



GRADUATE CATALOG

2020 - 2022

Graduate Studies
Advancing Knowledge, Transforming Lives
That's the Alcorn Promise!

Alcorn State University 2020-2022 Graduate Studies Catalog is published by
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Student Educational Responsibility & Catalog Disclaimer

Each student is responsible for understanding and completing all faculty established requirements for the student's program of study and degree attainment. A student's advisor, chair, or dean may not assume that responsibility.

The Alcorn State University Catalog does not constitute a legal contract between the University and a student who commences any program of study insofar as it relates to the degree requirements for that program during the effective period of this catalog. This catalog, rather, is a guide for the convenience and benefit of students. As no contractual relationships inhere or can be established between students and the University upon the information contained within this Catalog, Alcorn State University reserves the right to delete, substitute for, change, or supplement any statement in this Catalog without prior notice. Further, Alcorn State University reserves the right to add, change, modify, or withdraw courses; change the fees, rules, and schedules for admission, registration, course substitution, instruction, and graduation; and change other regulations affecting the student body at any time. With each student enrollment attaches an implied agreement to comply with university policies and procedures, which the university may modify, as reasonably needed from time-to-time, to exercise and discharge properly its academic mission.

Any updates following this publication will be posted on the website under a separate cover. The university complies with all laws regarding affirmative action and equal opportunity in all its activities and programs and does not discriminate against anyone on the basis of age, creed, color, national origin, race, religion, gender, handicap, or military status.



Alcorn
State University

GRADUATE CATALOG
2020-2022

"Campus of Excellence"

**Where Knowledge
and Character Matter**

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Nondiscrimination Policy

Students have the right to be free from all forms of discrimination. Alcorn State University complies with all laws regarding affirmative action and equal opportunity in all its educational programs, activities, admissions or employment practices and does not discriminate against anyone on the basis of age, creed, color, national or ethnic origin, race, religion, gender, disability, sexual orientation or veteran status.

Student Conduct – Harassment

Harassment: Conduct (physical, verbal, graphic, written or electronic) that is (1) unwelcome; (2) discriminatory on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age disability, genetic information, sexual orientation, or veteran status; (3) directed at an individual; and (4) so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that a reasonable person with the same characteristics of the victim would be adversely affected to a degree that interferes with his or her ability to participate in or to realize the intended benefits of an institutional activity, opportunity, or resource.

Student Conduct – Cyberbullying and Social Media Abuse

Cyberbullying is the use of cell phone or other devices to send or post emails, text messages or images intended to harass another person.

Student Conduct – Sexual Harassment

Regardless of sexual gender, personal affiliation, and/or affiliation with the University, sexual harassment is defined as repeated unsolicited sexual advances, request for sexual favors or other verbal, visual or physical conduct or communication with sexual overtones deemed by the victim as harassment (Student Conduct definition of Harassment).

TITLE VI OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits discrimination based on race, color, or national origin in programs or activities receiving federal financial assistance. Examples of the types of discrimination prohibited by Title VI include racial harassment, school segregation, and denial of language services to students who are limited in their English.

To file an employment discrimination/harassment complaint or a Title VI discrimination/harassment complaint, please contact:



Dr. Felicia Nave
20th President

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING

State of Mississippi

Members with Terms Expiring May 7, 2021

- Ms. Ann H. Lamar.....Senatobia
- Mr. Shane Hooper.....Tupelo
- Mr. Hal Parker.....Jackson
- Dr. Ford Dye, III.....Oxford

Members with Terms Expiring May 7, 2024

- Mr. Tom Duff.....Hattiesburg
- Dr. Alfred E. McNair Jr.....Oxford
- Mr. Chip Morgan.....Leland
- Dr. J. Walt Starr.....Starkville

Members with Terms Expiring May 7, 2027

- Dr. Steven Cunningham.....Hattiesburg
- Ms. Jeanne Carter Luckey.....Ocean Springs
- Mr. Bruce Martin.....Meridian
- Mr. Powell Gee Ogletree.....Jackson

Commissioner

- Dr. Alfred Rankins, Jr.....Madison**

THE OFFICE OF GRADUATE STUDIES ACADEMIC CALENDAR

FALL SEMESTER 2020

August

August

August

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****ALL DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

THE OFFICE OF GRADUATE STUDIES ACADEMIC CALENDAR

SPRING SEMESTER 2021

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THE OFFICE OF GRADUATE STUDIES ACADEMIC CALENDAR

FALL SEMESTER 2021

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****ALL DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

THE OFFICE OF GRADUATE STUDIES ACADEMIC CALENDAR

SPRING SEMESTER 2022

January

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May

May

May

May

**ALL DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

ACADEMIC ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Keith McGee	Interim Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs
Dr. Melissa Mason	Academic Affairs
Dr. Edmund Buckner	Dean, School of Agriculture and Applied Sciences
Dr. Babu Patlolla	Dean, School of Arts and Sciences
Dr. Donna Williams	Dean, School of Business
Dr. Melinda Butler	Acting Dean, School of Education and Psychology
Dr. Debra Spring	Dean, School of Nursing
Dr. Blanche Sanders	Dean, University Libraries

GRADUATE COUNCIL

OFFICE OF GRADUATE STUDIES

Dr. Keith McGee, Interim Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, 601.877.6140, kmcgee@alcorn.edu

Dr. Melissa Mason, Academic Affairs, 601.877.6122, mcmason@alcorn.edu

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Dr. Victor Njiti, Chairperson, Department of Agriculture, 601.877.6527, vionji@alcorn.edu

Dr. Keith McGee, Director, Center of Biotechnology, 601.877.4659, kmcgee@alcorn.edu

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GRADUATE SCHOOL OF NURSING

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J. D. BOYD LIBRARY

Dr. Blanche Sanders, Dean, University Libraries, 601.877.6351, blanche@alcorn.edu

COUNSELING AND TESTING

Dr. Barbara Martin, Director, Counseling and Testing, 601.877.6284, bmartin@alcorn.edu

INSTITUTIONAL ASSESSMENT

Dr. Latoya Hart, Director, Institutional Effectiveness, 601.877.2336, lhart@alcorn.edu

STUDENT RECORDS

Dr. Tracee Smith, Student Records, Office of the Registrar, 601.877.6105, tracee@alcorn.edu

ONLINE PROGRAMS

Dr. Ivan Banks, Director, Distance Education Programs, 601.877.2371, ibanks@alcorn.edu

GENERAL INFORMATION



PURPOSE AND USE OF CATALOG

The Alcorn State University Graduate Catalog is the primary general information publication for the University. It is intended to provide information for students and other persons interested in the academic programs and organizations of TSU. In order to understand the activities and programs of the institution, it is important for students to know how to use this Catalog effectively.

The University provides the opportunity for students to increase their knowledge by providing programs of instruction in the various disciplines and programs through a faculty which is trained and qualified for teaching at the college level. However, the acquisition of knowledge by any student is contingent upon the student's desire to learn and his or her application of appropriate study techniques to any course or program. As a result, the University does not warrant or represent that any student who completes a course or program of study will necessarily acquire any specific knowledge or skills, or will be able to pass or successfully complete any specific examination for any course, degree or license.

All graduate students should thoroughly familiarize themselves with the General Information and Admissions, Regulations, Policies section of the Catalog.

Students who have already made decisions concerning the area of study in which they are interested, such as Education, Business, Nursing, Engineering or some other field, should turn to the section of the Catalog dealing with the particular interest for information about admissions, courses and degree requirements. Information about degree programs is to be found under the heading of the college or school in which the program is offered.

Students who have questions concerning their academic progress, curricula or academic standing should consult their faculty advisor, graduate coordinator, department head or academic deans, as appropriate.

Persons interested in graduate work may inquire at the Office of the School of Graduate and Professional Studies located at Avon Williams Campus, in Suite B400, 330 10th Avenue North, Nashville, TN 37203 or by phone at (615) 963-7371, or e-mail at gradschool@tnstate.edu.

The Dean of the School of Graduate and Professional Studies is the editor of the Graduate Catalog and has final authority to determine the contents of the Catalog.

IMPORTANT MATRICULATION INFORMATION FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

This section is a synopsis of key policies and best practices regarding graduate enrollment and retention requirements of degree-seeking students at Alcorn State University. This snapshot will assist students in a quick reference guide to key inquiries that are consistently posed.

1. All admitted and enrolled students must follow the assigned curriculum in go.alcorn.edu and use the degree plan and checklist for progression to degree completion.
2. Graduate Studies will honor degree completion requirements specified for students in the published Graduate Catalog and use this criteria to certify prospective students for degree completion.
3. A student who does not maintain continuous enrollment (summer semesters not included) will follow the degree plan and progression to degree completion requirements in place at the time of readmission.
4. A student who does not complete his/her curriculum within the specified six-year time limit will have to petition the Graduate Studies Administrator to explain any extenuating circumstances preventing degree completion if the student's intent is to complete degree requirements. This is not an automatic approval in submitting an appeal for consideration. Petitions are reviewed and decided on a case by case basis.
5. It is the responsibility of the student to read and comply with the policies and procedures published in the Graduate Catalog to maintain good academic standing and progression to degree completion.
6. Students are held responsible for reading and complying with the University policies contained in the Graduate Catalog and Student Handbook.
7. The Catalog is the official document that governs student outcomes, academic integrity, student success, and progression to degree completion. Graduate Studies will exercise its educational responsibility in its judicial oversight of graduate programs.

HISTORY OF THE UNIVERSITY

Alcorn State University was created by an act of the Mississippi State Legislature on May 13, 1871. First named Alcorn University of Mississippi in honor of James L. Alcorn, who was then governor of the state of Mississippi, the institution was heralded as a “seminary of learning.”

The institution has a rich and illustrious history. It is located on the site of the former Oakland College, a Presbyterian school for the education of white males. Oakland College closed its doors at the beginning of the Civil War so that its students might answer the “call to arms.” Upon failing to reopen after the war, the state purchased the college for the education of its “Negro citizens.” The Honorable Hiram R. Revels, the first black man to serve in the United States Senate, resigned his seat in the U.S. Senate in 1871 to become the first president of the newly established institution.

The university was given \$50,000 per year for 10 years (the same as the University of Mississippi). Alcorn State University also received three-fifths of the proceeds from the sale of agricultural scrip under the provisions of the First Morrill-Land Grant Act of 1862. According to the *1872 Alcorn University Catalogue*, “the fund amounted to \$189,000, three-fifths of which, or \$113,400, became the property of Alcorn University, the income from which is

to be devoted to the agricultural and mechanical department of the institution.” Thus, from its beginning, Alcorn State University has been a land-grant institution.

In 1878, the Mississippi State Legislature changed the name of the institution to Alcorn Agricultural and Mechanical College with the enactment of the following legislation:

LAWS OF MISSISSIPPI

Chapter XIX, SECTION 1. Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Mississippi, that the institution known as Alcorn University is hereby established as, and declared to be, an agricultural college for the education of the Negro youth of the State and to be hereafter known as the Alcorn Agricultural and Mechanical College of the State of Mississippi.

SECTION 9. Be it further enacted, that each of said Boards of Trustees shall possess all the power necessary and proper for the accomplishment of the trusts reposed in them viz.: The establishment and maintenance of a first class institution at which the youth of the State of Mississippi may acquire a common school education and a scientific and practical knowledge of agriculture, horticulture, and the mechanical arts, also in the proper growth and care of stock, without, however, excluding scientific and classical studies, including military tactics.

Alcorn State University’s land-grant status was re-affirmed in 1890, when the state of Mississippi accepted provisions of the 1890 Morrill Act specifically providing for the establishment of separate land-grant institutions of higher education. Hence, although created under the 1862 Morrill Act, Alcorn State University is often referred to as an 1890 land-grant institution.

Recognizing the tremendous growth and impact of the institution during its more than one century of existence, the Mississippi State Legislature changed the name of the institution to Alcorn State University in 1974.

Today, Alcorn State University is an equal opportunity institution. It admits students without regard to age, race, creed, color, national origin, religion, gender, or physical disabilities. The institution is both international and cosmopolitan. It has attracted students from 82 counties in the state of Mississippi, 42 states, and 18 foreign countries.

ASSURANCE OF COMPLIANCE

On January 23, 1965, the president of the university signed, with the approval of the Board of Trustees of Institutions of Higher Learning of the State of Mississippi the “Assurance of Compliance with the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare Regulation under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.”

The following statement indicates the commitment of the university: “Alcorn State University HEREBY AGREES THAT it will comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (P.L. 88-352) and all requirements imposed by or pursuant to the Regulation of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (45 CFR Part 80) issued pursuant to that title, to the end that, in accordance with Title VI of that Act and the regulations, no person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity for which the Applicant receives Federal financial assistance from the Department, and HEREBY GIVES ASSURANCE THAT it will immediately take any measures necessary to effectuate this agreement.”

MISSION OF THE UNIVERSITY

Alcorn State University, a historically Black College and University, is a comprehensive land-grant institution that celebrates a rich heritage with a diverse student and faculty population. The University emphasizes intellectual

development and lifelong learning through the integration of diverse pedagogies, applied and basic research, cultural and professional programs, public service and outreach while providing access to globally competitive academic and research programs. Alcorn strives to prepare graduates who will be well-rounded future leaders of high character who will be competitive in the global marketplace of the 21st century.

VISION OF THE UNIVERSITY

Alcorn State University will become the premier comprehensive land-grant university that develops diverse students into globally-competitive leaders and applies scientific research through collaborative partnerships, which benefit the surrounding communities, state, nation and world.

UNIVERSITY GOALS

Student-centered. Continue to offer students an engaging, transformative learning and living environment, empowering them to become globally competitive, socially and environmentally sensitive, and technologically competent leaders.

Academic Excellence. Consistently enhance its academic excellence and become nationally recognized as a premier comprehensive land grant university offering engaging intellectual experiences and collaborative research opportunities.

Shared governance and Professionalism. Assess its processes to ensure that honest and transparent communications, merit-based systems, and accountability prevail.

Enhancement of Infrastructure and Technology. Develop and implement a strategy to ensure that the technology and infrastructure exist to achieve the University's vision and mission.

