade point average is 2.70 or higher will be admitted as non-degree students. Non-degree students who later apply for and are accepted in a degree program may apply for a maximum of nine hours of graduate work taken in non-degree status towards their degree. Such courses must be at the 500 level.

Academic Grades

1. The following are assigned to graduate course work: A, B, C, D, F, I (Incomplete), and W (Withdrawal).
2. Master of Sciences Degree candidates in Elementary Education, Special Education or Master of Arts in Teaching must retain an overall GPA of 3.00 ("B" average) on all graduate work leading toward the degree.
3. A grade of "C" within the first 12 hours will require students to take the GRE.
4. Students who have been in the graduate program for two or more semesters and do not have a 3.00 GPA will be terminated.

5. Students who do not have a 3.00 GPA after one semester will receive a letter of academic probation.
6. Students who are placed on academic probation will have one semester to bring their average to a GPA of 3.00. Failure to raise the GPA will result in termination.

Visiting Status

Applicants wishing to earn certification, update professional skills, earn transfer credit, or engage in other meaningful lifelong learning experiences may enroll in a visiting status by: (1) filing an application for admission and (2) providing official transcripts from colleges or universities previously attended. This status does not entitle an applicant to any specific program. Students with visiting status who wish to earn a graduate degree at a later date must meet all criteria for regular admission and must have a 3.00 GPA for any graduate course taken as a visiting student with no grade less than “B.”

Deadline for Admission

Admission to a degree program is made in the Fall and Spring Semesters. The deadlines for fall applications is March 15, and the deadline for Spring applications is September 15. Applicants for Conditional Status or Visiting Status must meet appropriate admission criteria before registering for classes. This policy applies to both regular semesters and to summer school.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Responsibilities of the Graduate Student

Each graduate student is responsible for knowledge of all regulations and procedures published in this catalog and in departmental publications. The student must assume the initiative in such matters as securing approval of a program of study and arranging for required tests and examinations. Failure to do so may result in unnecessary delays or interruptions of graduate study.

Program Requirements

A minimum of 36 semester hours is required for all Master of Science degree programs in education. Students must maintain at least a 3.00 GPA to exit any graduate program.

Candidacy

Students may apply for admission to candidacy when: (1) all admission criteria have been met and (2) all core courses have been successfully completed with at least a 3.00 GPA.

Transfer Credit

Transfer credits from another university may be accepted toward fulfilling the requirements for the master’s degree. These credits must be from an accredited university and must be appropriate to the specified program. A maximum of six hours may be transferred; however, grades below “B” are not acceptable.

Off Campus Credits

Graduate credits may be earned at either the Greenville Higher Education Center or the Greenwood Center as long as those courses meet program requirements. Graduate credits from correspondence courses cannot be used to meet degree requirements.

Advisement

When admitted at regular status, each student will be assigned an advisor from the graduate faculty. Coordinators of Graduate Programs will serve as advisors for all conditional and visiting status students.

Directed/Individual Studies

No more than three semester hours of individual studies or workshops will apply toward degree requirements. Workshops and individual studies must be approved by the student's advisor, the appropriate coordinator, and the dean.

Residence

At least 27 semester hours applied to the degree must be met in residence. Other residence requirements of the University must also be met.

Time Limit

Only course credits less than six years old may be applied to degree requirements.

Graduate Comprehensive Examination

A final examination is required of all degree candidates. This may include a written examination, an oral examination, or both. This examination will assess: (1) the candidate's familiarity with the content knowledge and the literature, (2) the candidates proficiency in oral and written communication, and (3) the professional dispositions expected of classroom teachers. Candidates must take and pass the Comprehensive Examination two months before graduation.

Students applying to take the Comprehensive Examination must have a 3.00 GPA and must be within six hours of completing the course work. Application forms for the Graduate Comprehensive Examination may be obtained from the appropriate graduate school or college. All candidates intending to take the Comprehensive Examination must have registered for ED 599-Comprehensive Examination Seminar.

Research Project

All degree candidates are required to conduct research in a scholarly and systematic manner for the Master of Science Degree. The completion of the research project must be in accordance with the Research Manual of the College of Education. The research project is a graduation requirement.

Master of Science Degree in Elementary Education Program Curricula

<u>Core Courses (15 Semester Hours)</u>		<u>Hours</u>
ED 501	Advanced Education Psychology	3
ED 505	Historical and Philosophical Foundations	3
ED 508	Curriculum Development	3
ED 510	Research in Education	3
ED 512	Technology for Teachers	3
<u>Required Major Courses (15 Semester Hours)</u>		
ED 520	Reading in the Elementary School	3
ED 522	Trends in Teaching Science	3
ED 524	Trends in Teaching Mathematics	3
ED 526	Trends in Teaching Social Studies	3
ED 528	Languages and Communication Arts	3
<u>Required Research</u>		
ED 530	Research Project	3
ED 599	Comprehensive Exam	0
<u>Suggested Electives (Minimum of 6 Hours)</u>		
ED 540	Effective Teaching Strategies	3
ED 542	Leadership Skills for Elementary Teachers	3
ED 544	Diagnostic and Remedial Reading	3
ED 546	Social Problems in the Elementary School	3
SE 550	Assessment and Individualized Programming for Children with Disabilities	3
SE 552	Education of Children with Emotional Disabilities	3
SE 557	Education and Psychology of Children with/Learning Disabilities	3
SE 577	Education and Psychology of Students with/Mental Retardation	3
ED 593	Workshop in Education	3
ED 595	Individual Studies	3
Total Hours Required		36

Note: A maximum of three hours of Workshop in Education or Individual Studies may be applied to the degree program.

**** All graduate students must take and pass a comprehensive examination to exit any graduate program.**

Master of Science in Special Education

Purpose of the Program

The Master of Science Degree program in Special Education is designed to prepare graduates to accept professional responsibilities at the elementary school and secondary school levels and to increase their leadership role as community change agents. Consistent with the larger Education Unit, this program not only adheres to the Conceptual Model of the Teacher as Holistic Transformer, but has as its goals the extension of the four expected outcomes of the model. The program seeks to increase the competence that teachers need in performing, at least, the following five professional roles:

1. Acquiring the knowledge base in education to provide leadership and to guide the learning process (Scholarship);
2. Fostering students' personal growth and independence (Facilitator);
3. Solving problems and thinking critically (Reflective Thinker);
4. Continuing professional growth throughout their careers (Life-long Learner); and
5. Inculcate in them an understanding and appreciation of diversity and professional dispositions.

Admission to the Program

To be considered for full admission to the above graduate program, the applicant must:

1. Have at least a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution;
- 2.* Have appropriate undergraduate preparation and certification in the proposed major field, and a Mississippi Class A Standard Certification in either Special Education or any Education area. Applicants without an undergraduate degree in Special Education will be expected to complete prescribed undergraduate hours in Special Education;
3. Have left his/her last college or university attended in good standing;
4. Present evidence, by official transcript, of a grade point average of at least 2.50 on all undergraduate studies;
5. Present PRAXIS II scores which at least meet the Mississippi Certification requirements; students from states not requiring PRAXIS for certification must present GRE scores on the General Testing (verbal and quantitative); applicants licensed in Mississippi may not have to show PRAXIS or NTE scores;
6. Present three letters of recommendation which address:
 - a. Professional qualifications
 - b. Potential for success as a classroom teacher
 - c. Potential for program completion

Applicant must request their references to address these characteristics; and

7. Demonstrate writing ability. All applicants are required to submit a two-page (minimum), computer generated, self-created essay on their philosophy of education and why they wish to pursue a master's degree in Special Education.

* Applicants with certification from other states must seek reciprocity from the Mississippi Department of Education. Applicants who meet all admission requirements specified above are granted full admission.

Conditional Admission may be granted to students who:

1. have not fulfilled one or more admission requirements or
2. do not possess a cumulative GPA of 2.50 at the undergraduate level on 4.00 scale-only in the case of candidates with other strong qualities.

Student must earn regular admission by:

1. supplying any missing credentials and
2. acquiring a GPA of 3.00 on all work within the first 12 hours with a “B” average in the undergraduate course prescribed.

Academic Grades

1. The following grades are assigned to graduate course work: A, B, C, D, F, I (Incomplete), and W (Withdrawal).
2. Master of Science Degree candidates in Elementary Education, Special Education or Master of Arts in Teaching must retain an overall GPA of 3.00 (“B” average) on all graduate work leading toward the degree.
3. A grade of “C” within the first 12 hours will require the student to take the GRE.
4. Students who have been in the graduate program for two or more semesters and do not have a 3.00 GPA will be terminated.
5. Students who do not have a 3.00 GPA after one semester will receive a letter of academic probation.
6. Students who are placed on academic probation will have one semester to bring their average to a GPA of 3.00. Failure to raise the GPA will result in termination.

Non-Degree Status

Applicants with no intention of pursuing a graduate degree program and whose undergraduate grade point average is 2.70 or higher will be admitted as non-degree students. Non-degree students who later apply for and are accepted in a degree program may apply a maximum of nine hours of graduate work taken in a non-degree program. Such courses must be at the 500 level.

Visiting Status

Applicants wishing to earn certification, update professional skills, earn transfer credit, or engage in other meaningful lifelong learning experiences may enroll in a visiting status by: (1) filing an application for admission and (2) providing official transcripts from colleges or universities previously attended. This status does not entitle an applicant to any specific program. Students with visiting status who wish to earn a graduate degree at a later date must meet all criteria for regular admission and must have a 3.00 GPA for any graduate course taken as a visiting student with no grade less than “B.”

Deadline for Admission

Admission to a degree program is made in the Fall and Spring Semesters. The deadline for Fall applications is March 15 and the deadline for Spring application is September 15. Applicants for conditional status or visiting status must meet appropriate admission criteria before registering for classes. This policy applies to both regular semesters and to summer school.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Responsibilities of the Graduate Student

Each graduate student is responsible for knowledge of all regulations and procedures published in this catalog and in departmental publications. The student must assume the initiative in such matters as securing approval of a program of study and arranging for required tests and examinations. Failure to do so may result in unnecessary delay or interruptions of graduate study.

Program Requirements

A minimum of 36 semester hours is required for all Master of Science degree programs in education. Students must maintain at least a 3.00 GPA to exit any graduate program.

Candidacy

Students may apply for admission to candidacy when: (1) all admission criteria have been met and (2) all Core Courses have been successfully completed with at least a 3.00 GPA.

Transfer Credits

Transfer credits from another university may be accepted toward fulfilling the requirements for the master's degree. These credits must be from an accredited university and must be appropriate to the specific program. A maximum of six hours may be transferred; however, grades below "B" are not acceptable.

Off Campus Credits

Graduate credits may be earned at either the Greenville Center or the Greenwood Center as long as those courses meet program requirements. Graduate credits from correspondence courses cannot be used to meet degree requirements.

Advisement

When admitted at regular status, each student will be assigned an advisor from the graduate faculty. Coordinators of Graduate Programs will serve as advisors for all conditional and visiting status students.

Directed/Individual Studies

No more than three semester hours of individual studies or workshops will apply towards degree requirements. Workshops and Individual Studies must be approved by the student's advisor, the appropriate coordinator, and the dean.

Residence

At least 27 semester hours applied to the degree must be met in residence. Other residence requirements of the University must also be met.

Time Limit

Only course credits less than six years old may be applied to degree requirements.

Graduate Comprehensive Examination

A final examination is required of all degree requirement candidates. This may include a written examination, an oral examination, or both. This examination will assess the candidate's familiarity with the content knowledge and the literature, assess the candidate's proficiency in oral and written communication, and assess the candidate's professional disposition expected of classroom teachers. Candidates must take and pass the Comprehensive Examination two months before graduation.

Candidates applying to take the Comprehensive Examination must have a 3.00 GPA and must be within six hours of completing course work. Application forms for the Graduate Comprehensive Examination may be obtained from the appropriate graduate school or department. All candidates intending to take the Comprehensive Examination must have taken ED 599-Comprehensive Examination Seminar.

Research Project

All degree candidates are required to conduct research in a scholarly and systematic manner for the Master of Science Degree. The completion of the research project must be in accordance with the Research Manual of the College of Education. The research project is a graduation requirement, and must be completed and approved two months before graduation.

