Applying for the Doctor of Philosophy in Education Program

Thank you for your interest in the Doctor of Philosophy in Education Program. The Ph.D. in Education program prepares individuals to be scholars/researchers in a selected area of education. The skills and experiences acquired in Ph.D. study equip graduates to teach in their area of expertise and to design and conduct a program of inquiry in their research area. Potential careers include faculty member at a research university and research fellow or associate in an educational organization.

There are four emphasis areas within the Ph.D. in Education: Teaching-Learning Processes; Educational Leadership and Policy Studies; Educational Psychology; and Counseling. Please see information about application deadlines to the Counseling emphasis on the Counseling Department web page. Deadline dates for applying to the other three emphasis areas are **October 1** (for study commencing in the spring semester) and **March 1** (for study commencing in the summer or fall semesters). To be considered for admission individuals must have their application packet **completed** by these dates.

The Ph.D. in Education admission process is a two-stage process wherein faculty members in the emphasis area to which the potential student is applying review the application packet as a first step. The faculty committee at the conclusion of this review recommends that either the applicant not be admitted or that the applicant be invited for a face-to-face interview with two or more faculty members who are potential mentors. At the conclusion of the interview faculty members will make a final recommendation as to whether the applicant should be admitted or not. Applicants are only admitted if a faculty member accepts the role of mentor (advisor). Applicants not residing in the St. Louis area can be interviewed by telephone or video link.

Admission to the Ph.D. in Education is very competitive. Minimum criteria should be taken as just that. Applicants should strive to exceed the minimum in as many areas as possible.

*Elements of the Application Packet and General Requirements*

1. Applicants should apply for admission to the Graduate School by going to [http://www.umsl.edu](http://www.umsl.edu) and following the links to first apply for admission then apply to the Graduate School. In the online application process the degree to which you are applying as well as the emphasis area can be indicated. There is a $35.00 application fee for first-time applicants.

2. You should have official copies of all higher education work at colleges and universities you have attended (even for one course) sent to Graduate Admissions, 217 Millennium Student Center, One University Blvd, St. Louis, MO 63121. Start well in advance of deadline dates to request transcripts.
3. You must submit GRE scores. If you have not taken the GRE, arrange to do so well in advance of the deadline dates. You need only take the GRE General Test. Visit http://www.ets.org/gre. We recommend you make use of preparatory materials or courses, as we are looking for individuals who score at the 50%ile or above.

4. Arrange for 3 individuals to write letters of recommendation. At least two writers should have earned research doctorates since they will be able to speak to your ability to complete a Ph.D. program and therefore provide faculty review committees with the information needed to make a recommendation.

5. Send to the College of Education an updated copy of your professional resume’ and a two to three page statement about your goals in undertaking doctoral study. This information provides review committees a context for your application. You can e-mail these items to gradeduc@umsl.edu

The two-stage process should take 4 to 6 weeks from the deadline date.

If you have additional questions about the application process or you should wish to be put into contact with faculty members in your intended emphasis area, e-mail gradeduc@umsl.edu or call 314-516-5483.