Enhancement and Diversification of Resources. Enhance its resources and diversify the sources of funding through partnerships, creative fundraising strategies, leveraging its intellectual property, and entrepreneurship.

Diversity. Engage all stakeholders in developing an environment which embraces diversity of thought and encourages the acceptance of differences.

Community Outreach and Engagement. Strengthen its community outreach and engagement efforts by encouraging continuing education, expanding community partnerships, and developing new service and outreach programs.

ACCREDITATION AND AFFILIATIONS

Alcorn State University is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award the Associate, Bachelor's, Master's, and Specialist in Education degrees; and pending SACSCOC site visit review, the Doctor of Nursing Practice degree. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of Alcorn State University.

Alcorn's teacher education program is accredited by the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education. The Bachelor of Science in Nutrition and Dietetics is accredited by the American Dietetic Association. The Associate of Science in Nursing degree programs, the Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree, and the Master of Science in Nursing degree programs are accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN). Alcorn

State University is an accredited institutional member of the National Association of Schools of Music, the National Association of Industrial Technology and the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences.

The university also holds membership in the following organizations: National Association of College and University Business Officers; American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education; American Council on Education; Association of American Colleges; Association of State Colleges and Universities; Family & Consumer Sciences Association; American Library Association; American Public Relations Association; College Language Association; Council for the Advancement and Support of Education; Council on Co-op College Projects; National Association for Business Teacher Education; National Association of Dramatic and Speech Arts; National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges; National Collegiate Athletic Association; National Collegiate Honors Council; National Commission on Accrediting; the Southern Association of College Registrars; the Association of Departments of English; Association of Institutional Research; Mathematical Association of America; the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business-International; the Society for College and University Planning; Southern Regional Honors Council; and the Southern Association of College and University Business Officers.

CAMPUS SAFETY CENTER

The Alcorn State University Campus Safety Center and Fire Department are open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. They strive to make the Alcorn State University campus as safe and as secure as possible. This is the students' home away from home and it's the job of the Alcorn State University Campus Safety Center and Fire Department to serve and protect students during their stay at Alcorn.

CLASS ATTENDANCE REGULATIONS

Regular and punctual class attendance is required of all students enrolled at Alcorn State University. Class attendance regulations apply to all types of classes (e.g., lecture, laboratory, or practicum) as well as to all modes of instruction (e.g., face-to-face or online). Instructors record absences as they occur. Instructors and departments may set individual policies that operate within the parameters set by the university. Instructors will clearly delineate individual policies in course syllabi distributed to each student during the first week of class. Students must present official documentation for an excuse to the instructor, who will make the decision on the classification and acceptability of the excuse. Disagreements as to acceptable excuses are adjudicated by the Dean of the School.

75% Minimum

No matter how justifiable the circumstances for class absences, students must attend a minimum of 75% of the meetings for a given course in order to be eligible to receive a passing grade. If a student accumulates absences in a course in excess of 25% of the scheduled class meetings for a semester or summer session and does not officially withdraw from the course, he/she receives the grade of "F" in that course unless the circumstances are deemed extenuating by the Provost. Except for absences incurred while representing the university in a required university event (see below), excused absences are counted as absences when computing the 75% minimum.

Excused Absences

Absences documented by official sources (i.e. medical or death of family member) are excused. Excused absences are counted as absences when computing the 75% minimum. An excused absence allows the student to make up the work and receive a grade for that work if the work is completed within two weeks after the absence. The student is responsible for obtaining assignments, scheduling make-up work, and submitting assignments to the instructor within the two-week period after the absence. Periods of absence in excess of one week must be approved and excused by the Office of the Provost.

Unexcused Absences

Students are allowed one hour of unexcused absence for each semester hour of a course. Instructors may, at their discretion, set class policies that lower grades for unexcused absences incurred above the number of unexcused absences allowed.

Excessive Absences

Instructors should report student absences on Banner Online Attendance. The university reserves the right to withdraw a student who has missed more than 25% of the scheduled class meetings, and instructors are encouraged to submit names of students with excessive absences to the Office of Academic Affairs. Whenever students miss classes, they should work directly with their instructors to make up work. Students are not relieved of responsibilities to meet all course requirements and complete all class assignments. Students who do not attend within the first two weeks of class are reported to the Office of Academic Affairs for financial aid reporting. See Non-Attendance No Show Purged Form section below.

Late Registration and Financial Aid

Students should begin attending class on the first day of the semester whether or not registration is complete. Once the Office of the Registrar completes registration and declares the rolls finalized, no student whose name is not on the official roll will be allowed in class.

Non-Attendance No Show Purged Form

Students who complete the registration process are required to attend class before receiving Federal Student Aid. Those not attending class before the deadline will be deleted from the rolls as a No-Show for non-attendance. To be reinstated on the roll, the student must attend class and present to the instructor the Non-Attendance Form for the instructor's verification of attendance. Students should print out one Non-Attendance Form for each class of non-attendance. Students must then submit the signed form to Office of Academic Affairs. Applicable forms, further instructions, and information about deadlines are available at the Financial Aid Forms webpage.

Tardiness

Instructors may, at their discretion, set policies that consider students absent when they arrive very late to or depart very early from class. All such policies must be approved by the chairperson of the department and maintained on record in the department.

DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE POLICY

It is the policy of Alcorn State University to maintain a drug-free workplace, workforce, and campus consistent with federal laws as set forth in the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988 and the Department of Defense Drug-Free Workforce Rule of 1988 and the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act Amendments of 1989. The university acknowledges and supports the laws of the State of Mississippi code of 1972 (1988 supp.) that prohibit the sale, distribution, manufacturing, possession or use of controlled substances in the state.

FINANCIAL AID

Graduate students pursuing a Master's Degree can receive financial assistance for up to 63 credit hours. Students will be limited to 95 credit hours when pursuing a second Master's degree. Graduate students must also adhere to the Quantitative and Qualitative measures. Once a student earns a second Master's degree, he/she shall be eligible to receive financial assistance only toward a Specialist Degree. The Office of Financial Aid mirrors the academic standards process for satisfactory academic progress for graduate students.

Satisfactory Academic Progress is monitored at the end of each academic year. Three probationary semesters are allowed during a student's graduate career. Those who fail to meet the Satisfactory Academic Progress requirements at the end of a probationary semester will be placed on financial aid suspension and will lose eligibility to receive financial aid funds. If suspended from financial aid, an appeal must be submitted to the Financial Aid Office to be reviewed by the appeals committee for reinstatement.

Students expecting to receive financial aid must submit all required financial aid documents to the Financial Aid Office. Once information received and reviewed, eligibility will be determined. If eligible to receive financial assistance, an award letter will be mailed, emailed or uploaded through Banner Online Services. Any difference in

the amount awarded and the amount needed to complete the registration process must be paid before completing the registration process. Previous balances must be paid in full at the time of registration.

PREFERRED DATE FOR SUBMITTING APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL AID

The priority deadline date for submitting applications (ASU Application and FAFSA) for Financial Aid is April 1st.

In order to finalize any financial aid, a student must file an application for admission and be accepted by the university. The financial aid application is not considered as an application for admission.

DIRECT STAFFORD LOAN PROGRAMS

This program enables students to borrow directly from the U.S Department of Education that is willing to make the loans to students in order to finance educational expenses.

Stafford loans are either subsidized or unsubsidized. A subsidized loan is awarded on the basis of financial need. The federal government pays interest on the loan until the student begins repayment and during authorized periods of deferment.

Unsubsidized loans are not awarded on the basis of need. Borrowers are charged interest from the time the loan is disbursed until it is paid in full. If the borrower allows the interest to accumulate, it will be capitalized. If the borrower chooses to pay the interest as it accumulates, he/she will repay less in the long run.

Students may apply for a Direct Loan if they have been accepted as, at least, half-time students. Students who are already enrolled may apply if they are in good standing and making satisfactory academic progress.

The maximum a graduate student is eligible to borrow each academic year is \$20,500.00 (at least \$12,000 of this amount must be in unsubsidized Stafford loans).

The interest rate for direct subsidized and unsubsidized loans could change each year of repayment, but by law, it will never exceed 8.25 percent. An origination fee up to 2.5 percent of the total loan will be assessed on each loan.

The loan must be repaid. After the student graduates, leaves school, or drops below half-time enrollment, there is a six-month grace period before the borrower begins repayment.

REFUND POLICY

Students who withdraw from the university in good standing are entitled to a refund of all fees (except registration) according to the following schedule:

First official day of class	90%
Between second day and two weeks	80%
Between two and four weeks	60%
Between four and six weeks	40%
After six weeks	No Refund

Students who withdraw unofficially and return weeks or months later to officially withdraw and claim refunds are not entitled to refunds.

FOOD SERVICES

All students living in university residence halls are expected to take their meals in the Clinton Bristow, Jr. Dining Hall. Meals are served cafeteria style. Students obtain permission to eat in the cafeteria by paying board fees in advance. Sandwiches, beverages, and short orders are served in the James L. Bolden Campus Union Building.

Food services for the Natchez Campus are available by agreement at the Copiah-Lincoln Community College facility located across the street from the ASU Natchez campus. Costs vary depending on items selected from the menu.

GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Graduate student involvement is a vital part of the structure of services, academic offerings and activities in Graduate Studies. Students meet to promote a graduate agenda for excellence on a monthly basis.

The association is available to graduate students who are currently enrolled in graduate programs at Alcorn State University. The purposes of the Graduate Student Association are as follow:

- To provide support and services to graduate students.
- To provide an opportunity for communication, exchange, and the exchange of ideas among graduate students, faculty, and university administration.
- To network with other Graduate Student Associations locally and nationally on issues and concerns they are facing.

HEALTH AND DISABILITY SERVICES

The Department of Health and Disability Services is located in the Felix H. Dunn Health Services Center. The telephone number is 601-877-6460. It serves as the primary health care facility on the main campus offering professional services for all Alcorn State University students, faculty and staff.

Students who need disability accommodations should submit an application packet with supporting documentation from a qualified professional to the Director of Health and Disability Services. Upon careful review of the documentation and discussion with the student, the Director of Health and Disability Services will arrange reasonable physical and academic accommodations.

HOURS OF OPERATION

The Department of Health and Disability Services hours of operations are:

Monday – Thursday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Friday 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

After Hours/Emergency Care: In case of emergency please contact Campus Police/Ambulance Services at 601-877-3000 or Dial 911.

HOUSING AND RESIDENCE LIFE

The mission of the Alcorn State University Department of Residence Life/Housing is to provide “a home away from home” where students can be safe and comfortable on campus. Part of the residence hall experience is learning to live, fellowship, socialize and interact with other people from different racial, ethnic and economic backgrounds. To this end, students are guided to develop a growing sense of maturity and responsibility by participating in residence

hall activities. By doing so, the students are intellectually stimulated to think critically solve problems and maintain an atmosphere conducive to academic pursuits and college life.

Housing will be available for graduate students in modern air conditioned dormitories. Limited facilities are available for married students with or without children. Housing for the graduate student is available on the Main Campus and the Natchez Campus. Persons interested in housing facilities should contact the Office of Residence Life, Alcorn State University, and Alcorn State, MS 39096.

A non-refundable \$125.00 application fee is required before the application can be processed.

Regulations Regarding Married Students

Married students who reside in residence halls are subject to the same standards of conduct and living that govern the life and activity of other resident students.

Residents are expected to respond appropriately to the reasonable requests of other residents and Residence Life staff. Residents will respect the rights of other residents, and each resident is responsible and held accountable for his or her behaviors, as well as for the behavior of his/her guests(s).

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR HOUSING

All Alcorn State University students enrolled full-time (9-12 credit hours Graduate in good standing with the University), are eligible for on-campus housing. Students must present PROOF of completed registration for clearance to check into assigned residence hall.

POST OFFICE

There is no general delivery. Students may purchase a mailbox (contact the Post Office at 601-877-6334 for mailbox rental fees) or use his or her residence hall address. Mail is delivered to boxes daily at 10:00 a.m. Postal money orders are sold from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The mail comes on Monday through Saturday at 8:30 a.m. Outgoing mail departs at 3:00 p.m. The hours of operation are Monday–Friday 8:00 am - 4:00 pm and Saturday 8:00 am - 10:00 am., Lorman, Mississippi 39096. All the mail that is addressed to the university is distributed through the local Branch Post Office on campus. Mail arriving to the university should be addressed: Alcorn State University, Post Office Boxes or to the desired dormitories, Alcorn State University, Alcorn State, Mississippi 39096-7500. All express mail should be addressed to the correct box or dormitory at Alcorn State University, Alcorn State, Mississippi 39096-7500. It is very important that mail with box numbers 1-900 use Alcorn State University after the box number.

PUBLIC RADIO STATION (WPRL)

WPRL, 91.7 FM your trusted source for news, sports, talk, music and entertainment, is a 3000 watt CPB-qualified public radio station broadcasting on the campus of Alcorn State University to the surrounding communities as a service of the university. WPRL's mission is to engage, educate, and entertain by creating and providing innovative, outstanding programming fueled by intellectual and cultural diversity. WPRL is a member of National Public Radio, an affiliate of Public Radio International and the Associated Press. It provides educational and entertainment programming for the general audience as well as opportunities for students, faculty, staff, and community members to learn practical broadcasting skills as volunteers and interns.

REGISTRATION OF MOTOR VEHICLES

Each person who operates a vehicle on campus must be registered with the Office of Parking Services. Each vehicle must have a have a valid, properly displayed parking permit. Parking citations are issued for violations, including

having no valid permit, and are payable at the Office of Parking Services. The online module for parking rules, registration for parking permits, and payments for citations can be accessed at www.alcorn.edu/parking.

The Campus Safety Center Office will have unregistered cars towed from the university property by a local wrecker service at the owner's expense. This department may also use a device known as a wheel-lock for vehicles that have not been registered or for vehicles that are in violation of some or all traffic regulations.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Alcorn State University officials provide a workplace free from sexual harassment. The University assures all students that it maintains an atmosphere characterized by respect for others. Policies published in the *Student Handbook* clearly state the university's position on Sexual Harassment. Sexual harassment may consist of requests for sexual favors, unwelcome sexual advances, threats, actual bodily contact or other deliberate verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature. Such behavior is discouraged between all employees as well as students.