Master of Science in Special Education Program Curricula

Core Courses (6 Semester Hours)		Hours
ED 505	Historical and Philosophical Foundation of Education	3
ED 508	Curriculum Development	3
ED 510	Research Methods +	3

Required Major Courses (15 Semester Hours)		
SE 510*	Organizational Procedures for Special Education	3
SE 547*	Behavior Management for Special Education	3
SE 550*	Assessment and Individual Programming for Children with Disabilities	3
SE 555*	Education of Students with Mild to Moderate Disabilities	3
SE 560*	Inclusion of Children with Disabilities in Regular Education	3
ED 599	Comprehensive Exam**	0

Emotionally Disabled Concentration Requirements (12 Hours)		
SE 542	Characteristics of Children with Emotional Disabilities	3
SE 552	Education of Children with Emotional Disabilities	3
SE 556*	Method of Teaching Secondary Students with/ Moderate Disabilities	3
SE 559	Early Intervention for Infants/Toddlers with Disabilities	3

Mildly/Moderately Disabled Concentration Requirement (12 Hours)		
SE 556*	Methods of Teaching Secondary Students with/Moderate Disabilities	3
SE 557*	Education and Psychology of Children with/Learning Disabilities	3
SE 559	Early Intervention for Infants/Toddlers with Disabilities	3
SE 577	Education and Psychology of Students with/Mental Retardation	3

A Research Project is required as part of course work in the student's area of concentration. This is a graduation requirement.

Electives (Minimum of 3 Semester Hours)		
SE 544	Diagnostic and Remedial Reading	3
SE 558	Teaching Children with Severe/Profound Disabilities	3
SE 579	Psychology and Education of the Gifted Students	3
SE 580	Technology in Special Education	3
SE 581	Method, Materials, and Resources for Teaching the Gifted	3

Total Semester Hours 36

Notes:

1. SE 325, Survey of the Exceptional Child, or its equivalent is a prerequisite for this program.
2. *Indicates courses which may be used to meet "add-on" certification requirements.

3. Course work for endorsement in (a) Education of Students Who are Gifted and Talented, (b) Special Education in Early Childhood, and/or (c) Education of Children with Severe and Profound Disabilities may be taken in addition to the 36 hours above.
4. All graduate students must take and pass a comprehensive examination and submit an acceptable and approved research project to exit the program.
5. **ED 599 is a prerequisite for the Comprehensive Exam.
6. Special Education candidates must complete a research project.

Master of Science in Bioinformatics



Purpose of the Program

The Bioinformatics Program is a two year, multi-disciplinary program in molecular biology, computer science, and mathematics designed to train students through a combination of core and advanced courses, workshops, lectures by leading scientists in various areas of bioinformatics, research/internships, and seminars. Emphasis is placed on providing high quality research experiences through close relations with scientists of the program and scientists from partnering institutions and industries.

To receive a Master's degree in two years, students must demonstrate mastery of the core subject matter. Students must also demonstrate a working knowledge of computational methods available to the modern bioinformatician and also complete an internship in one of the fields of bioinformatics. Upon completion of the internship, the student is required to submit a written and oral report on her/his internship experience.

Admission Requirements

To be considered for admission, a first time graduate student or a student transferring from a graduate program at another university or from another graduate program at Mississippi Valley State University must fulfill the following general admissions requirements:

1. A bachelor's degree from an accredited university;
2. A minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale;
3. An acceptable GRE general test score (verbal and quantitative combined);
4. Two lab based science courses, a statistics course, a calculus course, and a computer science course;
5. Three letters of recommendations;

6. A statement of interest;
7. Complete transcripts of undergraduate work or any previous, relevant graduate work;
8. Submit TOFEL scores, if an international student; and
9. A completed MVSU Graduate School application.

An applicant may be granted regular or conditional admission to the Master of Science Program in Bioinformatics (BF). The general guidelines of the MVSU Graduate School apply.

Conditional Admission

Conditional admission may be granted to applicants who do not possess an acceptable GRE test score or are lacking some prerequisite courses. The conditional status may be removed upon submission of an acceptable GRE score and completion of the prerequisite courses within the first semester of enrollment.

Degree Requirements

The Master of Science Program in Bioinformatics welcomes all students with undergraduate degrees in the sciences or a related discipline who believe they are prepared to meet the challenges of the program. The curriculum for the Master of Science in Bioinformatics has provisions for a thesis and non-thesis option. The requirements for completion of each consists of the following 27 graduate credit hours which constitute the course core requirements for a Master in Bioinformatics degree, all workshops, journal clubs and the following non-core requirements:

Core Requirements

<u>Courses</u>	<u>Hours</u>
BF 601 Introduction to Bioinformatics	3
BF 602 Databases –Mining, Relationships and Programming	3
BF 603 Design of Experiments	3
BF 611 Genomics and Genome Technology	3
BF 612 Algorithms –Design and Analysis	3
BF 613 Bioinformatics Programming	3
BF 701 Systems Biology	3
BF 711 Proteomics	3
BF 712 Statistical Bioinformatics	3
TOTAL	27

Required Examinations

All students will be required to take and pass both an oral and written comprehensive examination during the semester prior to their anticipated graduation. These examinations should be viewed as an opportunity for students to look at their total graduate experience and visualize connections between both application and theory. The examinations are not intended as a test or rote regurgitation of facts, but as a way of demonstrating proficiency and knowledge about the fields of bioinformatics. An application to take the tests must be submitted to the Bioinformatics Program Office no later than September 15 or February 15 of the semester prior to the anticipated

graduation date. Each student is allowed to take these examinations twice. Failure to pass these examinations twice will result in dismissal from the program. An application for examination may be obtained from the Bioinformatics Program office.

Time Limit

The degree must be completed within five calendar years from the time of initial enrollment in The Bioinformatics Program.

Advisement

After admission into the Master of Bioinformatics Program, each student will be assigned an advisor who must be a graduate faculty within the Program. The advisor will be responsible for advising the students to meet the program requirements for graduation and, in conjunction with the student, complete and submit a Program of Study form. This form must be filed with the BF Program office during his or her first semester of enrollment. It is the student's responsibility to meet all the requirements, including meeting with his or her advisor on a regular basis.

Non-Core Requirements

Thesis Option

Nine hours of thesis research in Bioinformatics (mathematics/computer science/molecular biology) combined with 27 credit hours and an oral defense.

BF 795 Thesis Research	3 hours
BF 796 Thesis Research	3 hours
BF 797 Thesis Research	3 hours

Thesis Advisor

The thesis advisor may be any member of the BF core faculty group. The student should consult the faculty member with whom he or she wishes to work and secure that person's consent. The thesis advisor will be responsible for guiding the student through the process of writing, revising, and submitting the thesis.

Thesis Committee

The Thesis Committee, to be chosen by the student in consultation with the thesis advisor, will consist of three members: the thesis advisor and two readers familiar with the proposed area of study. If the topic necessitates a specialist outside the BF core faculty, a curriculum vitae must be submitted documenting the person's expertise. An "Appointment of Thesis Committee" form must also be submitted to the Bioinformatics Program's office with the appropriate signatures. The student will also be responsible for setting up a work schedule, carrying out research on the proposed topic, and writing the thesis. The members of the Thesis Committee will act only in an advisory capacity.

Thesis Proposal

The thesis proposal should consist of (1) a one or two-page statement of purpose, addressing aims, methods, and sources, as well as topic feasibility and work schedule; (2) a working outline; and (3) a preliminary bibliography. The proposal must be approved by the student's thesis advisor and then submitted, along with the appropriately signed form (The Master's Thesis Proposal), to the Bioinformatics Program Office for approval by the director of Bioinformatics and the Thesis Committee.

Request for Oral Defense

Each student will be required to submit the final draft of his or her thesis to be reviewed for technical and grammatical correctness by his/her thesis advisor, to each of the committee members at least four weeks before the oral defense. The student should secure the signatures of all members of the Thesis Committee on the "Preliminary Approval of Thesis and Request for Oral Defense" form and submit it to the Bioinformatics Program Office. By signing, each member acknowledges receipt of a copy of the thesis draft and agrees to be present at the defense on the schedule date. Upon completion of the oral defense, the student will meet with the thesis advisor to complete a "Thesis Defense Report" form. This document will be signed by all committee members and submitted to the Bioinformatics Program Office.

Review by Thesis Committee

Copies of the thesis are submitted to the Committee, who will read and evaluate the work. The copies are then returned to the student with comments and recommendations for revision. The thesis advisor will oversee the review and the final revised copy. Final approval of the thesis will be indicated by a signature on the title page of the thesis by the members of the Thesis Committee.

Submission of the Thesis

Three final copies of the thesis must be submitted to the Thesis Committee for original signatures of approval. The student will retain one copy, and the others copies will be filed with the Office of The Bioinformatics Program for inclusion in the Bioinformatics and MVSU libraries. The submitted copies, including text and illustrations, must be printed on acid-free paper.

Schedule for Submission of the Thesis for Graduation

In order for a student to take part in the Mississippi Valley State University Commencement Ceremony in late May, the following schedule must be observed; dates given indicate *the latest dates* by which the various steps must be concluded; earlier submission is encouraged, as it will facilitate the process: (1) a complete and finished draft of the thesis, with illustrations, must be submitted *no later than* February 15 to the thesis advisor, who will recommend revisions and corrections to the finished draft; (2) two copies of the revised thesis should be submitted to the Thesis Committee, submitting recommendations for final revisions to the student by March 31; and (4) the final revised copy of the thesis, signed by members of the Thesis Committee, must be filed with the Office of the Bioinformatics Program by April 15, along with a

completed “Final Approval of Thesis” form. Students wishing to take part in the May Commencement Ceremony must have completed all requisite course work (with no outstanding incompletes and at least a 3.0 GPA).

Those unable to meet this schedule will be eligible to receive the M.S. degree and take part in the Commencement Ceremony to be held the following May.

Non-Thesis Option

Nine additional hours of electives in computer science or molecular biology combined with 27 credit hours of graduate courses and approval of the internship by the Director of the BF Program.

BF Electives

9 hours

Upon approval of the internship, an “Approved Internship” form must be submitted to the BF Program Office.

Non-Degree Status Requirements

Applicants with no intention of pursuing a Master of Science degree in Bioinformatics will be admitted as non-degree seeking students. Non-degree students who later apply for and are accepted into the program may apply a maximum of six hours of graduate work in Bioinformatics taken as a non-degree student. Such courses must be at or above the 600 level.

Bioinformatics Graduate Curriculum Thesis Option

First Year

FALL

BF 601 - Introduction to
Bioinformatics

BF 602 - Databases - Mining,
Relationships and Programming

BF 603 - Design of Experiments

SPRING

BF 611 - Genomics and Genome
Technology

BF 612 - Algorithms - Design and
Analysis

BF 613 - Bioinformatics
Programming - PERL/C++

Research Project/Internship

Second Year

FALL

BF 701 - Systems Biology

Thesis

SPRING

BF 711 - Proteomics

BF 712 - Statistical Bioinformatics

Thesis

Master of Science in Environmental Health



Purpose of the Program

The program of study leading to a Master of Science in Environmental Health involves immersion in an in-depth and analytical study of current issues in environmental health and practical research in chosen areas of specialization. This is a professional training program aimed at providing students with theoretical and practical tools that pertain to exploring healthy and unhealthy interactions between humans and their environment.

Admission Requirements

A baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution is required for admissions into the graduate program. The prospective student must have completed a minimum of 16 semester hours in science, two general biology courses, two general chemistry courses, and possess an overall undergraduate grade point average of 3.00 on a 4.00 scale. GRE score must be submitted no later than two semesters after admission; three letters of recommendations; a statement of interest and a completed Mississippi Valley State Graduate School Application.

Conditional Admission

If deficiencies exist, including a GPA of 2.5 or greater, the student may be admitted conditionally, possibly necessitating the completion of additional undergraduate courses.

Degree Requirements

Maintenance of a 3.00 GPA is the minimum academic requirement for good standing in the program. Any student who does not meet this requirement will be placed on academic probation for a period of one semester. Failure to meet the requirement at the

end of the probationary period will result in dismissal of the student from the graduate program. A student dismissed from the program will not be re-admitted. Students admitted conditionally must have a 3.00 GPA at the end of the first semester. Failure to meet this requirement at the end of the first semester will result in dismissal of the student from the graduate program. An “I” grade may be given to a student at the discretion of an instructor if a student misses a final examination or has not completed the required course work because of reasons accepted by the instructor. This “I” grade must be removed no later than one semester after it is given. An “I” or “IP” grade will not be awarded to any student who is admitted conditionally.

Areas of Concentration

The areas of concentration within the graduate program are: (1) Environmental Quality Control, (2) Environmental Management, (3) Water Resource Management, and (4) Natural Disaster. All students are required to complete a ten-week internship (EH 610) which must be approved by the chair and coordinator of the program prior to the semester that the internship is to begin.

Program Objective

The Master of Science degree program in Environmental Health enables students to broaden and expand their knowledge and skills in the field as it intellectually challenges students to explore their academic and professional potential.

Degree Program

The curriculum for the Master of Science program in Environmental Health has provisions for a thesis and non-thesis option. The requirements for completion of each are:

Thesis Option: Students must complete a minimum of 34 hours of course work in Water Resource Management, 35 hours in Environmental Quality Control, 35 hours in Environmental Management, or 35 hours of course work in Natural Disasters. Also, students must complete original research in environmental health, a thesis and a thesis defense, and pass both oral and written comprehensive examinations.

