School of Education
College of Human Sciences
Iowa State University

Master’s Degree Program – Higher Education

Emphasis: Community College Specialization

Students may earn a master’s degree in the College of Human Sciences, School of Education with an area of specialization in Higher Education. Persons graduating with degrees in this area may obtain administrative positions in community colleges. The program will meet requirements for Community College Arts and Science instructor certification.

The Higher Education program offers both the Master of Sciences (M.S.) degree and the Master of Education (M.Ed.) degree. The Master of Science degree requires a minimum of 24 hours of coursework and a thesis (6 cr.). (Res Ev 552 or Res Ev 580 is required). For the Master of Education degree, 27 hours of coursework and only Research Evaluation 550 (not Res Ev 552 or Res Ev 580) is required. Students also complete a creative component (3 cr.).

The following courses are required for the master’s degree program with an emphasis in Higher Education/Community College Program.

Hg Ed 561, College Teaching (3 cr.) or Hg Ed 580I Teaching at a Distance (3 cr.)
Hg Ed 562, Curriculum Development in Colleges (3 cr.)
Hg Ed 570H, Current Topics in Student Affairs: Student Diversity (1-3 cr.) or Higher Education 576, Student Development in Higher Education (3 cr.) or Higher Education 578, Students in American Higher Education (3 cr.)

Hg Ed 580, Current Topics in the Community College (1-4 cr.) or Higher Education 615, Seminars in Higher Education (1-6 cr.) i.e. (law, org and admin, faculty eval)
Hg Ed 582, Comprehensive Community College (3 cr.)
Hg Ed 597, Program Evaluation and Assessment (3 cr.)
Res Ev 550, Educational Research (3 cr.)
Res Ev 552, Basic Educational Statistics (3 cr.) or Res Ev 580, Qualitative Research Techniques (3 cr.) (for Master of Science degree seeking students) or Statistics 401, Statistical Methods for Research Workers (4 cr.) (for M.S. students only)
Hg Ed 591, Supervised Field Experience (1-4 cr.) ***
(*** students on assistantship are required to do one practicum or may be waived)
Hg Ed 699, Research (6 cr.) or Hg Ed 599, Creative Component (3 cr.)
Hg Ed 591 and Hg Ed 599 may be combined into an institution-based capstone project that could range from 6-9 credits.

Students should consult with their major professor concerning electives to complete the program.

(M. Ed. = 30 credits; M.S. = 32 credits)

**Admission Criteria for Master’s Degree Program**

Admission to the Master of Science and Master of Education degree programs in the College of Human Sciences may be granted to applicants who meet all of the requirements of the Graduate College and the following requirements of the College of Human Sciences.

1. Completed application received.
2. Three letters of recommendation received from previous employers, professors, or professional colleagues.
3. Official transcript(s) received.
4. English proficiency on the TOEFL demonstrated by achieving a score of 560 or higher, if English is not the student’s native language.
5. A statement of professional goals indicating area of interest.
6. A resume.

**The Graduate Committee**

Upon admission to the master’s program in higher education, students are assigned a temporary advisor to assist in the transition to a graduate school. After completing ten credits of coursework, the student should identify a permanent major professor. In consultation with the major professor, the student will select two additional committee members, one from the Higher Education CCLP and one from outside the CCLP. These three committee members must be members of the graduate faculty. The purpose of the committee is to assess the background of the student, review his/her educational and professional goals, and approve the student’s proposed program of study. The committee will meet with the student to discuss these matters shortly after the student has completed 10 hours of coursework and has had the opportunity, in consultation with his/her major professor, to develop his or her proposed program of study.

**Creative Component**

At the completion of the program, the graduate committee meets with the candidate and reviews his/her total program. If the student has completed a master/s thesis, the primary focus of the oral presentation will be the content, methodology and applicability of the thesis. If the student has not written a thesis, the oral presentation with the committee will cover, primarily, the creative component.

**Transfer Students**

For students who have been enrolled in graduate programs in other colleges and universities, Iowa State University may accept up to ten credits of relevant graduate work towards the master’s degree. The Program of Study Committees determine the transferability of coursework. At least 22 credits must be earned from Iowa State University.
For the master’s degree in the College of Human Sciences there is no foreign language requirement.

GRE – The GRE is not required for admission to the Master’s program.

**Practicum**

Interested students should enroll in the practicum with Dr. Larry Ebbers, Coordinator of Community College practicum experiences. The practicum extends over one semester and is typically for two or three credits. Master’s degree students usually will take one or two practica. At least six hours of coursework should be completed before doing a practicum. A minimum of either ten hours per week of actual practicum work is suggested for three hours of credit; six to eight hours per week are required for two credits. An assistantship may be substituted for one practicum.

The purposes of the practicum (Hg Ed 591) program are:

1. To assist the student in developing a philosophy of community colleges through observation, involvement, and practical experience under the supervision of professional staff members.
2. To assist the student in the development of his/her ability to perform duties and functions common in either community college teaching/learning of administrative functions.
3. To provide an opportunity for interaction with professional staff members at a community college.

**Community College Certificate**

Individuals desiring community college instructor certificate from Iowa State University should include the following courses in their Program of Study: Hg Ed 561 College Teaching (3 cr.), Hg Ed 562 Curriculum Development (3 cr.), and Hg Ed 582 Comprehensive Community College (3 cr.). All Arts and Sciences instructors at Iowa community colleges are expected to hold a master’s degree or its equivalent in a teaching field pertinent to instructional duties. Also, an approved undergraduate or graduate human relations course at any university or Area Education Agency (1800-362-2720 x444) must be completed before the certificate is awarded. Hg Ed 570H Diversity in Higher Education meets this requirement, as does C& I 406 or 506.

For further information about admission procedures within the Graduate College, please refer to the **Graduate Student Handbook: Guidelines and Procedures**. For additional information regarding this program, contact:

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