Sexual harassment is especially forbidden where the offending employee is in a position to affect the compensation or employment status of the person being harassed. In all cases, Alcorn State University officials shall take prompt and appropriate corrective action. This rule applies equally to sexual harassment of both men and women. These definitions apply to students as well as to employees who may have a complaint of sexual harassment.

Such behavior listed below can be considered inappropriate and grounds for sexual harassment.

1. Subtle pressure for sexual activity
2. Verbal harassment or abuse of a sexual nature
3. Sexist remarks about a person's clothing, body or sexual activities
4. Demanding sexual favors accompanied by implied or overt threats concerning one's job, grades, recommendations, etc.
5. Inappropriate display or dissemination of sexually suggestive or pornographic materials.

If an individual believes he or she has been subjected to any form of sexual harassment, this should be reported to the Office of Human Resources at Alcorn State University.

STUDENT AFFAIRS

The Division of Student Affairs is an integral part of our students' educational process and offers programs and services that assist students in achieving their potential at Alcorn State University. The administration, educators, advisors and student advocates strive to provide an environment that holistically promotes a diverse student population, personal growth, leadership development, social responsibility, student empowerment and student engagement activities.

The mission of Student Affairs is to give students the tools, advice and information they need to be successful in their years at Alcorn. Personnel are available to help students new to the campus navigate the University's resources and campuses, learn about university life, and realize the true spirit of being an Alcornite.

STUDENT COUNSELING SERVICES

The Office of Counseling and Testing provides services for students and staff of the university community which include:

1. academic, personal, and social adjustment;
2. career counseling;
3. customer service assessment, testing and training; and
4. counseling referral services.

Where is the Counseling Center Located?

Walter Washington Administration/Classroom Building (WWACB)
3rd Floor Room #305

Whom Do We Serve?

Enrolled ASU Students

How Do I Make an Appointment?

To make an appointment, call 601-877-6230 or come to **Room 305– WWACB**. Walk-ins are welcomed.

What Services Do We Offer?

- Individual Counseling
- Group Counseling
- Testing Services
- Attendance Monitoring
- Withdrawal Requests
- Consultation/Referrals
- Outreach Programs

What is the Cost?

There are no charges for counseling services provide by ASU Counseling and Testing Center. However, if referrals are made to outside agencies, you are responsible for any fees incurred from those agencies.

What about Confidentiality?

Students are assured of confidentiality in accordance with ethical and legal standards set by the American Psychological Association. Each Counseling and Testing staff must sign a Confidentiality Agreement. For additional information, please go to Alcorn Home page, click on Discover Alcorn, then Administrative Offices and search for Counseling and Testing Services.

STUDENT PLACEMENT SERVICES

The Office of Placement Services assists 1) students in career planning, 2) enrollees in obtaining employment in jobs for which they are qualified, and 3) presently employed graduates in making desired changes. These services are provided cost-free to students and alumni. Graduates are placed in business, industry, government, education, and other professional areas.

These services include: 1) service to the student –by scheduling interviews with employers, counseling, securing job listings, providing occupational literature on career opportunities, consulting with professional staff and employers, and maintaining and reproducing credentials, 2) service to the employer—by making employers’ needs known to the students and alumni, by enabling them to visit and interview qualified applicants and to make contact with the professors and other university personnel, by keeping them informed of changes in educational and degree programs, and by helping them gain a deeper insight into the placement process through professional organizations; and 3) service to the institution—by establishing a source of accurate and timely information on economic and industrial market trends, by providing information concerning the effectiveness of the curriculum as it relates to specific career areas, by representing the institution to many professional arenas such as business, industry, government, medicine, and education.

UNIVERSITY BOOKSTORE

The bookstore serves the needs of the University community by providing textbooks, school supplies, novelties, toiletries, and an assortment of other items. Students can pay with cash, check, bankcard, or they can charge purchases

to their Alcorn State University Gold Card (ID). Students may use this charge privilege throughout the year to purchase anything in the bookstore. These charges appear on the student's Gold Card account. The operating schedule for the bookstore is:

- Monday – Thursday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
- Friday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

The university library serves as the cornerstone of education at Alcorn State University. It provides services and resources essential to the instructional, research, and public service needs of the university. Renovated and expanded in 2000, the J. D. Boyd Library is a state-of-the-art facility designed to accommodate 1000 users and hold 500,000 volumes.

It contains a thirty-station computer laboratory, a media center with a video classroom, group study rooms, an archival and special collections room and a 140 seat auditorium. Reading and study areas wired for computer access are available on the first and second floors. Administrative offices, as well as circulation, reference, serials, government documents, computer lab, microform area, and technical services facilities are located on the main level. This expansive open area provides easy access to all major reference services. The media center, video classroom, archives, and special collections are located on the second floor. The ground floor contains the shipping and receiving area, storage rooms, computer office, faculty/staff professional development center, and a staff lounge. Carrels, tables, and informal seating are interspersed throughout the spacious facility to provide an atmosphere conducive to the learning process.

WITHDRAWAL FROM CLASSES AND/OR THE UNIVERSITY

Any student who desires to withdraw from the university must adhere to the Satisfactory Academic Progression (SAP) policy. (Please review the SAP policy at www.alcorn.edu/FinAid/SAPPolicy.htm. Also, if a student withdraws from ALL courses before more than 60% of the time has elapsed in the semester, it will be determined if he/she —earned all financial aid received from federal programs. If the student did not earn the aforementioned aid, he/she will be informed of the amount that must be repaid and of the options for repayment. The student must submit an application for readmission if he/she plans to re-enroll.

Students must also process the appropriate —Statement of Clearance issued by the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs if living in the dormitory. Failure to comply with this regulation will result in the recording of failing grades in all courses for which the student is registered and the losing of any refund of fees to which he/she may otherwise be entitled.

ADDING AND DROPPING CLASSES

Classes may be added or dropped in accordance with the deadline dates published in the University Academic Calendar each semester, in the University Bulletin or in memoranda from the Provost/Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs.

1. Students may obtain add/drop forms or assistance with the on-line add/drop process from the Office of the Registrar.
2. The student should see the student's advisor. When the student's advisor is not available, the chair of department or dean of the school may sign the add/drop form.
3. The registrar's office will process the add/drop form.

AUDIT COURSES

Courses taken for audit do not meet degree requirements and are not eligible to meet enrollment requirements to receive aid. Change of classes to audit will be treated as a withdrawal and be subjected to any changes of enrollment status policies. Courses enrolled in for audit may not be treated as credit courses. No grades will be given for credit.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

Office of Graduate Studies
1000 ASU Drive #689, Suite 519
Lorman, MS 39096

Phone: (601) 877-6122
Fax: (601) 877-6995
Email: graduatestudies@alcorn.edu

Administration

The Office of the President provides oversight of university businesses and financial operations, policies, executive actions, undergraduate and graduate professional education, teaching and research functions of the University.

Contact Information:

Dr. Felicia Nave, President

Web: www.alcorn.edu/discover-alcorn/president

Phone: 601-877-6111

Email: president@alcorn.edu

Academic Affairs

The Office of the Provost for Academic Affairs coordinates the undergraduate and graduate academic resources, support, advocacy, and access through relationships that empower students across the disciplines.

Contact Information:

Dr. Keith McGee, Interim Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

Web: www.alcorn.edu/academics

Phone: 601-877-6140

Email: kmcgee@alcorn.edu

Contact Information:

Dr. Melissa Mason, Academic Affairs

Web: www.alcorn.edu/academics

Phone: 601-877-6147

Email: mcmason@alcorn.edu

Business Affairs

The Office of Finance and Administration supports the instructional and research mission of the university, provides business services for ASU students, faculty and staff.

Contact Information:

Cornelius Wooten, Vice President for Finance and Administration

Web: www.alcorn.edu/offices/finance

Phone: 601-877-4701

Email: cwooten@alcorn.edu

Campus Safety Center

The Campus Safety Center purpose is to provide a safe and supportive environment for the university community.

Contact Information:

Douglas Stewart, Campus Police Chief

Web: www.alcorn.edu/campus-police

Phone: 601-877-3100

Email: dstewart@alcorn.edu

Financial Aid

The Financial Aid Office processes applications for all federal, state, and institutional student financial aid for all applicants at Alcorn State University.

Contact Information:

Juanita McKenzie Russell-Edwards, Financial Aid Director

Web: www.alcorn.edu/admissions/financial-aid

Phone: 601-877-6111

Email: juanita@alcorn.edu

Help Desk

The Center for Information Technology mans a Help Desk as a centralized resource for technology issues/questions, including those pertaining to email account setups, Banner Online access and many other virtual services.

Contact Information:

Sherry Carradine, Help Desk Coordinator

Web: <http://www.alcorn.edu/offices/finance/cits>

Phone: 601-877-6111

Email: helpdesk@alcorn.edu

Library

A group of helpful, enthusiastic staff are available to assist students with media and research resources. Professional librarians offer general reference assistance in person, over the phone, or via email.

Contact Information:

Dr. Blanche Sanders, J. D. Boyd Library Dean

Web: www.alcorn.edu/academics/library

Phone: 601-877-6350

Email: blanche@alcorn.edu

Office of Student Records

The Office of Student Records provides information regarding records, transcripts, registration, scheduling of classes, processes adds, drops, and withdrawals.

Contact Information:

Dr. Tracee Smith, Registrar and Director of Student Records

Web: <http://www.alcorn.edu/academics/registrar-office>

Phone: 601-877-6170

Email: tracee@alcorn.edu

Residence Life (Housing)

Preparing students for independent living experiences in a nurturing residential environment in a campus setting.

Contact Information:

Aimee Reynolds, Housing and Residence Life Director

Web: www.alcorn.edu/students/residence-life

Phone: 601-877-6478

Email: alreynolds@alcorn.edu

Student Affairs

The Vice President for Student Affairs responds to the needs and concerns of students and offer services to ensure a successful experience at Alcorn.

Contact Information:

Mr. Tracy Cook, Vice President for Student Affairs

Web: www.alcorn.edu/academics/student-services

Phone: 601-877-6180

Email: tmcook@alcorn.edu

Office of University Compliance

The Office of University Compliance Reports to the President. The University Compliance office provides oversight and guidance to university-wide ethics, compliance, and University risk management activities, and fosters a culture that embeds these disciplines in all university functions and activities. The office provides centralized and coordinated oversight through the ongoing development of effective policies and procedures, education and training, monitoring, communication, risk assessment and mitigation, and response to reported issues..

Contact Information:

Alfred Galtney, Executive Director of University Compliance

Web: <http://www.alcorn.edu/>

Phone: 601-877-4197

Email: agaltney@alcorn.edu

OFFICE OF GRADUATE STUDIES

**Keith McGee, Ph.D., Interim Provost and Executive Vice President
for Academic Affairs**

Walter Washington Administration/Classroom Building, Suite 519

Email: graduatestudies@alcorn.edu

Website: www.alcorn.edu/academics/graduate-studies

Tel: 601 • 877-6122



WHERE KNOWLEDGE AND CHARACTER MATTER

“Intelligence and Character, this is the true goal of education.”

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Degree Programs and Graduate Certificates

With authorization of the Board of Trustees, State Institutions of Higher Learning, State of Mississippi, Alcorn State University offers fourteen graduate degree programs. The availability of these programs and areas of specialization are subject to change without notice based on enrollment and other factors. In the Academic Department section, program descriptions and other specific information are provided.

DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE

EDUCATION SPECIALIST IN ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

MASTER OF ARTS IN HISTORY

MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING

- Elementary Education
- Secondary Education

MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION IN GENERAL BUSINESS

MASTER OF LIBERAL ARTS

- Criminal Justice
- English Literature
- History
- Mass Communication
- Music
- Political Science

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN AGRICULTURE

- Agricultural Economics
- Agronomy
- Animal Science

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN APPLIED SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

- Computer Systems and Network Technology
- Electrical and Electronics Engineering Technology
- Geospatial Engineering Technology
- Homeland Security Management
- Radiological Health Science
- Technology Management

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN BIOLOGY

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN BIOTECHNOLOGY

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN COMPUTER AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN EDUCATION

- Elementary Education
 - *Early Childhood Education
 - *Elementary Education
 - *Reading

- Secondary Education
 - *Agricultural Education
 - *Athletic Administration and Coaching (Non-Teaching)
 - *Athletic Administration and Coaching (Teaching)
 - *Biology
 - *Chemistry
 - *Clinical Mental Health Counseling
 - *English
 - *Music
 - *NCAA Compliance and Academic Progress Reporting (Non-Teaching)
 - *School Counseling
 - *Social Science
 - *Special Education

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

- Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP)
- Nurse Educator (NE)

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN WORKFORCE EDUCATION LEADERSHIP

Graduate Credit Certificate Programs

Graduate credit certificate programs are innovative solutions for career-seeking professionals interested in enhancing their craft. These certificate or credit programs are designed to foster development of an area of specialty or competency within a discipline and flexibility is essential to accommodate the parameters of the discipline as well as the educational needs of the students. The programs consist of a sequence, pattern, or group of courses developed, supervised, and evaluated by the chair or adviser of the academic unit offering the program. Determination is made if the student has met all requirements for issuance of a certificate to certify.

Gifted Education (certification)

- Certificate in Clinical Mental Health Counseling
- NCAA Compliance and Academic Progress Reporting (certification)
- Post Master Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) (certificate)
- Post Master Nurse Educator (NE) (certificate)

GRADUATE EDUCATION AT ALCORN STATE UNIVERSITY

Advancing Knowledge, Transforming Lives

That's the Alcorn Promise!

The graduate experience at Alcorn State University is invigorating and full of scholarly challenges. The academic and research expectations of graduate students far exceed those experienced at the baccalaureate level. The hallmark of graduate studies tends to be more focused, engaged with more rigor within each chosen discipline, affianced in depth of knowledge of the literature, and fostered by independent learning. Graduate students have many opportunities to participate in diverse learning communities and exit our degree programs with an entourage of knowledge and experiences that help them take the next step in their professional careers. We are dedicated to the pursuit of scholarly attainment of our graduate students and will continue to provide them with meaningful roadmaps to success. As students continue their life-long learning for graduate or professional school, we hope they have found their educational experience for advanced study at Alcorn State University.