Non-Thesis Option: Students must complete a minimum of 34 hours of course work in Water Resources Management, 35 hours in Environmental Quality Control, 35 hours in Environmental Management, or 35 hours of course work in Natural Disasters. Also, all non-thesis students must complete an eight-10 week internship in environmental health and pass both oral and written comprehensive examinations.

The comprehensive examinations will be administered during the final semester of the student’s matriculation. The written examination will be given during the last week of March in the spring semester. The oral examination will be administered during the first week of April of the spring semester. Each student is allowed to take these examinations twice. Failure to pass each of these examinations will result in dismissal from the program.

Master of Science in Environmental Health Curriculum Concentration Options

Environmental Quality Control Requirements

Core Courses		Credit Hours
EH 588	Public Health Administration and Planning	3
EH 500	Principles of Environmental Health	3
EH 530	Biostatistics	3
EH 533	Epidemiology	3
EH 610, 630	Internship or Research in Environmental Health and Thesis	6
EH 591-592	Seminars	3
Total		21

Requirements for Concentration

EH 510	Environmental Health Practice	3
EH 520	Water Chemistry	4
EH 550	Environmental Microbiology	4
EH 558	Institutional Health	3
EH 570	Insect and Vector Control	3
EH 540	Air Pollution	3
Total		20

Environmental Management Requirements

Core Courses		Credit Hours
EH 588	Public Health Administration and Planning	3
EH 508	Principles of Environmental Health	3
EH 530	Biostatistics	3
EH 533	Epidemiology	3
EH 610, 630	Internship or Research in Environmental Health and Thesis	6
EH 591-592	Seminars	3
Total		21

Requirements for Concentration

EH 503	Environmental Economics	3
EH 500	Environmental Health Administration	3
EH 595	Environmental Law	3
EH 565	Solid Hazardous Waste Management	3
EH 555	Industrial Hygiene	4
EH 525	Wastewater Management and Analysis	4
Total		20

Natural Disaster Requirements

Core Courses		Credit Hours
EH 588	Public Health Administration and Planning	3
EH 508	Principles of Environmental Health	3
EH 530	Biostatistics	3
EH 533	Epidemiology	3
EH 610, 630	Internship or Research in Environmental Health and Thesis	6
EH 591-592	Seminars	3
Total		21

Requirements for Concentration

EH 596	Economics of Natural Hazards	3
EH 597	Emergency and Disaster Theory	3
EH 598	The Catastrophic Earth-A Seminar in Natural Disaster	3
EH 540	Air Pollution	3
EH 503	Environmental Economics	3
EH 595	Environmental Law	3
EH 525	Water Chemistry	4
Total		22

Water Resources Management Requirements

Core Courses		Credit Hours
EH 588	Public Health Administration and Planning	3
EH 508	Principles of Environmental Health	3
EH 530	Biostatistics	3
EH 533	Epidemiology	3
EH 610, 630	Internship or Research in Environmental Health and Thesis	6
EH 591-592	Seminars	3
Total		21

Requirements for Concentration

EH 520	Water Chemistry	4
EH 525	Wastewater Analysis	4
EH 533	Limnology	4
EH 563	Environmental Chemistry Lab	4
EH 547	Environmental Toxicology	3
Total		19

Master of Arts in Rural Public Policy and Planning

Purpose of the Program

The Master of Arts in Rural Public Policy and Planning is designed to provide the Mississippi Delta with the opportunity for graduate education for those individuals interested in, or currently serving in, various administrative capacities in government and non-profit organizations, as well as providing higher study in rural public policy and planning. It also appeals to the non-traditional students' needs for an expanded knowledge base and problem solving approaches in addressing a myriad of situations in their day-to-day work environments. This program is unique in that there is no other university in the state of Mississippi that offers a graduate-level program in Rural Public Policy and Planning.

Admission Standards

Admission into the program will be based upon formal recommendations by the programs' Admissions Committee.

Applicants seeking admission to graduate programs at Mississippi Valley State University must be admitted both to the College of Graduate Studies and the degree program.

Graduates of regionally accredited institutions in the United States who do not intend to seek an advanced degree from Mississippi Valley State University, but wish to take courses may register as non-degree status students. A non-degree student who subsequently seeks full or restricted admission, must complete an application for admission to the College of Graduate Studies and be accepted by a department and the Graduate College for the degree study.

Non-degree students initially granted permission to take graduate courses on a non-degree basis are permitted to take up to nine semester hours of graduate credit. If a student later chooses to undertake a graduate degree program, only nine semester hours taken as a non-degree student may be applied to a program.

To be eligible for admission to the College of Graduate Studies, the following requirements must be met:

1. An applicant must hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university.
2. An application for admission must be filed with the College of Graduate Studies.
3. An official transcript of all college work (undergraduate and graduate) must be obtained from the registrar of each college previously attended.
4. A minimum undergraduate cumulative grade point average of 2.50 on a 4.00 grading scale is required for regular graduate degree status.
5. Three letters of recommendation from persons in the field of the applicant's academic major or area of concentration must be supplied.
6. Official scores on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) or the Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT) are required.

7. The department chair and/or dean of the graduate program applied for must recommend admission to the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies who must formally accept the student.
8. Immunization records must be submitted.

To be eligible for **unconditional admission** to the program, applicants must hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution, meet the basic requirements for graduate admission at MVSU, and demonstrate academic proficiency based on the following indicators:

- (a) Grade Point Average (GPA) of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale
- (b) Submission of Graduate Record Examination (GRE) General Test Results with a combined score of 1000 on the verbal and quantitative portions
- (c) Three Letters of Recommendation
- (d) A Personal Statement
- (e) General or Scholarly Writing Sample

Students who show academic promise, but fail to meet the requirements based on the aforementioned indicators may be admitted on a conditional basis. Students will be required to complete nine hours toward the degree while on conditional status, and must earn a minimum of a "B" or above in each class. After the conditional period, the faculty will review the student's progress and determine if he or she should be allowed to continue. Those students who are allowed to continue will then be unconditionally admitted to the program.

Academic Grades

1. The following grades are assigned to graduate course work: A,B,C,D,F,I (Incomplete), and W (Withdrawal).
2. Master of Arts Degree candidates in Rural Public Policy and Planning must retain an overall GPA of 3.00 ("B" average) on all graduate work leading toward the degree.
3. Students who do not have a 3.00 GPA after one semester will receive a letter of academic probation.
4. Students who have been in the graduate program for two or more semesters and do not have a 3.00 GPA will be terminated.
5. Students who are placed on academic probation may only register for a minimum of nine credit hours and will have one semester to bring their average to a GPA of 3.00. Failure to raise the GPA will result in termination from the program.

Non-degree Status

Applicants with no intention of pursuing a graduate degree program, and whose undergraduate grade point average is 2.70 or higher, will be admitted as non-degree students. Non-degree students who later apply for and are accepted in a degree program may apply a maximum of nine hours of graduate work taken in a non-degree program. Such courses must be at the 500 level.

Visiting Status

Applicants wishing to earn certification, update professional skills, earn transfer credit, or engage in other meaningful lifelong learning experiences may enroll in a visiting status by: (1) filing an application for admission and (2) providing official transcripts from colleges or universities previously attended. This status does not entitle an applicant to any specific program. Students with visiting status who wish to earn a graduate degree at a later date must meet all criteria for regular admission and must have a 3.00 GPA for any graduate course taken as a visiting student with no grade less than “B”.

Deadline for Admission

Admission to a degree program is made in the fall and spring semesters. The deadline for fall applications is March 15 and the deadline for spring application is September 15. This policy applies to both regular semesters and to summer school.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Advisement

When accepted into the Master of Arts program in Rural Public Policy & Planning (MRP) each student will be assigned to an advisor who must be a graduate faculty. The advisor will be responsible for advising the student on courses to take to meet the program requirements. It is, however, the student’s responsibility to meet all requirements, including meeting with his or her advisor regularly.

Admission to Candidacy

A student must apply, in writing, for admission to candidacy for the MRP Degree by filing the proper application forms through his/her advisor to the graduate program coordinator. Students are to apply for candidacy at least one semester before the degree is conferred, or in some cases, the same semester in which the degree is awarded.

Academic Grades

The following grades are used in the graduate program: A, B, C, D, F, I (Incomplete) or W (Withdrawal). A candidate of the MRP must earn an overall average of “B” or higher in all graduate work toward the degree. Two “Cs”, one “D” or a “F” grade will result in an automatic withdrawal from the program. Students withdrawn from the program may re-apply after one year of self-development. A student withdrawn twice shall no longer be accepted into the program.

Choice of Concentration

Students under the Concentration Curriculum Option must declare their areas of concentration within the first or second semester and promptly inform their respective advisors and the graduate program coordinator. Students wishing to pursue the Generalist Curriculum Option must also declare their interest likewise.

Class Absences

There is no provision for absences from classes. Graduate students are expected to attend all regular class meetings.

Comprehensive Exams

A written comprehensive examination will be administered to all candidates for the MRP at or near the completion of their required course of study. The examination is designed to test the students knowledge of the core and research requirements: Rural Policy Planning, Evaluation, and Analysis, Rural Community and Economic Development, Economic Analysis of State and Local Governments, Intergovernmental Relations, Research Methods for Public Policy, and Statistical Analysis. Students must also pass the comprehensive examination. Students who cannot pass all areas of the comprehensive examination after two trials, will be automatically withdrawn from the program. Students must take and pass the core and research requirements prior to registering for the comprehensive examination. Failing two or more areas of the Comprehensive Examination will require the student to retake the entire examination.

Load Limit

The normal load for a full-time student is nine semester hours during a regular semester and six semester hours per summer session. The recommended load for persons employed full-time is six semester hours during a regular semester and three hours each summer session.

Time Limit

The degree must be completed within four calendar years from the time or initial enrollment in the graduate program.

Transfer of Credit

A maximum of six semester hours of graduate credit successfully completed in a graduate college of acceptable standing may be accepted toward fulfillment of the course requirements for the Master of Arts Degree in Rural Public Policy & Planning, if the following conditions are met:

- A. A grade of "B" or better has been earned in the courses for which graduate credit is being sought.
- B. The credit has been earned within five years from the time that the student enrolled in the Master of Arts in Rural Public Policy & Planning program.
- C. The credit to be transferred must be recommended by the graduate program coordinator and approved by the department chair.
- D. Transfer credit is not granted for courses taken through correspondence.

Workshops

With the recommendation of the graduate program coordinator and the approval of the department chair, a maximum of three semester hours of workshop credit may be applied toward the degree requirements. Such workshops must be graduate credit awarding workshops.

Master of Arts in Rural Public Policy and Planning Curriculum

Thirty-six credit hours are required to complete the Master of Arts in Rural Public Policy and Planning Program.

Core Requirements	12 hours	
MRP 503	Rural Policy Planning, Evaluation and Analysis	3
MRP 504	Rural Community and Economic Development	3
MRP 505	Economic Analysis of State and Local Governments	3
MRP 506	Intergovernmental Relations	3

Research Requirements	6 hours	
MRP 507	Research Methods for Public Policy	3
MRP 508	Statistical Analysis	3

Thesis or Non-Thesis Option	6 hours	
MRP 509	Thesis: Masters Thesis	6
MRP 510	Non-thesis: Practicum	6

Electives/Area Specialty Courses

(3 hours required outside of your area of specialty)

MRP 511	Political Environment of Public Policy
MRP 512	Town Planning and the Political Process
MRP 513	Independent Study in Public Policy
MRP 514	Special Topics in Public Policy
MRP 515	Seminar in Public Administration
MRP 516	Southern Politics and Public Policy
MRP 517	Public Health Administration and Planning
MRP 518	Principles of Environmental Health
MRP 519	Legal Issues in Healthcare Delivery
MRP 520	Epidemiology in Rural Districts
MRP 521	Voluntary Nonprofit Sector and Public Policy
MRP 522	Nonprofit Management and Leadership
MRP 523	Financial Accounting in the Public and Nonprofit Sectors
MRP 524	Dispute Resolution
MRP 525	Rural Planning and Social Policy
MRP 526	Rural Demography and Growth
MRP 527	Housing Facilities and Community Development
MRP 528	Small Business Development

Areas of Specialization **12 hours required**

Core Requirements, Research Requirements, and Thesis/Non-Thesis options must be taken.

Rural Health Policy		12 hours
MRP 517	Public Health Administration and Planning	3
MRP 518	Principles of Environmental Health	3
MRP 520	Epidemiology in Rural Districts	3
	Elective	3

Nonprofit Policy		12 hours
MRP 521	Voluntary Nonprofit Sector and Public Policy	3
MRP 522	Nonprofit Management and Leadership	3
MRP 523	Financial Accounting in the Public and Nonprofit Sectors	3
	Elective	3

Social and Economic Policy		12 hours
MRP 525	Rural Planning and Social Policy	3
MRP 526	Rural Demography and Growth	3
MRP 528	Small Business Development	3
	Elective	3

Master of Social Work

Mission for the Program

The Master of Social Work (MSW) Program at Mississippi Valley State University prepares students for professional social work practice at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels. Through the curriculum, the program instills in students advanced social work knowledge, values, and skills in a manner which enables students to work with diverse populations in a wide range of settings. Concurrently, special emphasis is placed on social work practice with impoverished minorities living in rural regions, such as the Mississippi Delta in which the University is located, and committed to serve, as well as rural areas globally. Within the framework of rural social work practice, the area of concentration is Child and Family Welfare.

Admission Requirements

For admission to the MSW Program, applicants must exhibit the leadership potential and professional capabilities essential to function effectively in the profession and meet minimum academic requirements. An applicant may be granted a regular, conditional, or advanced standing admission to the MSW Program.

Regular Admission

Minimum standards for regular admission are:

1. The applicant must hold a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university.
2. The applicant must be eligible to re-enter in good standing at the last college or university attended.
3. The applicant must provide evidence, by official transcript, of a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.5 on all undergraduate study, or a minimum grade point average of 3.0 on the last 60 semester hours of study. GPA is based on a 4.0 scale.
4. The applicant must have completed a minimum of 30 semester hours of undergraduate courses in the liberal arts including three hours of biological science which includes content on human development.
5. The applicant must submit three references from persons familiar with the applicant's fitness for graduate school or character.
6. The applicant must submit a two-page typed essay on why he/she would like to be a social worker. The applicant's response should reflect important family and community influences on his/her development, as well as, a description of characteristics that distinguish him/her as a potential candidate for the MSW degree.
7. The applicant must complete an Application for Admission to the Master of Social Work Program, as well as, an Application for Admission to the Graduate College.

NOTE: An interview with the Admission Committee may be required.

Conditional Admission

Conditional admission may be granted to applicants who do not meet the GPA requirements for admission, but who have other outstanding credentials. Such conditional status may be removed if the student maintains a GPA of 3.0 or better in the first 12 graduate hours completed. Failure to do so constitutes grounds for dismissal from the program.

Advanced Standing

Admission to the Advanced Standing MSW Program is determined on a selective basis according to the following criteria:

1. Graduation from a Council on Social Work Education accredited baccalaureate program within the past five years.
2. A letter grade of “B” or better in all social work courses.
3. A cumulative grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale for undergraduate courses.

NOTE: *An interview with the Admissions Committee may be required.*

Advanced standing students may complete the degree requirements in three semesters. Applicants to the MSW program will not be required to duplicate course content in the Professional Foundation Curriculum if proficiency can be demonstrated. Students may be exempt from courses in the foundation curriculum that represent duplication of course content previously taken by proficiency examination. Students must have earned an accredited BSW degree to qualify for challenge exams.

Graduation Requirements

Students must complete all degree requirements before they will be allowed to participate in graduation. Graduation requirements must be met under a catalog which is no more than five years old at the time of the student’s graduation. A catalog dated earlier than the time of the student’s entrance into the University does not apply.

To complete degree requirements, a graduate student must:

1. Complete 60 graduate social work semester hours.
2. Earn a cumulative grade point average of not less than 3.0.
3. Complete all course work within five years of admission to the program.
4. Earn no more than two grades of “C.”

NOTES: *The Master of Social Work Program at MVSU does not grant social work course credit for life or work experience.*

Applicants to the MSW Program will not be required to duplicate course content in the professional foundation curriculum if they have graduated from a baccalaureate program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education and proficiency in course content can be demonstrated. Students may become exempt from courses in the foundation curriculum that represent duplication of course content previously taken by passing proficiency examinations.

International Students

International students must meet the Graduate College requirement for admission. A student whose first language is not English must submit an official score for a test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), or must have earned a degree from an accredited United States college or university.

Course Requirements for Social Work Graduate Students

Foundation Courses

SW 500	Social Work Practice I	3
SW 501	Social Work Practice II	3
SW 510	Social Welfare Policy and Services I	3
SW 511	Social Welfare Policy and Services II	3
SW 520	Human Behavior and the Social Environment I	3
SW 521	Human Behavior and the Social Environment II	3
SW 531	Methods of Social Work Research	3
SW 540	Diversity: Micro, Mezzo and Macro Approaches	3
SW 580	Field Practice Seminar I	3
SW 581	Field Internship I	<u>6</u>
Total Foundation Hours:		33

Child Welfare Concentration

SW 600	Advance Social Work with Children and Families: Direct Practice	3
SW 610	Family and Child Welfare Policy	3
SW 615	Advance Social Work with Children and Families: Indirect Practice	3
SW 620	Rural Social Work	3
SW 630	Mental Health: Assessment and Intervention	3
SW 650	Needs Assessment and Program Evaluation	3
SW 680	Field Practice Seminar II	3
SW 681	Field Internship II	<u>9</u>
Total Concentration Hours:		27

Electives

SW 601	Social Work Practice with the Aging	3
SW 611	Social Welfare and Health Policy	3
SW 631	Psychosocial and Mental Health Aspects of Aging	<u>3</u>
Total Elective Hours:		9

Continuing Education and Weekend College

The Office of Continuing Education and the Weekend College at Mississippi Valley State University provides credit and non-credit activities, (on and off-campus) for traditional and non-traditional (21 years old and older) students. Non-traditional students are individuals who enroll in higher education for the first time or are returning after a period of separation. Continuing Education and Weekend College activities allow participants to: (a) work toward an undergraduate or master's degree; (b) upgrade professional and paraprofessional skills; (c) document qualifications for licensure or certification; (d) give evidence of personal and vocational growth needed to change careers; (e) increase chances for employment; (f) advance in a present job; (g) learn a new skill to keep abreast of advancing knowledge and technology; or (h) improve the quality of personal life through intellectual stimulation and good health maintenance. Vocational and technical courses and workshops are offered for which Continuing Education Units (CEUs) may be awarded. A CEU represents 10 contact hours of participation in an organized non-credit activity under responsible leadership, capable direction, and qualified instruction.

Weekend College at Mississippi Valley State University

Mississippi Valley State University is a regional institution responding to the needs of the Mid-Delta region of the state of Mississippi for accessible, relevant, and quality undergraduate and graduate programs, as well as, public service programs and non-credit activities.

Weekend College

The contemporary world is changing rapidly, both technologically and environmentally, making it imperative to train and retrain the labor force, allowing it to adapt to new demands.

Consistent with the University's mission of providing educational opportunities to the Mid-Delta region, the University has established a Weekend College degree program designed specifically for people whose responsibilities such as work, family, or other life circumstances make full-time study difficult. This program is also for those people who wish to upgrade their job skills. The program is a compact, intensive and accelerated paced program that enables students to complete a degree under circumstances which would otherwise be impossible. The length of each session is five weeks, meeting Friday evenings for three hours and Saturdays for seven hours. Students receive up to nine credit hours taking only Friday and Saturday courses. Students wishing to take a full 12 hours of instruction are advised to register for three credit hours through Evening or E-Course. Since it is an intensive study program, it is imperative that students have a strong commitment to their own professional development.

Program Options

The Weekend College offers programs in a variety of formats to meet the needs of the non-traditional student. They include:

* Accelerated Master's Program in Business and Criminal Justice	18 months
* BA for Non-Majors	2.5 years
* Master's Program in Environmental Health	24 months
* Transfer Students	24 months
* First Time College Students	Evening/Weekend Program
* Advanced Standing – Master's in Social Work	12 months

Accelerated Master's Program

The Accelerated Master's Program is focused in two areas. The BA program allows the non-traditional students who hold a bachelor's degree in Business to complete a master's degree in approximately 18 months. The Criminal Justice Program allows Liberal Arts majors to complete the Master's Degree program in approximately 18 months. Students can complete the Master of Social Work Advanced Standing in 12 months.

BA FOR Non-Majors

This program allows non-traditional students who hold a bachelor's degree in a field other than business to obtain a BA in approximately two and a half years.

Master in Environmental Health

This program allows non-traditional students with a bachelor's degree in Environmental Health to complete a Master's Degree in approximately two years.

Transfer Students

This program is structured to meet the needs of students who have met their core requirements for the bachelor's degree and are ready to begin work toward one of the following majors: **Criminal Justice**

Industrial Technology

Social Work

Environmental Health

Early Childhood Education

Transfer students may complete a degree in approximately two years.

Core Course Program (CCP)

First-time and transfer students wishing to pursue a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degree, but have not completed their core curriculum may register in the Core Course Program through the Office of Continuing Education. CCP provides freshmen and transfer students who wish to participate in the Weekend College access to services not otherwise available to students attending MVSU on the weekend. CCP staff provides orientation, advisement, financial aid information, and assistance with registration to Weekend College students.

Undergraduate Admission Process

Admission to programs offered in the Weekend College must follow the University Admissions Policy for graduate and University programs. MVSU students can register for the Weekend College term in-person or online using [established](#) University procedures.

For students who have not been previously admitted as an undergraduate to the University, the Office of Admissions needs the following documents in order to accept students at MVSU:

1. A complete application for admission;
2. An official American College Test (ACT) score or Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) score;
3. A transcript of secondary school record; if a student wishes to transfer from another college, a transcript from each college or university attended;
4. Adult students who are at least 21 years old may be admitted without an ACT score;
5. MVSU will allow students to earn up to 30 semester hours of credit by examination from the Advanced Placement Test or the College Level Examination Program (CLEP);
6. A student with military service may submit the appropriate military documents and receive up to 24 semester hours of credit for military training and experience.

Graduate Admission Process

Individuals wishing to gain admission to a graduate program must make application to the Office of Graduate Studies.

Tuition and Financial Aid

MVSU has a program of financial assistance tailored to fit each individual's need. Financial Aid programs include the Pell Grant, the Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant, the University Work Aid Program, and the Mississippi Eminent Scholars Grant. The cost for three hours of undergraduate credit is \$550.50, and three hours of graduate credit is \$750.00. Students utilizing grant funds to pay for winter term courses are subject to grant limitation as established in federal and state standards.

Contact Information:

For more information on the Weekend College Program, please contact:

Mississippi Valley State University

Dr. Ronald Love, Director of Continuing Education & Weekend College

662.254.3624/3625

or

Dr. Rickey Hill, Dean of Graduate College

662.254.3051/3050

* Students admitted under the 21 year-old program should contact the Office of Financial Aid because special provisions apply.

Distance Education

Distance Education at Mississippi Valley State University is the delivery of courses away from the main campus. The University operates two off-campus Centers where classes are taught in a traditional teaching mode with an instructor being present in each class. The Greenville Higher Education Center is located 40 miles west of the main campus and the Greenwood Center is located 10 miles to the east. In addition to these two centers, the University also offers courses in Indianola, Belzoni, Ruleville, Clarksdale, Marks, and Grenada. MVSU is committed to offering classes throughout

the Delta Community in a manner that meets the needs of its citizens. Courses at these sites are taught by MVSU faculty who possess the same standards and pre-requisites expected of campus based faculty. Hence, these classes follow the same policies and procedures as all classes taught at the main campus.

The Office of Continuing Education provides administrative coordination and oversight for two other distance learning programs. They are: Interactive Video, and Online E-Courses.

Interactive Video Courses: Using compressed video classrooms located on the MVSU main campus, the two Centers, and compressed video classrooms, located throughout the state and nation, the University is able to expand its credit offerings. Offering courses in this manner allows Continuing Education students at various locations to join together when requesting classes. Students can register for, and take classes, at their home sites which will save time, money, and travel.

Online E-Courses: These are Internet user-friendly courses that allow students to interact with instructor and course mates. Online credit courses are equivalent to their on-campus counterparts and are approved by the appropriate MVSU academic departments.

Credit for Military Service

Mississippi Valley State University, through the Office of Continuing Education (OCE), offers college course credit for military experience and training provided by the armed forces and service schools. The administrative policies and procedures are structured in accordance with governing regulations of the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning and the University. The most current Guide to The Evaluation of Educational Experiences in the Armed Services, published by the American Council on Education, is used to convert military training experiences into college course credit.

The goal of this initiative is to assist active military personnel and veterans in their matriculation at Mississippi Valley State University. The objective is to evaluate the military training and experiences of these individuals and recommend their conversion to academic credit. Credit recommendation must be approved by the service member's department chair and dean of the college.

High School Equivalency Program (HEP)

The High School Equivalency Program (HEP) helps migrant and seasonal farm workers (or children of such workers) who are 17 years of age or older and not currently enrolled in school to obtain the equivalent of a high school diploma and subsequently to gain employment or begin postsecondary education or training. The goal of the Mississippi Valley State University (MVSU) HEP is to assist students to prepare, take, and pass the GED exams.