Planning the graduate experience as a positive event for students is a process that is encountered with enthusiasm and energy by administrative and support staff. As students explore their educational and career goals at Alcorn, we are convinced you have made the right choice to help you attain them.

MISSION

The mission of the Office of Graduate Studies is to provide service and support for post baccalaureate study at Alcorn State University. In fulfilling its mission, the Office of Graduate Studies assists students with admission processes, monitoring and communicating progress toward completion of degree programs, certifying completion of the degree, and accurate and efficient record keeping. The Office of Graduate Studies also assists faculty and administrators with recruiting and admission, promotion and advocacy for current degree programs, promotion and advocacy for the implementation of new degree programs.

VISION

The vision of the Office of Graduate Studies is to provide graduate programs of the highest quality which promote innovative research and creative thinking while advancing the education of students and preparing them for careers as leaders in their disciplines, research, and service.

Specific objectives of the Office of Graduate Studies are:

1. to provide a well-developed and coordinated graduate program for qualified students at the master's and specialist degree levels;
2. to develop competencies in graduate students that are essential to the successful performance of quality services in their chosen profession;
3. to upgrade the professional certification of elementary, secondary, and community/junior college teachers, and related workers;
4. to encourage and promote scholarship and scholarly research among the students and faculty members in the university community.

Graduate students must assume full responsibility for knowledge of the rules and regulations of the university and departmental requirements concerning individual degree programs. Since requirements and programs are subject to change, students at all times should be aware of current regulations.

STUDENTS RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

This section is a synopsis of key policies and best practices regarding graduate enrollment and retention requirements of degree-seeking students at Alcorn State University. This snapshot will assist students in a quick reference guide to key inquiries that are consistently posed.

1. Every graduate student has the right to be governed by written academic policies and regulations of the Graduate School and Alcorn State University.
2. It is the responsibility of the student to read and comply with the policies and procedures published in the Graduate Catalog to maintain good academic standing and progression to degree completion.
3. All admitted and enrolled students must follow the assigned curriculum in go.alcorn.edu and use the degree plan and checklist for progression to degree completion.
4. Graduate Studies will honor degree completion requirements specified for students in the published Graduate Catalog and use this criteria to certify prospective students for degree completion.
5. A student who does not maintain continuous enrollment (summer semesters not included) will follow the degree plan and progression to degree completion requirements in place at the time of readmission.
6. A student who does not complete his/her curriculum within the specified six-year time limit will have to petition the Graduate Studies Administrator to explain any extenuating circumstances preventing degree completion if the student's intent is to complete degree requirements. This is not an automatic approval in submitting an appeal for consideration. Petitions are reviewed and decided on a case by case basis.
7. Students are held responsible for reading and complying with the University policies contained in the Graduate Catalog and Student Handbook.
8. The Catalog is the official document that governs student outcomes, academic integrity, student success, and progression to degree completion. Graduate Studies will exercise its educational responsibility in its judicial oversight of graduate programs.
9. Academic Units shall provide appropriate advisement of graduate students' program requirements and procedures. Each advisor will strive to provide accurate academic advice concerning degree requirements.
10. Students have the right to due process in submitting an academic appeal or complaint with the department or Graduate Studies.

The graduate student is responsible for academic integrity and adhering to the University's Code of Conduct, as well as federal guidelines, related to the rights and restrictions of student records. Graduate admission and progression records of all students are protected by privacy procedures that are instituted by the Office of Graduate Studies. Records are digitized and secured using an electronic student enrollment system with secure access assigned to graduate staff. The release of all student records follows confidentiality procedures and is in accord with state and federal mandates.

GRADUATE STUDIES HISTORICAL MILESTONES

- 1975 Division of Graduate Studies established by the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning
- 1975 Division of Graduate Studies directed by Dr. Norris Edney
- 1975 Seven academic divisions included in the Division of Graduate Studies: Arts and Sciences, Education and Psychology, Business, Agriculture and Applied Science, Graduate Studies, Nursing, and the General College for Excellence.
- 1975 Twenty different areas were offered to gain graduate credits in Five Schools
- 1980 IHL Approves Master of Science in Agriculture January 1, 1980
- 1989 IHL Approves Education Specialist in Elementary Education December 1, 1989
- 1990 Master degrees in Biology and Agriculture added to the Graduate Curriculum
- 1990 Educational Specialist degree added to the Graduate Curriculum
- 1991 Master of Science in Biology approved by IHL May 1, 1991
- 1993 Graduate Courses Offered at Off-Campus Sites, Natchez and Vicksburg
- 1993 Approval of Graduate degrees in Elementary Education and Secondary Education
- 1993 Consortium in Collaboration with Mississippi State University for the Master of Science in Workforce Education Leadership Program
- 1994 IHL Approves Master of Science in Nursing Degree Program June 1, 1994
- 1995 Master's Program in Nursing established
- 1995 Master of Science in Computer and Information Science approved by IHL February 1, 1995
- 1996 Master of Business Administration Program Approved by IHL April 1, 1996
- 1997 Master of Business Administration Program initiated
- 1999 Graduate Nursing Program accredited
- 1999 IHL Approves Master of Arts in Teaching (Alternate Route) January 21, 1999
- 1999 IHL Approves the Master of Workforce Education Leadership Degree September 16, 1999
- 2004 Master of Science in Biotechnology approved by IHL October 21, 2004
- 2007 Dr. Donzell Lee named Dean of the Graduate School

- 2009 Graduate Studies Awarded HBCU Grant of \$3,000,000 for a six-year cycle to improve Programs and Services for Underserved, Underrepresented and Low Income Students
- 2012 Master of Science in Applied Science and Technology approved by IHL February 12, 2012
- 2013 Graduate Studies graduated largest class ever with 214 degrees conferred
- 2015 Dr. John Igwebuike Appointed as administrator of Graduate Studies
- 2016 Executive Master of Business Administration approved by IHL November 17, 2016
- 2016 Dr. Martha Ravola Appointed Dean of Graduate Studies
- 2017 U.S. Department Awards Graduate Studies Renewal of HBCU-M Grant in the amount of \$2,498,664
- 2017 IHL Approves Master of Liberal Arts April 20, 2017
- 2017 IHL Approves Master of Arts in History October 19, 2017
- 2018 Graduate go.alcorn.edu implemented during fall term as a student advisement and degree completion monitoring platform
- 2018 Master of Arts in History program approved by IHL
- 2018 IHL Approved DNP Program November 15, 2018
- 2018 IHL Approved Online Degree Programs: Master of Arts in Teaching – Elementary and Secondary, Master of Science in Secondary Education – Special Education, Master of Agriculture – Agronomy Professional Option, and Master of Science in Agriculture – Extension Education
- 2019 SACSCOC Approves Alcorn State University to offer its First-ever Doctoral degree with Doctor of Nursing practice program beginning Fall 2019
- 2019 Graduate Studies ranked #37 in the Top 50 Best Value Historically Black Graduate Schools in the U.S. 2019
- 2019 Alcorn ranked #8, The 30 Most Affordable Online Masters' HBCU by the Affordable Schools

GRADUATE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES



POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Overview

It is the responsibility of students to become familiar with graduate policies and procedures that govern their advanced study at Alcorn State University. Students must comply with these guidelines as they matriculate and complete their studies to have a seamless path to degree completion. Graduate administrators, advisers, and faculty enforce graduate degree requirements as determined by the Graduate Council and Graduate School and are applicable to all graduate students.

Access to Educational Records: FERPA

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords eligible students certain rights with respect to their education records. (An “eligible student” under FERPA is a student who is 18 years of age or older or who attends a postsecondary institution at any age.) These rights include:

1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days after the day Alcorn State University (“University” or “Institution”) receives a request for access. A student should submit to the school official (Records personnel) a written request that identifies the record(s) the student wishes to inspect. The school official will make arrangements for access and notify the student of the time and place where the records may be inspected. If the records are not maintained by the school official to whom the request was submitted, that official shall advise the student of the correct official to whom the request should be addressed.
2. The right to request the amendment of the student's education record(s) that the student believes is inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights under FERPA.

A student who wishes to ask the University to amend a record should write the University official responsible for the record, clearly identify the part of the record the student wants changed, and specify why it should be changed.

If the University decides not to amend the record as requested, the University will notify the student in writing of the decision and the student's right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the student when notified of the right to a hearing.

3. The right to provide written consent before the University discloses personally identifiable information (PII) from the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

The University discloses education records without a student's prior written consent under the FERPA exception for disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official typically includes a person employed by the University in an administrative, supervisory, academic, research, or support staff position (including law enforcement unit personnel and health staff); a person serving on the Board of Trustees of the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning; or a student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee. A school official also may include a volunteer or contractor outside of the University who performs an institutional service or function for which the school would otherwise use its own employees and who is under the direct control of the school with respect to the use and maintenance of PII from education records, such as an attorney, auditor, or collection agent or a student volunteering to assist another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official typically has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibilities for the University.

Upon request, the University also discloses education records without consent to officials of another school in which a student seeks or intends to enroll.

4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the University to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the office that administers FERPA is:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202

The Office of Graduate Studies adheres to the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA) to protect the security, confidentiality, and integrity of students' education records. Among its several purposes, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA) was enacted to protect the privacy of students' education records, to establish the rights of students to inspect and review their education records, and to provide students with an opportunity to have inaccurate or misleading information in their education records corrected. FERPA also permits the disclosure by an institution without a student's prior consent of so-called directory information about that student. Students have the right to file complaints with the Department of Education's Family Policy Compliance Office concerning alleged failures by an institution to comply with FERPA. In accordance with the statute and the FERPA regulations issued by the Department of Education, the School of Graduate Studies has adopted the following policies and procedures.

"Education records" available for review are defined as those records, files, documents, and other materials that contain information directly related to a student and that are maintained by the University. The form in which the information is maintained by the University does not matter; for example, computerized or electronic files, audio or video tape, photographic images, film, etc., with such information are "education records". This includes communications and documents distributed or received by e-mail, or other similar University systems, which are retained in these systems, either by the sending or receiving party.

In general, records maintained by the University that are available for student review are: recorder's docket, admissions docket, departmental docket, placement docket (if student has a file there), financial aid docket (if student has applied for aid), advisement and counseling dockets from the various schools, and bursar's docket. Not all of these categories of records are maintained for any given student, and there may be others. Students have the right to review original documents from their files.

Under FERPA and its related regulations the following types of University records are not "education records" and are, therefore, not available for student review:

Personal notes or records (including computerized files) that are kept by an individual University employee solely in her or his possession, are used only as a personal memory aid, and are not accessible or revealed to others, except to a temporary substitute.

Records that relate to an individual who is employed by the University and that (a) are made and maintained in the normal course of business, (b) are not available for use for any other purpose, and (c) relate exclusively to the individual in that individual's capacity as an employee. This exception does not apply to records that relate to a student in attendance at the University who is employed as a result of his or her status as a student.

Medical and psychiatric records created, maintained, and used only in connection with the treatment of a student and that are not available to anyone other than the persons providing such treatment. Such records can be personally reviewed by a physician, psychologist, or other appropriate health professional of the student's choice. (Students who have received treatment from the University Health Center or from the University Counseling Services may contact those offices to inquire concerning access to patient information.)

Records that contain information relating to an individual who no longer is a student at the University and that are not directly related to the individual's attendance as a student, i.e., alumni records.

Grades or peer-graded papers before they are collected and recorded by an instructor.

Also, the Office of Graduate Studies does not have to permit a student to review education records that are:

- Financial records of the parents of a student.
- Confidential letters and statements of recommendation placed in the education records of a student (a) prior to January 1, 1975, as long as they are used only for the purposes for which they were specifically intended; and (b) after January 1, 1975, if the student has waived access to such letters and recommendations and if such letters and recommendations relate to the student's admission to an educational institution (including admission to NYU), application for employment, or receipt of an honor or honorary recognition (see Section V, Waivers).

Records Maintained by Office of Graduate Studies

Two kinds of records are maintained on students: 1) Admission and 2) Candidacy. Hard copy records of both are archived into electronic format. These records are created and housed on a secure university server.

Admission records include applications, transcripts, test scores, letters of recommendation, program of study sheets, eFile Transmission form, and other supporting documents for Domestic and International students. Paper admission records are maintained for a period of eight years before they are shredded. A complete electronic copy of a student's file is maintained in the document imaging system in a secure shared file.

Admission records are transmitted to the Departmental Graduate Admissions Committee to make an admission decision. When a student completes an Application for Candidacy, the student record becomes a Candidacy record unless the student is non-degree.

Candidacy records are used to monitor students' progress through graduation. Candidacy records include academic notification letters, Core Exam Report, Area Exam Report, application for degree, program of study, final transcript, and candidacy checklist. Student records are never removed from the Office of Graduate Studies office.

All application materials become part of the permanent records of Office of Graduate Studies and will not be returned to the applicant. Access to the material is limited under FERPA (Family Rights and Privacy Act of 1974). Applicants who are not admitted, or who are admitted and do not register, do not have access to their application files. Credentials received from applicants who do not complete the application process or who are not admitted are kept on file for one year and thereafter, destroyed.

Standardized test results are part of the students' permanent record and are under embargo for the first five years from the initial date of the test report. Students in need of a copy of their test results must contact Educational Testing Service (ETS) for copies of their scores during the five-year embargo. Students requesting a copy of their results after the five years' time period must do so in writing. Students must access the appropriate form on the Graduate Studies website to make this written request. This request must be submitted to the Office of Graduate Studies at least three (3) days in advance of the request. A picture ID must accompany the FERPA Release of Information form.

Admission Process

The Graduate School accepts applications from domestic and international students. Prospective graduate applicants must meet the following minimum requirements. All application documents must be submitted to the Office of Graduate Studies.

- Submit an online application for graduate study for the program of interest.

- Hold the equivalent of a four-year baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited college or university. International students must provide a course-by-course credential evaluation from an approved transcript credentialing service by NACES.
- All students must provide official transcripts from all colleges and universities attended. One of the official transcripts must verify a bachelor's degree with the date of award and the title of the degree awarded.
- Two letters of recommendation from references to attest to the applicant's potential for success in an advanced program of study. Letters from relatives are not accepted.
- Graduate Record Exam scores are required for the Master of Science in Computer and Information Science program. Score reports must not be older than five years to be considered for admission. Students will have to provide current scores if their score report exceeds the five-year time limit.
- \$10.00 application fee required for non-Mississippi residents.

Some graduate programs require additional requirements for admission such as GPA, resume, goal statement, license, etc. A customized checklist is provided to each applicant to inform him/her of the requirements of the program of interest. International students must provide additional documents such as statement of finances, TOEFL or IELTS (these tests are required if the native country is not English speaking).

Graduate admissions is decentralized in making admission decisions of eligible applicants. Following submission of all required documents, applicants are sent notification of their complete application packet and transmission of their application file to the appropriate department admission committee. Following receipt of the application packet, admission committees are charged with a three-day timeline to review application files to make admission decisions.

The role of the graduate school is to facilitate a seamless graduate admission process. The Office of Graduate Studies sets application deadlines, review application documents for completeness, transmits complete application packets to departmental admission committees, notifies applicants of admission decisions.

Advanced Enrollment in Graduate for Undergraduates

An undergraduate senior student with minimum total cumulative GPA of 3.00/4.00 who is enrolled in the last semester of course work that will complete the requirements for a bachelor's degree, may request advanced graduate admission to enroll in (3) three to six (6) hours of graduate courses provided the total course load does not exceed twelve (12) hours. Courses for seniors are limited to first-year graduate level courses. Graduate courses may not be used as credit toward an undergraduate degree. The combination senior is not considered a graduate student but may apply for admission to a graduate program upon completion of the bachelor's degree.

However, advanced admission to the graduate courses does not guarantee subsequent admission to a graduate program. Courses taken for graduate credit may count toward a graduate degree when/if the student is admitted to a degree program at Alcorn State University and if approved by the program's graduate coordinator and department Chairperson. The Application to Enroll in 500 Graduate Level Course(s)-Undergraduate Senior Only form for admission to the Graduate School must be completed six (6) weeks prior to the beginning of the semester in which advanced admission is sought.

Assistantships

A limited number of competitive graduate assistantships are available to eligible students fall and spring only. Assistantships are awarded for research, administrative, and lab assignments. Students interested in this tuition assistance award must apply by July 15th of each calendar year to be considered. Late applicants are placed on a waiting list if assistantships become available during the fall or spring term. All application materials for admission should be completed before applying for an assistantship. To qualify, the student must have at least an undergraduate GPA of 3.00/4.00 or above. Only one master's or advanced degree is supported.

Students awarded a Graduate Assistantship must remain in good standing academically in order to continue receiving this financial support. Graduate students must maintain a 3.0 cumulative grade point average. Academic probation status will result in permanent forfeiture of the graduate assistantship.

Course and Program Approval

Academic advising is available to all students. Students should consult with their academic advisor regarding enrollment in graduate courses based on the Degree Plan. Students desirous of enrolling in courses at another university for the purpose of transferring courses must first seek approval of the academic advisor. A Transfer of Credits form and copy of the official transcript must be submitted to the Graduate Office for approval.

Graduate Council

The Council is responsible for development, formulation, and approval of policy affecting the conduct of the graduate program. The voting membership is composed of representatives from each of the areas offering graduate degrees and/or concentrations, the Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, the Dean of the School of Business, the Dean of the School of Education and Psychology, the Dean of the School of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, and the Dean of the School of Nursing. The Dean of the School of Graduate Studies serves as chairperson of the Council. The chairperson may vote in case of a tie among the voting members.

Delegates are chosen from graduate faculty members in each area offering graduate work and are selected to serve on the council annually. Department chairpersons of areas that are involved in graduate work and are not official delegates may sit in as non-voting members of the Council.

Among the specific responsibilities of the Graduate Council are these:

1. to determine policies of admission, retention, and re-admission to the Graduate School and all other policies related to the conduct and standards of the graduate program;
2. to approve and improve graduate curricula and programs submitted to the Council from the various departments;
3. to recommend policies related to curricular structure, academic standards, examinations, requirements for all degrees, etc.; and
4. to hear all appeals from students and faculty members concerning policies that applies to them

Graduate Faculty

A very distinct feature of the Office of Graduate Studies is its graduate faculty. Graduate faculty represent a wide array of scholarly achievements, backgrounds, interests, and expertise. They willingly share their expertise with students and the university community. Many graduate faculties are showcased throughout the United States and throughout the world for their exemplary professional and research skills. Graduate faculty set the University's intellectual tone through their teaching, scholarship, and research. Graduate Faculty germane to each degree program is published according to the School and degree program.

Graduate Faculty Approval

The policies and procedures for credentialing graduate faculty have been established to provide continuity in adhering to appropriate professional standards for graduate faculty appointment and to provide for routine monitoring of these standards by the Office of Graduate Studies and the Graduate Council. The purpose of graduate faculty criteria and credentialing is to ensure that graduate programs are supervised by faculty who are active in their own research/scholarship/creative activity. Faculty who teach graduate-level courses, advise graduate students, serve on

thesis or future dissertation committees, or otherwise participate in graduate education at Alcorn State University must be members of the Graduate Faculty. Graduate faculty appointment is open to persons who meet the appointment qualifications specified in this document. Once approved, graduate faculty status must be renewed based on the type membership status held.

The Graduate Studies Administrator reviews applications for appointment and submits names with attached application and documentation to the Graduate Council for approval.

All graduate faculty appointments are recommended by the department head, affirmed by the Graduate Studies Administrator and approved by the Graduate Council. Faculty must be approved for membership to teach graduate courses and must hold a terminal degree or equivalent.

Graduate Faculty Eligibility

Faculty members are eligible to apply for membership if the following criteria are met:

- Hold a regular faculty appointment (tenure or tenure-track) at Alcorn State University with the rank of assistant professor or higher and;
- Possess a terminal degree (e.g., Ph.D.) appropriate to the academic unit, or equivalent qualifications; and
- Show evidence of continued research, publication, or work relevant to one's field, as recognized by colleagues inside and outside the university, and;
- Meet criteria for one of the three types of appointments: Full Member, Associate, Professional Affiliate.

Types of Appointments

Full Member

To hold and maintain a full member appointment, a faculty member must show evidence of ongoing professional activity. This evidence consists of one or more of the following activities:

- holds a terminal degree appropriate to the discipline
- must hold the title appointment of Full Professor or Associate Professor
- participates in or, upon certification of the Department Chair, will participate in graduate level instruction and advising
- provides evidence of strong research ability as demonstrated by scholarly publication or Creativity
- serve as principal advisor for a thesis committee
- Other appropriate scholarly and/or creative activities

Associate Member

All faculty members who hold an appointment at the rank of assistant professor or above are eligible to apply to be Associate Members of the Graduate Faculty. Normally, associate members do not serve on the Graduate Council; however, in the event that there is no full member of the graduate faculty in a given department, then an associate member may be eligible for consideration. Associate members are appointed for a specific term and are evaluated during their promotion, tenure, and/or post-tenure reviews by the department chair and dean of the academic unit.

Criteria for Selection (must meet all criteria).

- newly appointed tenure track assistant Professor with 50% of teaching assignment in graduate credit

- hold at least a 50% appointment in an academic unit or department and teach graduate courses
- serve on a thesis committee but not as the principal advisor
- possess a record of research/scholarship/creative activities; however, consideration will be given to faculty who have recently earned their terminal degree (Ph.D.) or equivalent...

Professional Affiliate

On occasion it may be important to have someone who does not meet all criteria for Full Member or Associate Member credentialing to teach a specific graduate course or serve on a specific graduate committee. Such individuals may be given the status of Professional Affiliate which is a limited appointment for a specific committee appointment or graduate level course. The length of the Professional Affiliate is dependent on the need of the specific committee or course. A Professional Affiliate would typically be a lecturer, or adjunct faculty member. The criteria applied to Professional Affiliate are as follows:

- individual does not have appointment in an academic unit or program at Alcorn State University
- visiting scholar and or artist in residence
- must be nominated by the Department Chair for a specified

The Nomination Process

Nominations to the graduate faculty begin at the academic unit level. Academic department chairs initiate the nomination process and must provide a detailed justification for each candidate, which must be endorsed by the respective unit dean. The criteria for the type of appointment should be strictly adhered to in recommending a faculty member or advising a faculty member interested in becoming a graduate faculty member. The level of scholarship, research and quality of the applicant's accomplishments activity should be the primary considerations for appointment to the Graduate Faculty. Each discipline or academic unit has the responsibility to provide the Graduate Council with an assessment of how each applicant fulfills the specific criteria for becoming a graduate faculty member.

Only tenured or tenure-track faculty members with the appropriate terminal degree at the assistant professor level or above are eligible for full member appointment. Additionally, regular members may serve on the Graduate Council.

Permission for Non-Graduate Faculty to Teach Graduate Courses at Alcorn State

In special cases, the Graduate School gives individuals who are not members of the Graduate Faculty at Alcorn State permission to teach graduate courses. The Department Chair or Academic Unit Dean submits these requests to the Assistant Vice President for Academic Support and Graduate Studies. The Request for Non-Graduate Faculty to Teach Graduate Courses must include the proposed instructor's curriculum vitae. Approval by the Assistant Vice President for Academic Program Support and Graduate Studies is based on the proposed instructor's credentials being at least equivalent to those of members of the Graduate Faculty who ordinarily teach the course. The request should be submitted to the Assistant Vice President for Academic Support and Graduate Studies at least 30 working days prior to the first day of the first term involved.

Length of Membership Appointment

Appointment of new members to the Graduate Faculty is as follows:

Full Member	5 years
Associate Member	3 years
Professional Affiliate	1 year

At the end of the membership term, the member must be re-nominated and reviewed again. The intent is to review the faculty member's recent scholarly productivity, going back as far as 5 years in the case of more senior faculty and 3 years in the case of less experienced faculty. A Graduate Faculty member who is being considered for continued appointment is expected to show evidence of ongoing research and creative activity since the last review.

Responsibilities and Privileges as Graduate Faculty

Members of the Graduate Faculty, as indicated in the Graduate Studies Policy and Procedures Manual, can chair all graduate committees, direct master's thesis, teach 500-level and above courses, serve as representatives of the Assistant Vice President for Academic Program Support and Graduate Studies, serve on educational specialists' exams. Members' service may deal with a specific subset of these responsibilities, relevant to a member's experience, as requested by the department head through the relevant academic dean.

Responsibilities and Privileges of Graduate Faculty members include:

- Vote for faculty appointment on the Graduate Council and in graduate faculty referenda
- Serve on the Graduate Council if elected by the Graduate Faculty within the respective academic unit or appointed by the Provost;
- Vote within the academic unit on graduate program matters including awarding graduate degrees;
- Teach graduate level courses for graduate credit;
- Advise graduate students;
- Serve on supervisory and examining committees for graduate students and other guidance and evaluation committees;
- Direct master's theses
- and, with appropriate approval, serve as mentors and role models and Advisers for other scholarly projects.

Procedure for Applying for Appointment

An application for appointment on the Graduate Faculty originates with the faculty of an academic unit and is submitted to the Assistant Vice President for Academic Program Support and Graduate Studies through the Dean or Department Chair of the unit. The graduate Council reviews and takes action on each application. To apply for appointment, download an application from the Graduate Studies website.

The following process will be used to apply for Graduate Faculty appointment:

- a. Submit an application form for appointment and a full current vita to the academic unit department chair. Other supporting credentials may accompany the application.

- b. The application must be voted on by at least three faculty in the department in which the graduate faculty appointment is being sought who hold the same or higher graduate faculty credentialing status as that being sought. If there are fewer than three qualified faculty, qualified faculty from a related department should be asked to review the application. The decision as to which faculty outside the department should participate must be a joint decision between the department chair and college dean. The vote of the reviewing faculty will be recorded on the candidate's application.
- c. The department chair will make a recommendation to the academic dean, who will then submit a recommendation to the Assistant Vice President for Academic Program Support and Graduate Studies.

Application and supporting credentials should be forwarded to the Office of Graduate Studies Assistant Vice President for Academic Program Support and Graduate Studies and signed by the Department Chair and Academic Unit Dean.

- d. The Assistant Vice President for Academic Program Support and Graduate Studies reviews application and credentials and makes request for any additional credentials or documentation to support the application. The Graduate Council will be convened and all completed applications will be presented.
- e. **Final Decision**
All appointment decisions will be approved by the Graduate Council and will become his final decision of the governing body.
Applications for Professional Affiliate as well as any application made on an emergency basis (e.g., need to make a last-minute substitution on a committee) may be made by the Assistant Vice President for Academic Program Support and Graduate Studies without review by the Graduate Council.

Notification of Appointment

The decision of the appointment of an applicant will be communicated within three business days following the decision of the Graduate Council. If the application is denied, the Assistant Vice President for Academic Program Support and Graduate Studies will forward comments concerning the denial to the Dean/Department Chair and the applicant. The applicant may present additional documentation to the Graduate Council for reconsideration of the application.

Graduate Studies Webpage

The Office of Graduate Studies' website is designed to serve as a communication hub for prospective and currently enrolled students, as well as for the university community. Information is constantly updated to inform customers about noteworthy graduate news, policies and procedures, admission requirements and updates, progress to graduation announcements and information, and garner feedback to improve efficiency and effectiveness of operations and academic programs. It is the responsibility of the student to read information posted to stay informed of all policies and procedures that govern matriculation and degree completion. The site is maintained as a service and the links give students a user-friendly mechanism for accessing important information about graduate business on an ongoing basis. Thus, supporting the mission of the Office of Graduate Studies to promote excellence in all aspects of graduate education. To access the website, visit www.alcorn.edu/academics/graduate-studies.