Who funds HEP? The MVSU HEP is sponsored by the Department of Continuing Education and is funded by the U.S. Department of Education. The HEP is designed to meet the needs of migrant and seasonal farm workers in pursuit of a General Educational Development (GED) diploma.

What does HEP provide? Classroom instruction and GED preparation, tutorial assistance, academic and vocational counseling, career advisement, transportation for commuting students, housing for residential students, assistance for placement in universities, colleges, military services, or career positions, weekly stipend (\$20.00), cultural, and recreational enrichment.

College Assistant Migrant Program (CAMP)

The CAMP Program provides students with migrant background with financial and academic assistance. First year students receive tuition, books, room and board, as well as, tutorial and counseling services. The intent of the Program is to help students from families that work in agricultural industries to be successful college students and, ultimately, to have access to professional careers.

Greenville Higher Education Center

The Greenville Higher Education Center is a collaborative effort of three state supported higher education institutions: Mississippi Valley State University, Delta State University, and Mississippi Delta Community College.

The facility consists of over 88,000 square feet with three floors, 17 regular sized classrooms, two large classrooms, two distance learning rooms, two media seminar classrooms, one large multi-purpose room, student lounge, four computer labs, two art classrooms, nursing lab, A & P lab, chemistry lab, physics lab, biology lab, and several faculty and staff offices.

The mission of the Greenville Higher Education Center is to:

1. Act as a higher education center for lifelong learning;
2. Be a source of research/development services and public relations for MVSU, DSU and MDCC;
3. Be a resource and assistance center for community and economic development; and
4. Provide computer technological resources, satellite learning facilities, and an auditorium or community room for public use.

The Office of Academic Programming has adopted the aforementioned mission which supports the general mission of the University.

In an effort to embrace MVSU's motto of "Moving from Excellence to Preeminence," it has become essential for the Office of Academic Programming to assist the University in providing an array of opportunities from which choices can be made. We are a Center that is responsive to the needs of a diverse population and the general public, which will be primed for the 21st century.

MVSU@GHEC offers a full range of upper level undergraduate and graduate courses taught by MVSU faculty members and adjuncts. Several different instructional delivery modes are used to maximize the facilitation of the courses. Certification programs, workshops, seminars, and non-credit courses are also offered.

Academic Programming at the Greenville Higher Education Center welcomes and extends its resources to all who would strive for academic excellence and economic independence whatever their nationality, race, ethnic, or religious affiliations.

Greenwood Center

The Greenwood Center, a branch site of Mississippi Valley State University, is an integral part of the University and is located at 121 Grand Boulevard in Greenwood, approximately 10 miles east of the main campus. The Greenwood Center offers a full range of upper level undergraduate and graduate courses taught by MVSU faculty members.

As part of an effort to gain greater diversity in student population at the University and to better serve the greater Greenwood-Leflore County area, the Center tries to reach out to working adults and offers after-work-hour-classes. Day classes and Saturday classes are also offered based on demand. Simultaneous enrollment at the Itta Bena Campus and the Greenwood Center is possible.

While the Center's main focus is on college credit offerings, some non-credit workshops and short courses are also offered as part of community services activities.

The Center is housed in a spacious, modern facility including classrooms, computer laboratories, an interactive distance learning classroom, and seminar rooms. Ample, well-lit parking provides comfortable access for night classes. The Greenwood Center does not provide dormitory accommodations.

DESCRIPTIONS OF COURSES

Each course is designated by a number containing three digits. Each course description begins with a two-letter subject prefix followed by course number and course title. All graduate courses are 500 level and above.

Courses in the department are designated by the following symbols:

BF	Bioinformatics
BA	Business Administration
CJ	Criminal Justice
ED	Education
EN	English and Foreign Languages
EH	Environmental Health
HI	History
MA	Mathematics
MU	Music
MRP	Rural Public Policy and Planning
SC	Sciences
PS	Political Sciences
MSW	Social Work
SE	Special Education

MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

BA 601. MANAGERIAL COMMUNICATION. Introduction to mass media communication and its impact on social, political and economic sectors of American economy. Study of the elements of news for print and electronic media: style, structure, interviewing, story types and practice of gathering material, and make marketing presentations as well as written format. (3)

BA 602. MANAGERIAL ECONOMICS. This course is a comprehensive study of micro and macro economic theory paying special attention to the concepts relevant to decision making, including demand, forecasting, cost analysis, production theory, and pricing under different market conditions. (3)

BA 620. ORGANIZATIONAL BEHAVIOR & LEADERSHIP. Emphasis upon development of administrative application to modern and developing forms of business organization. Heavy emphasis is on advanced applications of primary functions of the manager. It explores leadership, selection, motivation, performance assessment, and ethical and legal considerations related to these activities. (3)

BA 624. FINANCIAL ANALYSIS. A study of the basic concepts of accounting with an emphasis on the evaluation of transactions and the preparation and analysis of financial statements, including their use in the management planning and control process. (3)

BA 628. STATISTICS & QUANTITATIVE METHODS FOR MANAGEMENT DECISION. Designed to develop an appreciation for the needs for information in decision making; integrate data processing and analysis in a decision framework; integrate model building and information systems; provide an understanding of the basic anatomy of a decision model, introduce satisfying models and approximation by using various software. (3)

BA 630. MANAGERIAL ACCOUNTING ANALYSIS. A study of advanced managerial accounting concepts and practices with emphasis on the uses of accounting data in the decision-making process and software applications. (3)

BA 632. GLOBALIZATION AND THE NEW GLOBAL ECONOMY. Advanced study of the management of global or multinational organizations, with emphasis on areas of problems and managerial control techniques. Students develop an appreciation of various factors during globalization and consider the impact of these forces on competition, markets, industry structure, and organization. (3)

BA 634. MARKETING ANALYSIS. Survey, analysis, and evaluation of current trends, controversial issues, and advanced technology in marketing; oriented toward decision making from the standpoint of marketing administration in the firm in a global market environment. (3)

BA 644. SMALL BUSINESS & ENTREPRENEURSHIP. This course is well suited for those who wish to create a new enterprise, become an executive in a small company or family business, a venture manager, or work with venture capital firms and other financial service entities. This course addresses specific issues of finance, marketing and management relevant to the business plan. Students present their business plan as a part of the class assignment. A concept and case studies of entrepreneurship will be extensively reviewed. (3)

BA 652. BUSINESS LAW, ETHICS & DISPUTE RESOLUTION. Fundamental principles of law most frequently involved in business transactions, including contracts, agency and employment, commercial paper, personal property and bailment, and sales of goods. Ethical behavior issues will be discussed within the framework of the contemporary business environment. (3)

BA 655. STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT. This is a capstone course and as such it uses a case discussion method to identify, analyze, and solve various strategic issues confronting international business leaders. (3)

BA 660. INDEPENDENT RESEARCH PROJECT. Students will select a topic of their interest, product and or region with consultation with the instructor. The major thrust of this course is to apply the methodology and concepts of strategic management. Students must write a research paper as well as make a presentation in the class. (3)

Foundation Courses

BA 510. SURVEY OF ACCOUNTING. Designed for students who have completed a non-business degree and now wish to acquire a background in accounting and/or business. The essence of both financial and managerial accounting concepts will be covered. (3)

BA 520. SURVEY OF ECONOMICS. A comprehensive study of basic micro and macro economic theory designed to prepare the student for graduate study in business administration. (3)

BA 530. SURVEY OF FINANCE. This course covers the concepts of the financial management of business. Topics include: ratio analysis, financial planning, time value of money, capital budgeting, cost of capital, sources of financing, working capital management, and international financial management. (3)

BA 540. SURVEY OF MANAGEMENT. This course focuses on the development of management concepts and the functions of management with particular emphasis on planning, organizing, controlling and production and operation management. (3)

BA 550. SURVEY OF STATISTICAL METHODS. Applications of both statistical and quantitative analysis in business environment. Topics covered are: calculus and optimization techniques, simple and multiple regression, linear programming, and other quantitative methods that are computer based analysis. (3)

BA 560. SURVEY OF MARKETING. This course covers the concept of marketing which emphasizes the basic function of marketing is to identify and satisfy consumer needs. It provides insights into a dynamic world involving product, distribution, promotion, and price decisions for products and service involving profit and non-profit organizations. (3)

BA 570. MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS. This course covers analysis of strategic and management-related issues in information systems development, implementation, and application; the enabling role and the use of information technologies in transforming business and work group and individual processes to achieve competitive advantage, efficient operations, and effective decision making. (3)

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE

CJ 550. THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM-AN OVERVIEW. An in-depth analysis of the American Criminal Justice System, including the examination of critical and contemporary issues in law enforcement. (3)

CJ 560. SEMINAR IN CRIMINOLOGICAL THEORY. Explanation of crime and its context, including an extensive coverage of each of the major criminological perspectives/theories. (3)

CJ 561. CRIME AND CRIMINAL BEHAVIOR SYSTEM. Analysis of the scope and nature of criminal activity. Emphasis will be on crime trends for both individual and group criminal activities. Crime prevention, control, and treatment strategies will be evaluated. (3)

CJ 562. SEMINAR IN JUVENILE DELINQUENCY. Theoretical problems related to causation and prevention of deviant careers. (3)

CJ 563. SEMINAR IN LAW ENFORCEMENT. An in-depth review of law enforcement, including history, practices, and future trends. (3)

CJ 564. SEMINAR IN CORRECTIONS. Reviews history and the operations of corrections, including the future of corrections. (3)

CJ 565. PRINCIPLES OF ADMINISTRATION. The study of bureaucracy and complex organizations, including principles, practices, and theories. (3)

CJ 567. ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE. An extensive examination and analysis of managerial skills applicable to the management of criminal justice agencies. (3)

CJ 570. SEMINAR IN PRIVATE AND INDUSTRIAL SECURITY. An extensive review of private and industrial security systems includes historical analysis, practices, and current and future trends. (3)

CJ 589. SPECIAL TOPICS IN CORRECTIONAL ADMINISTRATION. In-depth examination of special problems in administering correction institutions, including detailed analysis of several crucial administrative practices. (3)

CJ 590. COMPARATIVE CRIMINAL JUSTICE. A comprehensive comparative study of other criminal justice systems, as well as, the United States Criminal Justice System. (3)

CJ 591. SPECIAL TOPICS IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE. Detailed examination of contemporary issues and trends within, and outside, the criminal justice system. (3)

CJ 593. SEMINAR IN POLICE AND SOCIETY. The examination of the evolution of the police in modern society with a special emphasis on the role of police in contemporary society. Current police research on police roles will be reviewed. (3)

CJ 595. PLANNING, BUDGETING, AND POLICY ANALYSIS. Examination of critical issues in the planning and budget management of an agency, including an in-depth coverage of police analysis. (3)

CJ 596. SEMINAR IN ORGANIZED CRIME. An extensive examination of the history, activities, and control strategies of organized crime. (3)

CJ 597. SEMINAR IN TERRORISM. An advanced examination of national and international terrorism, including theoretical explanations and control strategies. (3)

CJ 598. SEMINAR IN FORENSIC SCIENCE. Examination of techniques and practices in forensic science, including finger printing and crime scene investigating. Collection of evidence and laboratory are required. (3)

CJ 600. ADVANCED SURVEY RESEARCH. Extensive coverage for the technique of conducting survey research. Designed to give students hands-on experience. (3)

CJ 602. SEMINAR IN POLICE ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT. Extensive survey of police administration and management skills, including related theories. (3)

CJ 603. SEMINAR IN REHABILITATION AND RESOCIALIZATION. Detailed examination of the rehabilitative and resocialization process within the criminal justice system. (3)

CJ 605. SEMINAR IN EXPERIMENT AND FIELD RESEARCH. Extensive coverage of techniques for conducting experiments and field research in the social sciences. (3)

CJ 606. SEMINAR IN COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS. An analysis of community corrections, including historical development practices and future trends. (3)

CJ 608. HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN ORGANIZATIONAL CONTENT. Analysis of critical issues involved in managing human resources in criminal justice agencies. (3)

CJ 609. SEMINAR IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE LAW. Extensive examination and analysis of concepts, issues, and theories in public administration and the study of administrative law. (3)

CJ 615. ADVANCED RESEARCH METHODS. Extensive coverage of methods and techniques for social scientific research. (3)

CJ 620. SEMINAR IN CRIMINAL LAW AND PROCEDURE. Extensive examination of the criminal law and other criminal justice related laws and procedures. Designed to provide students with a working knowledge of laws in general and their applicability to the criminal justice system. (3)

CJ 630. THESIS PRACTICUM. Overview of research strategies, principles of research writing; procedures for initiating, executing, and completing a thesis; and preparation and approval of a thesis prospectus. Preliminary planning for the thesis should begin during the first semester of graduate work; the student may enroll in CJ 630 if he/she has completed 15 credit hours of graduate work. (3)