International Students Admission

Graduate School admission requirements and application procedures are the same for all applicants regardless of citizenship and visa status. International applicants must realize the application process may take a significant amount of time, therefore, they must start early to complete the admission process. In addition to the minimum application requirements, international students must also submit statement of finances to verify they have adequate finances to support their education in the United States, TOEFL or IELTS scores to substantiate they have a command of the English language, and tuberculosis screening results (chest x-ray and blood test). The tests must be done once the student arrives in the United States and must show negative results. The tuberculosis screening is a pre-condition to students being allowed on campus and attending classes. Under no circumstance shall an international student occupy any housing facilities on campus without proof of test screening. Therefore, students must comply with the admission requirement prior to arriving to avoid problems with accommodations in reporting for intake in the Graduate Office Student Services Division.

Online Orientation

The Office of Graduate Studies offers Cyber Orientation to help new, transfer and returning students to have immediate access to becoming adjusted to graduate life at Alcorn State University and being informed. To access the web site, visit www.alcorn.edu/academics/graduate to access the Cyber Orientation module.

Research Subjects

All research involving human subjects must be approved prior to including these subjects in research projects or studies. Prior approval must be obtained from the Alcorn State University Institutional Review Board for the Protection of Human Subjects in Research (IRB). Students must adhere to all requirements established by the IRB Board.

Faculty guiding student research with the intent to use animals in their study must initiate the process for approval. Prior approval must be ascertained from the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC).

External researchers and organizations seeking IRB approval must submit an application for approval to the IRB Board. Careful attention must be given to questions of ethics and human dignity whenever human subjects participate in research for students writing a thesis or research project.

Student Complaints

The Office of Graduate Studies has established clear and appropriate procedures for student written complaints. These procedures are strictly adhered to in resolving issues. An electronic platform is established to allow students to submit complaints and a record is maintained of the students' complaints that can be accessed upon request. Complaints are addressed in a prompt, fair, and consistent manner. To initiate a complaint, students must complete the electronic complaint form published on the Graduate Studies webpage. After review, the complaint is reviewed by the appropriate graduate studies personnel and a timely response is given to the student to address the complaint.

Student Records

The Office of Graduate Studies adheres to university, as well as federal guidelines, related to the rights and restrictions of student records. Graduate admission and progression records of all students are protected by privacy procedures that are instituted by the Office of Graduate Studies. Records are digitized and secured using an electronic student enrollment system with secure access assigned to graduate staff. The release of all student records follows confidentiality procedures and is in accord with state and federal mandates.

Student Responsibility

Students enrolled at Alcorn State University must ultimately assume full responsibility for their actions and must adhere to the rules and regulations as set by the University. Violations of these regulations and/or a demonstrated unwillingness to obey the rules governing conduct may lead to sanctioned disciplinary action by the University. The University Code of Conduct for students is published online and in hard copy in the Student Handbook in section Student Code of Conduct Handbook. The University holds all students responsible for reading the handbook. Failure to read the Student Handbook does not excuse one from following the rules and regulations, therefore, students are urged to read this Handbook thoroughly. In addition, students are required to acknowledge receipt of and responsibility for reading the handbook by signing and returning an acknowledgement receipt.

Student Support Services Staff

Graduate students have access to University student services to meet their academic and non-academic needs. Qualified and experienced student support staff are available. Graduate staff provide admission, degree completion, technology, and international support services to students. Staff also coordinate others services students need through collaboration with student support offices such as Financial Aid, Office of Student Records, Housing, Goldcard, Registration, Business Office, and Global Programs.

Tuberculosis Screening

International students seeking admission at Alcorn State University must comply with the Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL) Admission Policy for International students relative to communicable disease screening. To comply, students must submit proof of test screening after arrival in the U.S. Arrival should be planned to allow adequate time to complete these tests to submit the results. The chest x-ray and blood test must be conducted by an authorized and licensed health care provider. An acceptable test result is “negative”. Laboratory reports must state the findings. Individuals who screen ‘positive’ will not be admitted. Test results must be submitted in a sealed envelope from the healthcare provider or submitted by secure electronic means from the healthcare provider. Students in non-compliance of this admission requirement will not be permitted to complete registration, attend classes, or reside in the residence halls until this requirement has been met. Students are not permitted on campus if acceptable tuberculosis results are not on file.

Tuition and Fees

The standard tuition rate for an academic year at Alcorn State University is published each semester and summer term for all regularly enrolled graduate students. Official tuition and fees are maintained on the Office of Finance and Administration and Office of Student Records websites. Students must confirm the amount of tuition and fees with the Business Office each semester of enrollment. To access the current detailed fee schedule, visit the Alcorn State University web site (www.alcorn.edu) and select the “Current Students link, followed by selecting the link for “Registration”.

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS



It is each student's responsibility to know or seek out as needed the regulations and pertinent procedures from admission to degree completion.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to make choices that reflect integrity and responsible behavior. The University considers it a serious violation of academic integrity to – intentionally or unintentionally – present the thoughts or ideas of another as your own. The key to academic integrity originates in the writer's choices on how to divide their voice from the voices of others. Honesty is regarded in the highest as an expectation for students. Academic dishonesty is unacceptable regardless of the circumstances. Disciplinary action is taken against students who are found in violation of this standard.

Academic Policies

All graduate students must maintain a minimum standard of 3.0 on a 4.0 system (see requirements for candidacy). The student must not accumulate more than six semester hours of credit below B (3.0). Academic records reflecting more than two 'Cs' have to be addressed and the student must retake the appropriate course(s) in order to be in compliance with this academic requirement to satisfy progression to graduation. The student cannot graduate with a letter grade of D or lower. Students receiving a letter grade of D or lower must re-enroll in the course and make a higher grade. If these conditions are not met, either of the above will result in the removal of the student from graduate degree candidacy status.

A student will be placed on probation at the close of any term in which the student's cumulative GPA fall below a 3.0. A student is subject to dismissal from the program if the minimum GPA is not obtained in the subsequent 9 semester hours of course work. Students may apply for readmission after one semester, except graduate nursing students who if dismissed for academic failure may not apply for readmission at any time. The School of Nursing has special guidelines to govern academic performance and progression of students. See the information on the Graduate Nursing Program on their webpage in the published version of the School of Nursing Graduate Student Handbook at: <http://www.alcorn.edu/academics/schools/son/index.aspx> for policies and procedures regarding course grades and GPA requirements applying to progression and dismissal in the Graduate Nursing Program.

Academic Probation and Suspension

PROBATIONARY STATUS

Academic Performance

Academic performance of all currently enrolled graduate students is monitored each semester by the Office of Graduate Studies staff.

A graduate student must maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 system at Alcorn State University to remain in good academic standing. The student must not accumulate more than six semester hours of credit below B (3.0).

A graduate student will be allowed to repeat a maximum of two courses in which the student has been assigned a grade of C or F. A given course may be repeated once.

Academic Probation

A student will be placed on probation at the close of any term in which the cumulative GPA of less than 3.0 is achieved. The student has one semester following notification of academic probation to bring his/her GPA to 3.0.

A student is subject to dismissal from the graduate program if the minimum GPA is not obtained in the subsequent 9 semester hours of course work. Students may apply for readmission after one semester except graduate nursing students who if dismissed for academic failure may not apply for readmission at any time.

Students whose cumulative GPA falls below a 3.0 must be provided with a written explanation of performance expectations and a timetable for correction of deficiencies. A student may be placed on probation at any time of the year, but it would normally occur following either the fall semester (with a letter mailed in January) or the spring semester (with A letter mailed in May). Students' progress must be monitored to determine if the deficiency GPA has been improved.

In addition to sending academic probation notification to the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and Graduate Studies, a notification is also sent to the student's academic advisor/academic unit chair.

A copy of the academic notification and/or dismissal to the student becomes a part of the student's permanent record.

An academic hold is placed on the student's account in Banner as well as a "Graduate Warning" is designated by the Registrar's Office. The **Hold** is removed the ensuing semester to allow the student to register in an attempt to improve his/her GPA. Once the student registers, the Hold is reinstated until the end of the term to monitor the student's progress toward attaining the 3.0.

Following review of the student's semester grades and GPA, a determination is made to remove the Hold (student has achieved the required 3.0 GPA) to allow the student to continue or notification of termination from the Office of Graduate Studies is communicated in writing to the student.

A prospective graduate whose GPA falls below the 3.0 will not be issued a diploma until he/she has satisfied the required 3.0 to graduate.

Students on academic probation may continue to hold a graduate assistantship or receive financial aid.

Termination

Graduate students will be terminated from their program of study if they have not satisfied the GPA requirement of 3.0 or other just cause.

In cases of program termination, no further registration in a graduate program at Alcorn State University will be permitted.

A termination letter will be sent to the student informing him/her of this determination. The student is no longer eligible to enroll in Graduate School unless an appeal is submitted and approved to allow reentry.

When review of a student's performance and progress result in a determination that it has been unsatisfactory, the name of the student and recommendation for action--dismissal--must be communicated to the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and Graduate Studies.

The Office of Graduate Studies performs duties as required by U.S. federal regulations regarding international students not eligible to continue study at Alcorn State University based on termination for failure to maintain good academic standing.

Notification of termination will be sent to the appropriate academic unit.

ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS FOR PROBATIONARY STUDENTS

Repeating grades of "D+" or lower is usually a good idea. However, (a) a student is limited to 6 hours of repeats; (b) a student may repeat a course ONLY ONCE; and (c) the SECOND grade replaces the original grade, even if the second grade is LOWER.

Outstanding grades of Incomplete should not be ignored; students should speak with their adviser about how to handle "I" grades based on the university and Office of Graduate Studies policies. Incompletes will lapse to "F" is not removed within the specified time limit.

A graduate student who fails to remove an incomplete grade will have a hold placed on his/her account after the expiration date (60 days for currently enrolled students and 13 months for non-enrolled students) to have the grade changed to a passing grade. The 'graduate hold' will remain until the student has satisfied the tenets of this policy. "A hold" will prevent a student from registering for the desired semester.

The incomplete grade will remain on the student's transcript until an assigned grade change form is submitted to the Registrar's Office.

Appeals

Graduate students are afforded due process opportunities to resolve academic issues related to dismissal from graduate school, issues with good academic standing, and time limits to degree completion. This procedure is not available to appeal denial of admission to any program or grades. Students can take advantage of two appeal options if terminated from graduate school or expiration of the six-year time limit to degree completion. Students may submit a Level 1 Graduate Studies appeal for the reasons stated above. If the decision is upheld by the appeals committee at the graduate level, students can submit a final appeal to Level 2 Academic Affairs. If the decision of the appeals committee at Level 1 is upheld, students will have exhausted all options available in the due process options. Official appeal forms must be completed and submitted at each level digitally on the Graduate Studies website. This process requires students to upload any supporting documentation to augment the personal statement on the appeal form. Time limits are published to submit an appeal following notification of academic standing. An appeal notification must be submitted to the Office of Graduate Studies within 10 days following an academic probationary notification. Six-year time limits must be filed within the same 10 days' timeframe after communication with the Graduate Office. Upon review and rendering a decision, the student will be notified of the decision of the appeals committee. If a student's appeal is denied, the student is no longer eligible to attend graduate school.

Change in Program

Students requesting a program change should complete a new application for the respective program. All applications are accessible on the Graduate Studies webpage by clicking the link Apply Online. If previous application documents are on file, are current, and meet required documents for change in program, they will be added the applicant's new admission packet. The student will receive notification of additional documents needed to complete his/her admission file for the change in program. The application packet will be submitted to the appropriate department for an admission decision. A student's record is updated in Banner if admitted to the new program.

If a student is on academic probation, he or she must improve the cumulative grade point average in the current program to be in good academic standing before applying for a new program. Once the academic probation is satisfied, the application packet will be submitted to the department for an admission decision.

The department will make an admission decision to admit or deny the student. The Office of Graduate Studies will notify the student in writing of the admission decision.

Continuity of Program

Students pursuing a degree at the graduate level must enroll each semester to be considered a continuously enrolled graduate student. No break in enrollment must occur. If a graduate student does not attend the university for a semester or more and later wants to return to pursue his/her program of study, he/she must be readmitted. The student must meet the academic requirements in effect as a readmitted student. Graduate programs reserve the right to change course requirements for the degree as long as sufficient notice has been given.

Course Load

When a student enrolls in courses for credit, a credit load of nine to twelve (9-12) hours is considered full-time for either the fall or spring semester. The maximum load for either Summer I or Summer II session shall be six semester hours credit. Graduate students employed by the university are allowed to enroll in a maximum of 6 semester hours per term. A Remission of Fee form must be completed, signed by the employee's supervisor and submitted to the Office of Graduate Studies for approval. Following approval, the Remission of Fee Form must be submitted the Business Office with an attached course schedule for the respective semester/term. An official copy is also maintained on file in the Office of Graduate Studies with the student's attached course schedule.

Courses at Other Institutions

Students in attendance in graduate school at Alcorn State University who wish to take courses at another accredited institution may do so providing they have obtained permission from the academic advisor, the chair of the appropriate department or the school dean. Any course taken elsewhere will be considered as part of the total credits allowable for that semester at Alcorn State University. Students must earn a B or better on the course work.

Credits Toward a Graduate Degree

A schedule of classes is published each term by the Office of Student Records. Graduate students should plan schedules with their academic advisor prior to registration, based on the courses listed on the Program of Study sheet. Graduate degree credits must be earned through instruction provided by Alcorn State University graduate faculty. Credit hours range from a minimum of 30 semester hours to 60 hours for a master's degree and 39 hours must be earned for the specialist degree.

Typically, courses with the designation of 500 are master's level courses and courses 600 level or higher are usually Specialist level courses. No undergraduate level courses are approved for credit at the graduate level. Students planning to take undergraduate courses must transition to be admitted through Undergraduate Admissions.

Degree Plan

The graduate go.alcorn.edu is the official platform for monitoring of a student's curriculum. Advisers are responsible for assigning this plan within the student's first semester of enrollment. Newly admitted students can self-assign their degree plan initially but are advised to check with their advisor to ensure the correct plan is assigned. If the incorrect degree plan is assigned, the adviser must Unassign and Assign the correct degree plan. Ongoing monitoring by the student and adviser will ensure continuity in progression towards degree completion.

It is the responsibility of the adviser to request appropriate transfer courses in go.alcorn that will be reviewed for approval according to the hierarchy levels.

Distance Learning

All students who register for an online course (main campus, Natchez and Vicksburg campuses) must be the same student who participates in and completes the course or program. Some online instruction may require students to

come to campus periodically. Students should check with the online instructor to be sure of the attendance and participation schedule. The identification of students participating in class or coursework is verified, at the discretion of the institution, by such methods as an assigned secure login. This login is also used to access instructional resources. Students who register for distance learning courses must adhere to the attendance policy as set forth by the university.

Resources are provided online and face-to-face to ensure students have many opportunities to acquire technical support for using various distance learning tools and technologies. Students are trained, as well as given technical assistance, to ascertain the technological expertise needed to support their learning efforts by utilizing academic technology staff, the Help Desk and online resources in order to be successful in completing their distance education courses. Special technical assistance sessions are provided to students who require additional time to learn how to use Blackboard and Elluminate for the distance learning environment.

International Students, Distance, Online & Hybrid Course Policy

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security issued important regulations particularly as to international students with F-1 visa status and their participation in registered classes. Alcorn must ensure compliance with the federal requirements, as well as applicable IHL and university policies (See the NAFSA and CFR below). The Provost of the Office for Academic Affairs provides best practices and guidelines to assist valued faculty in the instruction and advising of international students with respect to (i) enrolling/registering in the correct course load requirements; (ii) maintaining international student's good-standing visa status; (iii) ensuring sufficient and adequate "physical presence" in the classroom; and, (v) facilitating timely progress towards degree completion.

3.20.7 Distance education limits (NAFSA manual)

No more than the equivalent of one on-line/distance education class or 3 credits per session may count towards the "full course of study" requirement, if the course "does not require the student's physical attendance for classes, examination or other purposes integral to completion of the class." If the student's course of study is in a language study program, no on-line or distance education classes may be counted toward the full course of study requirement.

8 C.F.R. § 214.2(j)(6)(i)(G)

For F-1 students enrolled in classes for credit or classroom hours, no more than the equivalent of one class or three credits per session, term, semester, trimester, or quarter may be counted if taken on-Line or through distance education in a course that does not require the student's physical attendance for classes, examination or other purposes integral to completion of the class. An on-line or distance education course is a course that is offered principally through the use of television, audio, or computer transmission including open broadcast, closed circuit, cable, microwave, or satellite, audio conferencing, or computer conferencing. If the F-1 student's course of study is in a language study program, no on-line or distance education classes may be considered to count toward classroom hours or credit.

Distance Learning/On-Line Courses

A distance learning or on-line course is one that does not require a/n (international) student's physical presence for classes, exams and/or other purposes integral to course completion. At Alcorn, International students may take online classes, but only a maximum of three-credit hours of these may apply to the international student's full-time status each semester. This means only one 3 credit online course per semester may count towards the student's full-time status. Therefore, undergraduate students who are enrolled in twelve credits must take nine of those credits in regular classroom-taught classes and graduate students who are enrolled in nine credits must take six of those credits in traditional classroom-based classes. Hybrid courses are exempt from this classification.

Hybrid Courses

A hybrid course is one that blends online and traditional instruction and requires international students to maintain "physical presence in the classroom," at least partially. At Alcorn, instructors may evidence that international students are meeting the "physical presence" threshold by (I) requiring in-class attendance (a) in the first and last classroom sessions, (b) during classroom examinations, and/or (c) in other specifically-designated classroom sessions, such as a major projects or presentations; or (II) physically monitoring or assigning an approved Alcorn employee to proctor the hybrid class while international students are in the classroom. Hybrid classes where students have the option to either participate online or in-class will be considered 100% online classes if students chose not to be physically present in the classroom.

Summary

- F-1 students are required to take the minimum credit requirements of full-time hours each semester, except in the final semester.
- An international student's lawful F-1 status will be terminated if s/he:
 - *maintains a course load that falls below 12 undergraduate or 9 graduate credit hours;
 - *fails to register for all class sessions during the first registration period;
 - *fail to attend a registered class for which the student receives a UW grade; or,
 - *withdraws from a semester.
- Grades which count towards satisfying the full-time enrollment requirement are A, B, C, D, F, P (Pass), and I(Incomplete* so long as completed within the Catalog-specified limitation period).
- Grades which do not count towards satisfying the "full-time enrollment requirement" are W, UW, audit, and an incomplete (I) grade which becomes an F.
- Failure to comply with the regulation [8 C.F.R. 214.2(f)(6)(i)(G)] violates a student's F-1 status.

Major Take-Away: Registration and Completion is Key

International students must not only pay full-time tuition & fees and enroll in a full course of study at the beginning of each semester, but must also complete a full course of study at the end of each semester.

Alcorn State University offers distance-, on-line-, and hybrid-mediated courses to overcome time and geographical constraints while meeting the access, convenience, flexibility, and time demands of our ever-diversifying community of evening, weekend, working, (non)traditional, digitally-oriented, rural, first-generation, disadvantaged, and international students.

Evaluating and Awarding Academic Credit

Course credits Transcribed outside the university follow a prescribed process for reviewing before academic credit is awarded. Up to six semester hours of graduate courses may be taken at other institutions and may be transferred with the approval of the academic advisor to Alcorn State University. The grades must be A or B to be accepted for the transfer. The methods for assigning credit hours for the type of course offerings enrolled at other institutions is determined based on semester and contact hours. A credit hour represents approximately three hours of work per week. Application for transfer must be made by the student by completing the Transfer of Course Form which is approved by the advisor and chair of the department. This request is submitted to the Graduate School Administrator for approval before they are credited to the student's official transcript. The advisor and graduate studies administrator ensure academic quality of course credits are consistent with the university's procedures in awarding academic credits by evaluating the course description(s). The course content must mirror the syllabus of the ASU course and will be evaluated for its credit hours and content before accepting as graduate transfer credits. Academic units are responsible for ensuring that credit hours are awarded only for work that meets the requirements.

Grade Point Average

Grade point averages are used to evaluate the success of a student during the entirety of his/her degree program. A graduate student must maintain a minimum average of 'B' (3.0) while enrolled at Alcorn State University. Graduation guidelines also specify that a student cannot graduate with less than a 3.0 GPA. Maintaining a high GPA is desirable in the event a student's performance slips in a given semester.

Grading System

Credits are expressed in terms of semester hours with alphabetical grades and numerical grade-points to indicate the quality of the work. These grades cover the work of the entire semester and are based upon the average of daily work, the final examination, and other written work. Characterization of letter grades by plus and minus signs is not authorized.

A	Excellent	4 grade-points per semester hour
B	Good	3 grade-points per semester hour
C	Average	2 grade-points per semester hour
D	Poor but passing	1 grade-point per semester hour
F	Failure	0 grade-points per semester hour

I

Incomplete (unfinished work)

*WP Withdrawal while passing

*WF Withdrawal while failing

P Pass (Semester hours are awarded, but no quality points are given)

*If the student is passing when the withdrawal occurs, such action will not affect his/her grade point average; if he/she is failing, the same semester hours involved will be considered his/her grade point average, i.e., will cause the grade point average to be lowered.

The term "Incomplete" is used when a student is absent from examination because of sickness, emergency absence due to death in the family, or away from campus a great deal for justifiable reasons. Otherwise, the instructor is required to assign for each student a definite grade based upon the work actually accomplished, irrespective of the circumstances that may have contributed to the results achieved.

A student whose work has been marked "Incomplete" must remove the mark within 60 days after the beginning date of the student's next enrollment in residence. An incomplete grade must be removed within 13 months after the grade is recorded even if the student fails to enroll.

If the "Incomplete" is not removed within this period, the student will receive a grade of "F." A grade other than an incomplete may be changed only if an error of calculation or recording as verified by the official roll book. The department chairperson, school dean, and the Vice President for Academic Affairs must approve all changes of grades.

Change of Grade Appeal:

A grade other than an incomplete may be changed only if there is an error of calculation or recording as verified by the official roll/grade book. The professor of the course submits the grade change form to the department chair. The department chair, Dean, and the Provost/Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs approve all change of grades. Course grades may be appealed by submitting the appeal in writing prior to the beginning of the next scheduled term. Following the steps of the Grievance Procedure is required.

Graduate Advising

All graduate students pursuing a degree are assigned an advisor within the area of endorsement. Each student must meet with his/her academic advisor upon initial admission and at least once a semester thereafter, to discuss his/her program. The student is ultimately responsible for his/her program; however, meeting with an advisor will help to avoid errors in program planning. If no advisor has been assigned, the chairperson or designee will be responsible for the advising. Academic advisement is encouraged for all students, especially prior to registration. Graduate students should consult with their advisor on a regular basis to ensure ongoing monitoring of academic progress, to review the program of study sheet for guidance on a continuous basis. The Graduate Studies Administrator serves as the advisor for non-degree students.

Graduate Rigor and Curriculum

The graduate curriculum is the core of graduate education and provides a platform for students to demonstrate mastery of knowledge and engage in rigorous learning experiences. The structure of the programs in each academic unit requires students to apply higher-order thinking skills, support innovation, engage in relevant content, conduct meaningful research to add to the practice and inform policy, and apply advanced scholarly writing.

The doctoral, specialist and master's degree programs prepare students for advanced work in their respective programs of interest. The learning opportunities promote best practices to enhance students' knowledge of their discipline and requires them to engage in meaningful academic research. Coursework is current and engaging and gives students lots of experiences in reading discipline-specific content. The broad range of activities and research experiences provide exposure to numerous literature resources. All degree programs require at least one research course to engage students in the various components of academic inquiry.

The average curriculum is a two-year program with expectations of learning outcomes students are expected to achieve upon exiting from respective degree programs. The composition of all graduate curriculums include core, required, and elective courses.

500 Level: Courses at this level require students to apply the higher levels of thinking in synthesizing, analyzing, and evaluating knowledge in the mastery of skills in the discipline coupled with advanced research and writing skills.

600 Level: Courses at this level require students to broaden their thinking skills on a more advanced level in synthesizing knowledge, research, and using advanced writing skills to advance practice in their field.

700 Level: Courses at this level require students to acquire specialized knowledge in advanced areas in a professional setting

Benchmarking data helps to assess the effectiveness of programs. This is evidenced through the composition of graduate faculty approved to impart their specialized talents in delivering demanding instruction that offers rigorous content in engaging students in professional practice and training, feedback from assessment reports, program reviews, and external and internal auditing sources. Practicums, internships, research laboratories, and clinicals provide students additional advanced opportunities to contribute to professional practice in their respective fields.

Incomplete Grades

A graduate student who fails to remove an incomplete grade will have a hold placed on his/her account after the expiration date (60 days for currently enrolled students and 13 months for non-enrolled students) to have the grade changed to a passing grade. The 'graduate hold' will remain until the student has satisfied the tenets of this policy. "A hold" will prevent a student from registering for the desired semester.

The incomplete grade will remain on the student's transcript until an assigned grade change form is submitted to the Registrar's Office.

The Office of Graduate Studies has adopted the following policy guidelines concerning the awarding of a grade of *Incomplete* in a graduate level course. Students must make every effort to clear all *incomplete* grades within the specified timelines.

The term ‘incomplete’ is used when a student does not complete class assignments as a result of being absent from examination because of sickness, emergency absence due to death in the family, or away from campus a great deal for justifiable reasons, thus giving the instructor no other alternative but to issue the student an ‘incomplete’ grade. Assignment of an incomplete grade is at the discretion of the course instructor. Students should not request an incomplete grade unless they are unable to complete the work because of sudden illness, personal emergency, or other good cause. An incomplete grade is not to be regarded as the solution to poor performance in a course.

ENROLLED STUDENTS - A student whose work has been marked “Incomplete” must remove the mark within 60 days after the beginning date of the student’s next enrollment in residence.

NON-ENROLLED STUDENTS - An incomplete grade must be removed within 13 months after the grade is recorded even if the student fails to enroll.

If the “Incomplete” is not removed within this period, the student will receive a grade of “F.” It is the student’s responsibility to communicate with his/her professor to get an “I” removed by the established timeline. Failure to act on the student’s part will result in the failure grade being posted to the student’s transcript. After the student has satisfied the incomplete work in question, the instructor must complete a “Change in Grade Form” following approval by Academic Affairs and submit it to the Registrar’s Office before expiration of the 60 days (enrolled students) and or 13 months (non-enrolled students).

A grade other than an incomplete may be changed only if an error of calculation or recording as verified by the official roll book. The department chairperson, school dean, and the Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs must approve all changes of grades.

A graduate student who fails to follow the required process to remove an incomplete grade will have a hold placed on his/her account after the expiration date (60 days for currently enrolled students and 13 months for non-enrolled students) to have the grade changed to a passing grade. This ‘graduate hold’ will remain until the student has satisfied the tenets of this policy. “A hold” will prevent a student from registering for the desired semester.

The ‘Incomplete’ grade will remain on the student’s transcript until an assigned grade change form is submitted to the Registrar’s Office within the required time period.

Institutional Credits for Graduate Degree

The majority of course credits in a degree program must be earned at Alcorn State University. Students, with the approval of his/her advisor, may be allowed to enroll in courses at another institution to fulfill credit hours for the degree program. In a 33 hours program, a student must earn at least 27 hours in residence. All Master’s degree programs require that the majority of credits toward the degree are earned through instruction offered at Alcorn State University. A maximum of six graduate credit hours with a grade of ‘B’ or higher may be transferred from another accredited institution of higher learning. Transfer of credit requests are reviewed by the graduate office designated personnel for approval. The request must include the appropriate approval form, copy of the official transcript documenting the course and university, and course descriptions from both schools.