CJ 640. THESIS. The completion and defense of the thesis. Students are required to be registered in this course in the semester in which the thesis is to be defended. (6)

MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING COURSES

ED 502. CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT AND ORGANIZATION. This course provides a study of the major theories of classroom management and the application of these theories in a classroom setting. Modeling practices will be an integral part of instruction. The course will explore current research and how this research has impacted the classroom. (3)

ED 503. DEVELOPMENT, ASSESSMENT, AND EVALUATION. This course explores the development of knowledge and skill in construction of tests, item analysis techniques, and interpretation and application of statistics for test scores. Topics include criterion-referenced testing and norm-referenced testing, with an emphasis on performance assessment tools currently used in our public schools. (3)

ED 506. DIMENSIONS OF LEARNING/INTERNSHIP. This is a supervised one year internship for MAT candidates. (3)

ED 507. DIMENSIONS OF LEARNING/INTERNSHIP. A continuation of the one year internship. (3)

ED 510. RESEARCH IN EDUCATION. This course covers various methods of research in education and statistical techniques, including the use of these techniques to solve problems in the field of educational research. Emphasis will be placed on selecting appropriate statistical techniques. The use of computers in educational research will also be studied. (3)

ED 512. TECHNOLOGY FOR TEACHERS. The course provides skills and various techniques for applying and integrating technologies into instruction and using the computer and software applications to promote effective teaching and learning. (3)

ED 528. LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION ARTS. This course is an analysis of current methods, issues, and trends in reading, speaking, and writing as they apply to the various disciplines. Emphasis is placed on current research findings regarding the nature of interdisciplinary learning. (3)

ELEMENTARY TRACK

ED 520. READING IN THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. This course covers current techniques, methods and materials utilized for effective reading instruction. Emphasis is on best practices and approaches used in schools. (3)

ED 521. CHILDREN'S LITERATURE IN THE ELEMENTARY READING PROGRAM. This course offers an in-depth study of a variety of literature genres suitable for children of elementary grades and the effective integration of these literature genres across the elementary curriculum. (3)

ED 540. EFFECTIVE TEACHING STRATEGIES. This course deals with contemporary approaches to teaching and analysis of instructional strategies using an interdisciplinary approach. A field experience provides practical experiences. (3)

SE 550. ASSESSMENT AND INDIVIDUAL PROGRAMMING FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES. This course will focus on the selection, development, administration, and interpretation of formal and informal instruments employed in the assessment and evaluation of children and youth with disabilities. The development of individual educational programs based on the results of such evaluations will also be a focal point. (3)

SECONDARY TRACK

ED 540. EFFECTIVE TEACHING STRATEGIES. This course deals with contemporary approaches to teaching and analysis of instructional strategies using an interdisciplinary approach. A field experience provides practical experience. (3)

SIX HOURS OF APPROVED SPECIFIED CONTENT COURSES. (6)

MATHEMATICS

MA 525. PROBABILITY AND STATISTICS. This course deals with probability theory as applied to mathematical models of random events, independent and dependent events, numerical valued events, mean and variance of a probability law, normal and Poisson probability laws and random variables. Prerequisite: MA 300. (3)

MA 533. CONCEPTS OF MATHEMATICS III. This course deals with deductive reasoning, points, lines, distance, rays, angles, angular measurements, bisector, congruent triangle, similar triangle, and overlapping triangle transformations, reflections, translations, rotations, inequalities, exterior angle theorem, triangle side and angle inequalities, parallel and perpendicular lines, quadrilaterals, area circles, chords, tangents, secants, regular polygons, and geometric solids. Prerequisite: MA 132 or Department Approval. (3)

ENGLISH AND FOREIGN LANGUAGES

EN 500 . SEMINAR IN LITERARY STYLISTICS. This course will begin with theoretical definitions of style, stylistics, and literary stylistics. It will then focus on selected texts in fiction and poetry to illustrate a variety of styles in literature. (3)

EN 501. CONTEMPORARY PERSPECTIVES ON LITERARY CRITICISM. An investigation of the nature and development of critical approaches to literature in the 20th century. Attempts will be made to apply these theoretical precepts to specific works of art and literary movements in the last 100 years. (3)

EN 502. THE TWENTIETH CENTURY NOVEL. A study of the poetics of fiction with particular emphasis on the fiction produced from 1900 to the present. Novelists from several regions of the world will be studied based on either thematic or ideological affiliations. The topics will vary from time to time. **(3)**

EN 503. WORLD DRAMA. A study of major world dramatists beginning with Shakespeare to the end of the 20th century. Focus will be on the evolution of drama as a genre.

EN 504. STUDIES IN MODERN ENGLISH GRAMMAR AND LINGUISTICS. This course provides a review of traditional English grammar as well as an introduction to modern linguistics, with a special focus on phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics.

SCIENCE

SC 534. PHYSICAL SCIENCES FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS. This course is designed to provide teachers with basic topics of physical science, methods, and techniques of teaching physical science. **(3)**

SC 544. BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS. This course is a comprehensive survey of methods and techniques of teaching plant and human science topics. **(3)**

SOCIAL SCIENCE

HI 601D. COLONIAL AMERICA. This course examines the major developments in American history from the age of discovery to 1783. **(3)**

HI 601E. HISTORY OF THE SOUTH. This course focuses on the political, cultural, and economic history of the South since the founding of Virginia. **(3)**

HI 603. READINGS IN LATIN AMERICAN HISTORY. This course examines the development from colonial independence and the early national period to the present. **(3)**

MUSIC

MU 541. INSTRUMENTAL CONDUCTING. This course is for instrumental music majors covering skills and duties of the contemporary instrumental conductor.

MU 543. MUSIC METHODS AND MATERIALS. This course provides preparation for the role of the special music teacher and consultant in the elementary and high school systems.

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN ELEMENTARY EDUCATION COURSES

ED 501. ADVANCED EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY. This course surveys applied psychology in education. Integration of learning theories, human development, and curricular issues are explored. Emphasis includes contemporary speech research as it applies to the integration process. **(3)**

ED 505. HISTORICAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL FOUNDATIONS OF EDUCATION. This course is designed primarily to review the dominant ideas and institutions that have influenced the course of educational development in the western world. Emphasis will be placed on the review of the leading philosophies of education and their implications. **(3)**

ED 508. CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT. This course stresses procedures for organizing and conducting programs for curriculum improvement in both elementary and secondary schools. It also stresses techniques for the development and evaluation of curriculum materials. **(3)**

ED 510. RESEARCH IN EDUCATION. This course covers various methods of research in education and statistical techniques, with emphasis on the use of these techniques to solve problems in the field of educational research. Emphasis will be placed on selecting appropriate statistical techniques. The use of computers in educational research will also be studied. **(3)**

ED 512. TECHNOLOGY FOR TEACHERS. This course provides skills and various techniques for applying and integrating technologies into instruction and using the computer and software applications to promote effective teaching and learning. **(3)**

ED 520. READING IN THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. This course will cover current techniques, methods, and materials utilized for effective instruction. Emphasis will be on the best practices and approaches used in area public schools. **(3)**

ED 522. TRENDS IN TEACHING SCIENCE. This course will explore contemporary issues in teaching science in the elementary school. The use of media and technology for instruction will be emphasized, and the identification of newer curricular methods will be stressed. The course will also emphasize current research trends. **(3)**

ED 524 . TRENDS IN TEACHING MATHEMATICS. This course will provide a study of elementary school techniques of teaching arithmetic based on research studies and current practices. The relationship between mathematics and other subject areas and methods for improving skills and understanding concepts will be included. Current research trends will also be emphasized. **(3)**

ED 526. TRENDS IN TEACHING SOCIAL STUDIES. This course will explore current methods, materials, issues, and trends in the development of social consciousness among elementary school children. It will also emphasize social science strategies in curriculum development. Current research trends will also be emphasized. **(3)**

ED 528. LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATIVE ARTS. This course is an analysis of current methods, issues and trends in reading, speaking, and writing as they apply to the various disciplines. Emphasis will be placed on current research findings regarding the nature of interdisciplinary learning and teaching. **(3)**

ED 530. RESEARCH PROJECT SEMINAR. This will be an individualized course for the completion of the student's research project initiated in ED 510 - Research in Education. Prerequisite: ED510. **(3)**

ED 542. LEADERSHIP SKILLS FOR ELEMENTARY TEACHERS. This course will provide a study of the organization and administration of the elementary school. Emphasis will be placed on research, current issues that elementary school teachers face in schools today, and the functions of these school leaders in a diverse school culture. **(3)**

ED 544. DIAGNOSTIC AND REMEDIAL READING. This course will cover classroom evaluation and correction of reading difficulties including effective use of formal and informal assessment procedures to determine student needs. Selection of appropriate methods and materials for remedial instruction is emphasized. Prerequisite: ED 520. **(3)**

ED 546. SOCIAL PROBLEMS IN THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. This course will examine a variety of social problems as they impinge on the teaching-learning process. Contemporary issues and research that may be useful in minimizing the effects of these problems will be explored. **(3)**

ED 593. WORKSHOP IN EDUCATION. This course is designed to meet the needs of teachers, students, administrators, and community leaders who have special needs or interests in selected areas of education. Workshop contents should meet program needs and objectives. **(1-3)**

ED 595. INDIVIDUAL STUDIES. This course will provide supervised exploration of special topics determined to meet the special needs of a student. Requires permission of the advisor and the dean. **(3)**

ED 599. COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION. This is a seminar designed to prepare candidates for the Comprehensive Exam. **(0)**

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN SPECIAL EDUCATION COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

SE 510. ORGANIZATIONAL PROCEDURES IN SPECIAL EDUCATION.

This course will provide the study of state and federal special education legislation and regulation. The course is also designed to develop a professional level of practical skills related to the organization and management of special education programs, and to the development of appropriate and effective individualized education programs. (3)

SE 542. CHARACTERISTICS OF CHILDREN WITH EMOTIONAL DISABILITIES. This course presents a study of the identification of children and youth with emotional disabilities as well as the issues, theory, and knowledge base related to what are considered best educational practices in their education. This takes place in the context of a historical overview and analysis of theory and practice related to etiology and educational services. (3)

SE 544. DIAGNOSTIC AND REMEDIAL READING. This course focuses on methods for assessing reading problems and the development and implementation of instruction designed to remediate deficits in reading achievement. A variety of assessment techniques, methods, and materials from various theoretical orientations to reading instruction will be linked to appropriate instruction practice. (3)

SE 547. BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION. This course is designed to develop expertise in the application of the principles of behavior management in educational settings. (3)

SE 550. ASSESSMENT AND INDIVIDUAL PROGRAMMING FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES. This course will focus on the selection, development, administration and interpretation of formal and informal instruments employed in the assessment and evaluation of children and youth with disabilities. The development of individual educational programs based on the results of such evaluations will also be a focus of the course. (3)

SE 552. EDUCATION OF CHILDREN WITH EMOTIONAL DISABILITIES. This course is designed to develop practical, professional level, skills in the identification and education of children with emotional disabilities. Definitions, contributing factors, research methods, issues and trends, assessment, and educational and intervention strategies are also covered. (3)

SE 555. EDUCATION OF STUDENTS WITH MILD TO MODERATE DISABILITIES. This course will focus on methods, materials, and assessment techniques that are appropriate when working with students who are mildly to moderately mentally retarded, learning disabled, and have behavioral or emotional disorders. (3)

SE 556. METHODS OF TEACHING SECONDARY STUDENTS WITH MILD TO MODERATE DISABILITIES. This course will focus on assessment techniques, placement options, linkage with community resources, and methods and materials that are appropriate when working with students with mild to moderate disabilities at the secondary level. (3)

SE 557. EDUCATION AND PSYCHOLOGY OF STUDENTS WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES. This course will focus on the identification of children and youth with learning disabilities as well as what are considered best educational practices employed with such students based on their social, emotional, physical, and academic needs. (3)

SE 558. TEACHING CHILDREN WITH SEVERE/PROFOUND DISABILITIES. This course presents behavioral, ecological, and developmental learning theories related to effective educational programs for children with severe/profound disabilities as well as the practical application of those theories in assessing current level of functioning, designing, implementing and evaluating individual education programs. (3)

SE 559. EARLY INTERVENTION FOR INFANTS AND TODDLERS WITH DISABILITIES. This course will focus on assessment techniques, service delivery options, materials selection and preparation, teachings methods, linkage with community resources, and the development of Individual Family Service Plans (IFSP) and Individual Education Programs (IEP) that are appropriate when working with infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families. (3)

SE 560. INCLUSION OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES IN REGULAR EDUCATION. This course includes the study of the issues associated with the practice of inclusion. The knowledge base related to inclusion will be presented, and students will develop practical skills in effective consultation, collaboration, and special education service delivery for children with disabilities who are placed in regular classroom environments. (3)

SE 577. EDUCATION AND PSYCHOLOGY OF STUDENTS WITH MENTAL RETARDATION. This course will focus on the etiology and psychological characteristics of individuals with mental retardation, issues related to their development; and best practices appropriate for their education based on their cognitive abilities, their needs related to their academic and communication skills, their emotional, physical, social development, and their levels of adaptive behaviors. (3)

SE 579. PSYCHOLOGY AND EDUCATION OF THE GIFTED STUDENT. Presents research findings and theory related to the characteristics and unique needs of gifted students as well as issues related to appropriate education for such students that are designed to maximize their development. (3)

SE 581. METHODS, MATERIALS AND RESOURCES FOR THE GIFTED STUDENTS. Focuses on models of education for gifted students. Included is the linkage of practical and successful applications of theory related to

those models during the evaluation process, while selecting and developing curricula and instruction and while fostering creativity. (3)

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN BIOINFORMATICS COURSE DESCRIPTION

BF 500. INTRODUCTION TO MOLECULAR BIOLOGY. Introduction to the characteristics and biological functions of nucleic acids and proteins in living cells with emphasis on the central dogma theory, molecular immunology and genetic engineering/recombinant DNA technology. (3)

BF 502. INTRODUCTION TO STATISTICS. Basic concepts of statistical models and use of sample – variation, statistical measures, distributions, test of significance, regression and correlation. (3)

BF 504. INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTER PROGRAMMING. Introduction to database concepts and programming languages. Relational, hierarchal and network models, data models, lightweight database application protocol (LDAP), scripting languages, systems implementation security issues and data integrity. (3)

BF 601. INTRODUCTION TO BIOINFORMATICS. Recent developments of the sciences have produced a wealth of experimental data of sequences and three-dimensional structures of biological macromolecules. This course will provide students with an introduction to the theory and practice of bioinformatics and computational biology. It will discuss the basic concepts of bioinformatics and focus on how to identify, obtain, establish, maintain and exchange research information in biology. It will review the major scientific databases needed to research problems in biology. Students will learn basic Internet tools, as well as work in a team to design, write, and present a research project for the course mini-symposium. (3)

BF 602. DATABASES. Mining, relationships and programming. Introduction to principles of database design, and survey of alternative database organizations and structures. Logical database organization; schemas; subschemas; data description languages; hierarchical, network, and relational databases; database management systems; normal forms. **Prerequisite: A computer programming course (CS 203/204/, CS 221, CS231, CS251, CD309 or BF 504).** (3)

BF 603. DESIGN OF EXPERIMENTS. Advanced research design techniques and the planning of and theories in the statistical design of experiments. Applications from a wide variety of disciplines will be considered in detail. Students will learn the theoretical aspects of statistical design as well as the application of complex techniques to realistic situations. Optimization of experimental design techniques will also be covered. **Prerequisite: A statistics (MA 302 or EH 350 or BF 502).** (3)

BF 611. GENOMICS AND GENOME TECHNOLOGY. In-depth analysis of eukaryotic cell structure and function, including membrane structure and transport, cellular organelles and the cytoskeleton, and cell communication. Emphasis will be on experimental approaches to understanding concepts in cell biology/molecular biology. **Prerequisite:** Two biology courses with a lab (BI 11/112, BI 410, BI 311 or BF 501). (3)

BF 612. ALGORITHMS. Design and analysis – Introduction to the mathematical analysis of computer algorithms, correctness, complexity, asymptotic lower bounds, efficient data structures, and combinatorial algorithms. NP-complex problems. **Prerequisite:** BF602. (3)

BF 613. BIOINFORMATICS PROGRAMMING. Introduction to programming skills needed to perform large-scale genomic analysis in research and professional settings. The Perl programming language will be taught in the context of and with applications to bioinformatics. Libraries of Perl code modules with applications to bioinformatics, such as BioPerl and the NCBI Toolkit, will be introduced. **Prerequisite:** BF 602. (3)

BF 701. SYSTEMS BIOLOGY. Cells, tissues, organs and organisms are systems of components whose interactions have been defined, refined, and optimized over hundreds of millions of years of evolution. Computational systems biology is a field that aims at a system-level understanding of biological systems by analyzing biological data using computational techniques. **Prerequisite:** BF 611. (3)

BF 711. PROTEOMICS. Review of computational methods for the analysis, classification and prediction of three dimensional protein structures. This course is an introduction to the field of proteomics. The goal is to provide an understanding of the fundamentals required to perform and apply proteomic analysis to problems in modern biology, and to critique current literature in this field. **Prerequisite:** BF 611. (3)

BF 712. STATISTICAL BIOINFORMATICS. Introduction to the statistical methods used in bioinformatics. This course will focus on statistic issues related to DNA and protein sequence analysis. **Prerequisite:** BF 603. (3)

BF 795-BF 797. THESIS RESEARCH. To allow each student to demonstrate his/her independent learning ability and interest in advancing his/her knowledge through the pursuit of independent research and/or development work in an area related to bioinformatics. **Prerequisite:** BF 500-603. (3-12)

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH COURSE DESCRIPTION

EH 500. PRINCIPLES OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH. Introduces the student to the basic principles of water management, waste disposal, food protection, and insect and vector control. (3)

EH 503. ECONOMICS OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT. Basic principles of economic analysis, decision making, policy formation, and environmental regulation under uncertainty in static and dynamic contexts. Introduction to regulatory assessment. (3)

EH 510. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PRACTICE. Discusses the practical aspects of food and milk sanitation, its role in disease transmission, the development of a food service training program, and the inspection of food facilities. (3)

EH 520. WATER CHEMISTRY. A quantitative and qualitative approach to water analysis with an emphasis on methods used to evaluate drinking water quality and water treatment efficiency. (4)

EH 525. WASTEWATER ANALYSIS. This course deals with the technical aspects of wastewater analysis and management. Emphasis is placed on wastewater analysis, treatment, and regulatory compliance. (4)

EH 530. BIostatISTICS. Fundamentals of statistical methods applicable to public health with emphasis on collection, and summarization. (3)

EH 533. EPIDEMIOLOGY. A study of the principles of epidemiology with an emphasis on control and prevention of infectious and chronic diseases; methods and techniques of disease investigation, and data interpretation. (3)

EH 540. PRINCIPLES OF AIR POLLUTION. A study of the characteristics, sources, and control of air contaminants. Topics reviewed: ambient air sampling, analysis techniques, meteorology and control technologies. (3)

EH 547. ENVIRONMENTAL TOXICOLOGY. An examination of the principles of toxicology and the toxicity resulting from environmental exposure to chemical substances. (3)

EH 550. ENVIRONMENTAL MICROBIOLOGY. Practical laboratory experience in the fundamentals of bacteriology with applications to food, milk, and water. (4)

EH 553. LIMNOLOGY. Students will learn to apply basic limnological principles to diagnose lake and watershed problems, to understand lake response to pollution, to identify appropriate management solutions, and to predict lake response to management. (3)

EH 555. INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE. The recognition of hazards found in the workplace to include the evaluation and control of gases, particulate, and noise and ionizing radiation. Occupational diseases will be examined. (4)

EH 558. INSTITUTIONAL HEALTH. Examines the public health problems associated with hospitals, nursing homes, schools, and penal institutions. (3)

EH 563. ENVIRONMENTAL CHEMISTRY LAB. Experimental work in environmental chemical analysis to demonstrate analytical methods and instrumentation used in environmental laboratories with reference to air, water, and soil quality. (4)

EH 565. SOLID AND HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT. Examines the nature of solid wastes, their environmental impact, and potential in disease transmission. Management, planning, and control technology will be discussed. (3)

EH 570. VECTOR CONTROL. Identification and collection of arthropods and rodents of public health importance. Biological and chemical controls and pesticides application techniques will be reviewed. (3)

EH 580. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATION. Discussion of the theory and principles of management and their application to health departments and other health institutions and agencies. The role, function, and tasks of the environmental health professional will also be examined. (3)

EH 588. PUBLIC HEALTH ADMINISTRATION AND PLANNING. The organization, planning, and administration of environmental health programs in private and government agencies. Specific topics to be examined: developing program objectives and their implementation and evaluation, organizational structure, personnel, and legal and financial considerations. (3)

EH 591-EH 592. SEMINAR. Review of current topics and research in environmental health. (1)

EH 595. ENVIRONMENTAL LAW. A review of the legislative actions that have created organizations, standards and regulations of environmental significance, as well as, their need, purpose, and application. (3)

EH 596. ECONOMICS OF NATURAL HAZARDS. The aim of this course is to describe the macro-economic dynamics of natural disasters and their determinants in a large sample of disaster events. The overall goal of this course is to provide students with a solid understanding of the economic and financial impacts of natural disasters as well as examine the short and long term nature that such devastation most likely will have on the economy. This course will cover economic aspects of natural hazards that focus on: impacts, loss estimation, mitigation, recovery, modeling, policy analysis, risk, insurance, resiliency, and sustainability. (3)

EH 597. EMERGENCY AND DISASTER THEORY. The aim of this course is to address the fundamental principles and theories of emergencies and disasters. The overall goal of this course is to provide students with an understanding of the conceptual necessities for effective preparation, response, and recovery from emergencies and natural disasters and to identify specific examples of effective theories in practice in different systems. This course will also cover and explore the roles of first responders and emergency management officials at all levels of government. (3)

EH 598 THE CATASTROPHIC EARTH – A SEMINAR IN NATURAL DISASTER. Since the beginning of time, catastrophic events have played an important role in shaping the face of our planet. In the Catastrophic Earth: Seminar in Natural Disasters, students will examine the geological processes and hazards which may have triggered these natural disasters as well as those complex, unexplained occurrences. Class discussions will range from the mass extinction of dinosaurs to global warming, volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, tsunamis, hurricanes, storm surges, thunderstorms, wind waves, and other natural disasters.

Within recent years catastrophic events and natural disasters have been more frequent and severe inflicting significant devastation and shock to the entire Earth. In this graduate level seminar students will engage in a high degree of involvement and critical reasoning to journey through an exploration of global and environmental catastrophes, their causes, effects, classification of and recurring risks. Students will observe the vulnerability of certain geographic regions (locally, regionally and globally) to experience catastrophic phenomena and future disasters. Discussions will be focused on disaster prevention, intervention options, and responsibilities for disaster mitigation. By the end of this course, students should gain a clearer understanding of the scientific, social, political, financial, and human dimensions of natural disasters in our lives and Planet Earth. (3)

EH 610. INTERNSHIP. An internship is required of all students in the department unless waived by the students Graduate Committee. The internship is to provide the student with practical field experience in selected areas of environmental health. (6)

EH 620. RESEARCH IN ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH. Students develop, conduct, and analyze experimental designs to gain a better understanding of research methods and prepare for thesis work. (3)

EH 630. THESIS. (3)

EH 691-EH 692. SEMINAR. Critical reviews of current topics and research in environmental health. (1-1)

MASTER OF ARTS IN RURAL PUBLIC POLICY AND PLANNING COURSE DESCRIPTION

MRP 503. RURAL POLICY PLANNING, EVALUATION AND ANALYSIS. This course explores a variety of theories of rural communities and their ability to explain the contemporary conditions and problems. The course also provides the basic techniques of rural policy analysis and the evaluation methods for the design and assessment of public policy programs. (3)

MRP 504. RURAL COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

The course examines theory and contemporary practices for promoting the economic development of rural communities. This course will review alternative ways of understanding the dynamics of rural economic development and devise strategies that will benefit community residents. In addition, the course will examine the complex ways in which the concepts of community analysis and development are used and understood. Students will connect the concepts to issues, problems or policy alternatives affecting rural communities by participating in applied projects. (3)

MRP 505. ECONOMIC ANALYSIS OF STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.

The course develops the framework and concepts of macroeconomics for the purpose of applying them to the analysis of rural and public sector policies and issues from such topical areas as transportation, housing, energy, ecology, public health, community development, law enforcement, recreation and regulation. It provides an exploration of the rationale for public revenues and expenditures with emphasis on practical application and current state and local finance issues. (3)

MRP 506. INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS. This course provides students with an understanding of the formal and informal relationships among all levels of government. This course will examine the evolution of the American federal system. It will also review inter-unit cooperation and conflict; as well as, administrative issues such as revenue-sharing, federal grants, and regulations. (3)

MRP 507. RESEARCH METHODS FOR PUBLIC POLICY.

The course helps students develop an understanding of how basic quantitative tools are used in public policy analysis. The major concepts discussed include modeling, optimization, sensitivity analysis, confidence levels, and estimation and prediction. These concepts are covered in the context of applications such as constrained decision making based on calculus and on linear programming; policy choices with probabilistic information; evaluating and updating information. The course also examines the need for research in developing sound decisions and policy. It explores the scope of policy research, scientific reasoning, problem identification, hypothesis formulation, planning for data analysis, and sampling procedures. (3)

MRP 508. STATISTICAL ANALYSIS.

This course covers a range of statistical analysis tools. Students are provided with an in-depth understanding of advanced statistical methods with an applied focus on estimation, inferences, and prediction of models. This course examines the fundamentals of measuring public policy data, summarizing observations and analyzing contingency tables. Major topics in statistical analysis will include chi-square tests, analysis of variance, regression and correlation, time-series, forecasting, and nonparametric methods using statistical packages such as SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences). (3)

MRP 509. MASTER'S THESIS. The candidate for the Master of Arts in Rural Public Policy and Planning who elects the thesis option must obtain approval from his/her faculty advisors for the prospectus. All requirements by the Graduate School for submission dates must be met. (6)

MRP 510. PRACTICUM. The course assists students in making decisions about specialization and internship objectives related to the Master in Rural Public Policy and Planning. The practicum provides students with the opportunity to participate in and observe, as a full-time working member of an agency's staff, the daily policy-related activities of a local, state, or federal government agency, or a non-government agency which is concerned with the public sector. This course develops short and long-term career skills. The course entails involvement in a government municipality or other public, private, or not-for-profit agency. The program faculty and the student will locate and acquire a practicum. The student will work 40 hours per week for a total 680 hours a semester (i.e. 40 hours x 17 weeks). (6)

MRP 511. POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT OF PUBLIC POLICY. The course examines political institutions and processes and the role of the political environment in economic policy decisions, trade, and investment. The issues of generalizability, objective knowledge and understanding, the nature of evidence, and how they impact public policy are also studied. The course involves an in-depth study of the political process used in American governments to address social, economic, and political issues. (3)

MRP 512. TOWN PLANNING AND THE POLITICAL PROCESS. The course provides a study of the planning process in rural areas, with particular attention to governmental and administrative policies and the machinery for dealing with problems involving complex political, economic, and technological factors. (3)

MRP 513. INDEPENDENT STUDY IN PUBLIC POLICY. This course is designed to permit the student to participate in focused and comprehensive study of a relevant topic in public policy. The independent study must be designed by the student and supervised by the professor. (3)

MRP 514. SPECIAL TOPICS IN PUBLIC POLICY. This course explores and critique selected topics in the conceptualization, formulation, implementation, and analysis of public policy. It will provide a seminar treatment of contemporary issues, problems, and questions which frame discourses on the processes of public policy and their programmatic impact from the national government to local communities. (3)

MRP 515. SEMINAR IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION. This course examines the literature which focuses on the historical and ecological factors influencing the development of the discipline of Public Administration. Concomitantly, a look at contemporary trends will be emphasized. Thus, students will discuss issues such as privatization, third sector ethics and executive leadership. In addition, some effort will be given to providing a comparative analysis to the context of public administration. (3)

MRP 516. SOUTHERN POLITICS AND PUBLIC POLICY. This course describes, explores, and critiques the politics of the American South and how it has historically characterized development and public policy in the region. It examines the relationship between the politics that has given rise to particular development schemes and the public policies that have been informed by issues of political participation, resource allocation and service delivery. (3)

MRP 517. PUBLIC HEALTH ADMINISTRATION AND PLANNING. This course will provide students with a basic understanding of the United States health system and give them practical experience in analyzing how health reform and health policy more generally affect various sectors of the economy. Emphasis is placed on policy, the process of government regulation, and the character of health settings at the federal, state, and local levels. (3)

MRP 518. PRINCIPLES OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH. The course provides a general overview of health care systems, especially the free enterprise system utilized in America. The course includes a review of empirical studies of demand for health services, behavior of providers and the relationship of health services to the populations' health and how public input into health care organizations helps to form public policy for health care issues. It examines the relation between socioeconomic structure and health as a descriptive and conceptual framework for health policy analyses at national and local levels. The course views relations between health levels and socioeconomic structure, and changes in socioeconomic structure from spatial and historical perspectives. Dimensions of socioeconomic structure include income, education, occupation, industry, employment, and ethnicity. (3)

MRP 519. LEGAL ISSUES IN HEALTHCARE DELIVERY. The course examines current and historical legal and ethical issues impacting health administration, including malpractice and other liability issues, licensing and regulation, professional ethics, contracts and property, insurance, corporate, taxation, antitrust, fraud and abuse, medical staff, confidentiality, health care access, peer review, ethics committees, legal and ethical aspects of patient care, decision making, and consent. It provides an introduction to public health law including a study of the legal powers available for implementing programs; methods for their most effective use; the recognition and management of legal problems; and an analysis of the legal relationship of public health personnel to the government, the staff, and the public. (3)

MRP 520. EPIDEMIOLOGY IN RURAL DISTRICTS. This course provides a non-medical introduction to the epidemiological methods and procedures utilized in the study of the origin, distribution, and control of diseases. The course examines chronic and communicable diseases of special concern in rural public health and discusses the role of education in disease control. (3)

MRP 521. VOLUNTARY NONPROFIT SECTOR AND PUBLIC POLICY. This course addresses the history, philosophy, roles, and scope of nonprofit organizations in the United States. The course includes the roles of the nonprofit and voluntary sector. It further examines the contemporary forces which impact philanthropy and charitable

giving, both by institutions and individuals. The course examines the effective planning and management of development programs (i.e. annual giving), fund raising vehicles (i.e. mail solicitations) and the fund raising process, from planning through donor relations. (3)

MRP 522. NONPROFIT MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP. This course explores the assumptions and practices of nonprofit organization management and leadership. Topics include issues of public accountability, ethics, evaluating organizational effectiveness, personnel motivation, board and staff relationships, the meaning of service, the economic and political scope of the independent sector, the role of volunteerism in a democratic society, and the role and scope of philanthropy. (3)

MRP 523. FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING IN THE PUBLIC AND NONPROFIT SECTORS. This course addresses financial issues involved in governing and managing nonprofit organizations. The course will cover such topics as: cash flow analysis; budgeting; fund accounting; cost accounting (determining costs for programs and services); understanding and using standard financial statements, including balance sheets, cash flow statements, statements of activity, and operating and capital budgets. (3)

MRP 524. DISPUTE RESOLUTION. The course examines conflict and cooperation between individuals, groups, and organizations over the control of work in a nonprofit agency. It provides an overview of theories of social conflict and introduces specific dispute resolution skills such as negotiation and mediation. A central theme is how this conflict is expressed, controlled, and resolved. Students will participate in exercises to learn the basics of two-party negotiations. (3)

MRP 525. RURAL PLANNING AND SOCIAL POLICY. The course provides an introduction to the theory and practices of rural social policy planning with attention to spatial, policy, resource, and advocacy relationships. This course focuses on matters of social services, income maintenance, education, and health. (3)

MRP 526. RURAL DEMOGRAPHY AND GROWTH. Small town planning, rural populations, and development dynamics are explored. The course focuses on the techniques employed to manage growth-related change and to implement plans. It examines matters of capital investment strategies, development impact analysis, impact mitigation, ethical implications, and alternative growth potentials. (3)

MRP 527. HOUSING FACILITIES AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT. The course focuses on the strategies and tools for developing housing facilities. It provides a thorough review of the problems and issues related to housing planning and an overview of the elements of the community development process including housing. This course focuses on the social and political aspects of housing policy in the United States. (3)

MRP 528. SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT. Emphasis is placed on the necessary steps to start, acquire, or expand an existing business. Also, the principles and practices applicable to the operation of small businesses are stressed. (3)

MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

SW 500. SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE I. Presents the history of social work practice, values and ethics, generalist practice within an ecosystems theoretical framework, empowerment and strengths perspectives, and rural social work practice with emphasis on micro practice. **Prerequisite: Admission to the MSW Program. (3)**

SW 501. SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE II. Continuation of Social Work Practice I with emphases on mezzo and macro practice. **Prerequisite: SW 500 Social Work Practice I. (3)**

SW 510. SOCIAL WELFARE POLICY AND SERVICES I. . In depth analysis of the history and current structures of social welfare policies and services. **Prerequisite: Admission to the MSW Program. (3)**

SW 511. SOCIAL WELFARE POLICY AND SERVICES II. Focus is on analysis of current social welfare policies and services, and development of alternative policies and service delivery systems. **Prerequisite: SW 510 Social Welfare Policy and Services I. (3)**

SW 520. HUMAN BEHAVIOR AND THE SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT I. The first of two foundation courses which explores knowledge, theories and concepts about human development and behavior from birth to old age with a focus on micro level applications. **Prerequisite: Admission to the MSW Program. (3)**

SW 521. HUMAN BEHAVIOR AND THE SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT II. Continuation of Human Behavior and the Social Environment I with a focus on mezzo and macro applications. **Prerequisite: SW 520 Human Behavior and Social Environment I. (3)**

SW 530. STATISTICS FOR SOCIAL WORK. Statistics is the tool that quantitative researchers widely use to understand the data and the language to report findings. It is incumbent upon social workers to learn this important research tool and “research language.” **Prerequisite: Admission to the MSW Program. (3)**

SW 531. METHODS OF SOCIAL WORK RESEARCH. Presents qualitative and quantitative research methodologies to develop, use and communicate empirically based knowledge including evidence-based interventions. **Prerequisites: SW 500 Social Work Practice I; SW 530 Statistics for Social Work. (3)**

SW 540. DIVERSITY: MICRO, MEZZO, AND MACRO APPROACHES. Preparation for culturally competent social work practice with diverse populations and advocacy for social and economic justice. **Prerequisites: Admission to MSW Program. (3)**

SW 580. FIELD SEMINAR I. Discussion on integration of social work knowledge, theories, and research into generalist social work practice during the internship

experience. **Prerequisites:** SW 500; SW 501; SW 510; SW 511; SW 520; SW 521; SW 531; SW 540. **Co-requisite:** SW 581 Field Internship I. (3)

SW 581. FIELD INTERNSHIP I. Supervised generalist social work practice in an agency or organization requiring 450 clock hours. **Prerequisites:** SW 500; SW 501; SW 510; SW 511; SW 520; SW 521; SW 531; SW 540. **Co-requisite:** SW 580 Field Practice Seminar I. (9)

SW 600. ADVANCED SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE WITH CHILDREN AND FAMILIES: DIRECT PRACTICE. Preparation for specialized social work practice with children and families. **Prerequisite:** SW 581 Field Internship I or Advanced Standing. (3)

SW 601. SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE WITH THE AGING. This course is an examination of issues and techniques in working with elderly clients. **Prerequisite:** SW 581 Field Internship I. (3)

SW 610. FAMILY AND CHILD WELFARE POLICY. Focuses on child and family welfare policies from both historical and current perspectives along with the analyses of issues related to policy development and the role of the social worker in policy advocacy. **Prerequisite:** SW 581 Field Internship I or Advanced Standing. (3)

SW 611. SOCIAL WELFARE AND HEALTH POLICY. This course examines the history of Social Welfare and Health Policy. It focuses on the various conceptual frameworks to analyze and study current social welfare issues. **Prerequisite:** SW 581 Field Internship I. (3)

SW 615 ADVANCED SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE WITH CHILDREN AND FAMILIES: INDIRECT PRACTICE. Focuses on the development of advanced practice skills in social work supervision, administration, and program development for children and families in rural areas. **Prerequisite:** SW 581 Field Internship I or Advanced Standing. (3)

SW 620. RURAL SOCIAL WORK. Advanced practice skills in rural social work at micro, mezzo and macro levels of practice. **Prerequisite:** SW 581 Field Internship I or Advanced Standing. (3)

SW 630. MENTAL HEALTH: ASSESSMENT AND INTERVENTION. Study of the etiology, symptoms and treatment of mental disorders. **Prerequisite:** SW 581 Field Internship I or Advanced Standing. (3)

SW 631. PSYCHOSOCIAL AND MENTAL HEALTH ASPECTS OF AGING. This course will examine the psychological, biological, and social aspects of aging. **Prerequisite:** SW 581 Field Internship I. (3)

SW 650. NEED ASSESSMENT AND PROGRAM EVALUATION. Enhancement of knowledge and skills in qualitative and quantitative research methods with a focus on the applications of methods in conducting needs assessments and

outcome evaluations. **Prerequisite: SW 581 Field Internship I or Advanced Standing. (3).**

SW 680. FIELD SEMINAR II. Discussion on the integration of social work knowledge, theories, and research into advanced social work practice with children and families during the internship. **Prerequisites: SW 600; SW 610; SW 615; SW 620; SW 630. Co-requisite: SW 681 Field Internship II. (3)**

SW 681 FIELD INTERNSHIP II. Supervised advanced social work practice in child and/or family welfare in an agency or organization requiring 450 clock hours. **Prerequisites: SW 600; SW 610; SW 615; SW 620; SW 630. Co-requisite: SW 680 Field Seminar II. (3)**

GRADUATE FACULTY

The date in parentheses indicates the beginning date of service at this University.

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