Plagiarism

Honesty requires that any ideas or materials taken from another for either written or oral use must be fully acknowledged. Offering the work of someone else as one’s own is plagiarism. The language or ideas thus taken from another may range from isolated formulas, sentences, or paragraphs, to entire articles copied from books, periodicals, speeches, or the writings of other students. The offering of materials assembled or collected by others

in the form of projects or collections without acknowledgement also is considered **plagiarism**. **Any student who fails to give credit for ideas or materials that he takes from another is guilty of plagiarism.**

Post-Baccalaureate Program Rigor

Alcorn State University Office of Graduate Studies has a long history of providing quality degree programs for the adult learner on campus, off campus and through distance learning. These program offerings are progressively more advanced in academic content than programs at the undergraduate level. The Office of Graduate Studies is responsible for oversight of post-baccalaureate degree programs and has been instrumental in establishing best practices at the academic level which positively impact the learning path of its students. All graduate degree programs are designed to provide advanced training in specified fields of study. The specific objectives are:

1. To provide a well-developed and coordinated graduate program for qualified students at the Master's degree level;
2. To provide opportunities to increase and improve research capabilities through training and research experiences;
3. To develop competencies in graduate students that are essential to the successful performance of quality services in their chosen profession;
4. To upgrade the professional certification of elementary, secondary, and community/junior college teachers, and related workers; and
5. To encourage and promote scholarship and scholarly research among the students and faculty members in the university community

There are three components consistent in all graduate coursework: Writing, Research and Rigor. The ability to write is critical at the graduate level and specific safeguards are in place in each academic unit to ensure students develop good writing skills. Research is also an important component of all graduate programs to help students develop and polish best practices in research techniques and methodology. Rigor in graduate courses provide students with opportunities to investigate content with a greater depth than at the baccalaureate level and to use critical reading and higher order cognitive skills in their pursuit of knowledge of the literature in their specific disciplines. This rigor is also evident in the requirements for continuing in good standing, completing comprehensive examinations, and thesis. In order to continue in good standing academically, students must main.

Thus, the central purpose of the Graduate School is to provide advanced training of men and women, and the promotion of research that will contribute to knowledge in an atmosphere of freedom and inquiry. Students in graduate school may work toward the Master of Science in Education, Master of Arts in Teaching, Master of Science in Agriculture, Master of Business Administration, Master of Science in Biology, Master of Science in Biotechnology, Master of Science in Computer and Information Science, Master of Science in Nursing, Master of Science in Workforce Education Leadership, and the Education Specialist degree in Elementary Education.

Considering advanced level course requirements in specific disciplines, learning experiences that require higher order cognitive skills, comprehensive culminating activities, extensive reading assignments, and independent learning, graduate programs at Alcorn State University are demonstrably more advanced than undergraduate programs.

Program Coordination

Student learning is essential to the mission of the Graduate School and Alcorn State University in educational degree attainment. The oversight of educational programs is the direct responsibility of the academic unit in coordinating all curricular components. Appropriate content and currency must be maintained by the department chair, faculty and department curriculum committee. The review of curriculum is an ongoing process and is reviewed annually. The coordination of curricular components must be conducted by qualified faculty in the appropriate curricular content and degree level. Each discipline is chaired by an appointed coordinator to orchestrate degree and endorsement requirements, admissions, advisement, and degree completion. Quality of educational programs is a main focus of course offerings.

Program Length

Master degree programs in the Graduate School require a minimum length of 30 semester credits as core requirements for degree completion. Based on the degree, some programs range from 33 to 60 semester hours. Higher degrees, such as the Education Specialist in Elementary Education, requires more hours than the minimum Core Requirement. Standard practices only allow the pursuit of one degree at a time and does not permit double-counting of credit hours to earn a second master's. No dual degree offerings are available in the Graduate School. Program length is established by each academic unit and monitored by each department through its annual curriculum review. The Graduate School also monitors academic programs and program length.

Statute of Limitations: Maximum Time Limit to Complete Degree

All requirements for the Master degree or Specialist degree, including transfer credits, must be completed within six years from the beginning of the first term in which credit was earned toward the degree. Students approaching or exceeding this timeline may submit a request for an exception consideration to the Graduate Studies Administrator. Students whose time limit to degree completion is excessive are in jeopardy of consideration of a time extension.

Statute of Limitations Time Limit Extensions

Extenuating circumstances may arise to prevent a graduate student from completing his/her program of study within the six-year time limit. If this occurs, a student may petition the Graduate Studies Administrator to consider granting an exception. Sufficient evidence or reasons must be communicated in this request outlining the reason the program of study was not completed within the specified time limit. The Graduate Studies Administrator will request a review of the student's academic record and a recommendation. This information sharing will be considered by the Graduate Studies Administrator before making a final decision. Consideration will be given whether courses previously taken will count toward the fulfillment of the degree requirements. Approval of an appeal is not an automatic affirmative decision. If an exception is granted, the extension is granted for a period of one year only. If the appeal is granted, a detailed action plan is crafted to specify conditions that must be met. Readmission is required when a student has exceeded the six-year time limit and given approval to reenter graduate school.

Student Financial Obligation

Students are expected to pay, in full, all costs for a given term before or during the time of registration. Any students or former students who are indebted to the university may not register at the university, graduate from the university nor will their transcript be released until the debt is paid.

Substitution of Courses

Students are required to complete all courses published on their Degree Plan to meet degree requirements. On occasion, a required course may not be offered to complete the original course requirements. Therefore, a course substitution may be required to complete the coursework. Substitutions are exceptions to the degree requirements and should only be used in extraordinary circumstances. Advisors should adhere to the Substitution Policy as an alternative means of meeting a program requirement in which the course(s) must have similar objectives and content as the original course. The acceptable grade must be an A or B to approve a substitution. A maximum of nine credits hours are allowed for substitutions for 30-36 hour programs and a maximum of 12 hours for degree programs exceeding 36 credit hours. The total hours approved may not exceed the required limits for combined transfer and substitution courses.

Transcripts

Students are required to submit an official copy of their transcript(s) in their application for admission and upon application of degree for graduation. Students are allowed one free transcript at the posting of the student's degree following graduation which is included in tuition.

Transcripts will not be released to a student who has a financial debt to Alcorn State University.

Transfer of Credit

Regardless of the degree option selected by the student, a minimum of 27 semester hours for the master's degree and 33 semester hours for the specialist degree must be earned in residence at Alcorn State University.

The unconditionally admitted student is allowed to transfer a maximum of six semester hours of graduate credit from an accredited institution in which grades of 'B' or better are earned. These courses must have been taken at an accredited graduate degree-granting institution. All credits to be transferred should be approved by the student's academic advisor, department chairperson and the administrator of the Office of Graduate Studies. Official transcripts of transfer credits must be on file at the university prior to acceptance of the transfer credits for approval. The student's advisor must submit the appropriate Transfer of Credits form and official transcript from the transfer university to the Office of Graduate Studies for approval. Following, the approved courses will be posted to the student's transcript.

Courses are not allowable for transfer to Alcorn to replace deficient grades received in the student's program of study.

Graduate nursing students are allowed to transfer a maximum of 12 semester hours of graduate credit in which grades of 'B' or better are earned. Exceptions will be considered on an individual basis.

- Notes -

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS



ADMISSION POLICIES AND PRACTICES

Minimum Requirements for Admission

Admission to graduate study at Alcorn State University is open to applicants (1) who have earned a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution with an adequate cumulative grade point average, and (2) who have achieved an adequate score on an appropriate standardized examination. Applicants to certain degree programs (i.e. MBA and Nursing) may be required to meet additional criteria, which are specified in the “Program Description” section of each degree program.

Alcorn State University admits all qualified applicants and offers equal educational opportunities regardless of race, color, sex, age, national origin, religion or disability. Applicants are admitted on the basis of the probability of their success in completing the requirements for graduation.

The minimum requirements for admission to the Alcorn State University Graduate Studies are:

- All applicants must have a U.S. bachelor's degree or its equivalent from a regionally accredited institution.
- If a student's degree is from a non-U.S. college or university, the institution must be recognized and approved by the Ministry of Education or Commission responsible for higher education in the country where the degree is earned.

Each department has devised its Graduate Admission Formula which is an aggregated score that factors the required standardized test score, if applicable, GPA, and other admission credentials. Prospective students interested in knowing the admission formula used to make an admission decision are advised to contact the respective department.

United States Degree Seeking Applicants Admission Requirements (Domestic)

1. **Application:** Each applicant must submit a completed application form. Applications for admission must be received by the specified deadline.
2. **Official Transcripts:** Applicants must submit official transcript(s) (sent directly to the School of Graduate Studies from the issuing institution) from all institutions attended for undergraduate or graduate work. **All applicants must have a baccalaureate degree from an accredited Institution and the degree must be posted on the transcript.**
3. **Standardized Test Scores:** Each applicant must submit an official score on a standardized test (GMAT, GRE, MAT, PRAXIS, etc.), as appropriate to the discipline. An adequate score on an appropriate standardized test is required for admission to a graduate degree program. Scores must not be older than five (5) years.
4. **Preparation:** Applicants should have demonstrated adequate academic preparation in their proposed program of study. Those with deficiencies in academic preparation may be required to take additional work to strengthen their backgrounds or submit additional credentials requested by the admissions committee for the respective academic unit.
5. **Application Fee:** Non-Mississippi residents must submit a \$10.00 application fee.
6. **Approval for Admission:** Each applicant for admission to a degree program must have the approval of the academic unit. Although admission documents are submitted originally to the Graduate School, all credentials are reviewed by the individual academic unit admissions committee where the admission decision is made.

6. Letters of Recommendation: Each applicant must submit two letters of recommendation from individuals, professors, or colleagues who can attest to their academic potential as a prospective student.
7. Immunization Requirements – Two doses MMR (Measles, Mumps, and Rubella); Hepatitis B for students in health related fields; Tuberculosis screening for international students only-TB Chest X-ray and blood test.

The application for admission to the Office of Graduate Studies and all supporting documents should be on file 30 days prior to the date of enrollment. Any student submitting credentials less than 30 days in advance of enrollment should contact the Office of Graduate Studies concerning appropriate action taken on his/her application for admission. Any credentials missing before a student's first complete term of registration will result in the student not receiving graduate credit for the course(s) taken and suspension of enrollment in additional courses.

TYPES OF ADMISSION TO GRADUATE PROGRAMS

Admission to the graduate program at Alcorn State University consists of three types:

Unconditional Admission

The applicant must hold a baccalaureate degree from an accredited four-year degree-granting institution.

The applicant must present evidence, by official transcript, of a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.5 (C+); however, please note that admission requirements may vary among specific degree programs

Applicants must present standardized test scores for admission: 1) a score of at least 3.0 on the GRE Analytical writing component 2) a score of at least 3.5 on the GMAT Analytical Writing component 3) a passing score on PRAXIS I and II.

Conditional Admission

Applicants who graduated from an accredited undergraduate institution who do not meet the standards for unconditional admission may be admitted on "Conditional" status.

- Graduates of recognized four-year colleges not accredited when the bachelor's degree was awarded. Such applicants must: present a record of superior scholarship on the undergraduate level; must submit an official report of performance on the standardized test required by the degree program
- Students who present a 2.25 to 2.49 cumulative grade point average **must, at the time of application**, submit an appropriate standardized test score required for unconditional admission. After admission status is granted, students may enroll in up to nine (9) semester hours of course work **specified by the graduate advisor or department chairperson**. If a 3.00 cumulative grade point average is attained, the student is permitted to petition for a change of classification.

Non-Degree Status

Any applicant who holds the Baccalaureate or higher degree and who qualifies for admission and who does not wish to or cannot be admitted as a degree candidate is eligible for the Non-Degree status. Students can be admitted to this status for the following.

- student desires only academic enhancement;
- student desires to transfer credits towards a graduate degree at another institution;
- student wishes to accumulate credit towards "AAA" certification;
- there is no degree available at the university higher than the one the student holds in his/her field of study; or
- the student already possesses the graduate nursing degree and wishes to pursue the post master's program of study. Upon the recommendation of the student's advisory committee and department head, subject to

the approval of the Graduate Council, credits earned as a “non-degree” graduate student may subsequently be used toward meeting graduate degree requirements at the university if the student decides to become a degree candidate or if a higher degree program is approved in his/her area of interest. “Non-degree” graduate students are not eligible for financial assistance from the university. Enrollment is limited to nine hours of academic credit.

Teacher Education Candidates

Admission to the Office of Graduate Studies does not mean that the student has been accepted as a candidate for the master's or specialist degree. A student desiring to earn the degree must apply in writing for admission to candidacy for a graduate degree by filing the proper application forms with the Assistant Vice President for Academic Program Support and Graduate Studies. **NOTE: Persons desiring AA certification must hold or qualify to hold a Mississippi Teaching Certificate. They must also conform to requirements for AA or AAA certification as listed in state requirements, and qualify for the Master of Science in Education or Specialist degree at Alcorn State University. The university will not submit applications for AA or AAA certification unless the criteria above are met.**

REQUIRED GRADUATE EXAMINATIONS

Entrance examinations are required of all prospective graduate students and Exit exams are required of all graduate students on track for graduation. Students can take these exams more than once, should they choose to do so. However, results of all attempts are reported to the Office of Graduate Studies and become a part of the students' permanent record.

ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS

The Graduate Record Examination

The Graduate Record Examination (GRE) General is required of applicants for most of the degree programs at Alcorn State University. Students must take the test on verbal, quantitative and analytical skills to be considered for admission. Students are required to make a passing score of 3.0 on the Analytical Writing. Scores from this examination must be “released” to Alcorn State University Office of Graduate Studies. GRE scores may also be used for admission into the Master of Business Administration (MBA) Program.

The General Management Admission Test

GMAT is required for admission into the Master of Business Administration (MBA) Program. Students must take the GMAT in the general verbal, mathematical and analytical writing skills areas. Students must score at least a 3.5 on the GMAT Analytical Writing Component as criteria for admission.

Major Field Examination

The Major Field Exam is a degree requirement for all business students at the undergraduate level designed to assess mastery of concepts and principles as well as knowledge expected of students at the conclusion of a major in specific subject areas in business. Students must score 136 on this exam to be considered exempt from taking the GMAT for admission into the master level program. Writing proficiency, which is a requirement for admission but is not assessed on the Major Field Test, will have to be satisfied by meeting writing proficiency guidelines set forth by the School of Business within the first or second semester of attendance.

C.A.S.E. and PRAXIS TESTS

Master of Arts in Teaching applicants must meet the Mississippi teacher licensure requirements for admission. Alternate route teacher candidates are required to take the Core Academic Skills for Educators test. This test replaces the Praxis I test. It measures teacher candidates' skills in reading, mathematics, and writing.

Students are required to score the following on standardized tests for admission:

CASE (Core Academic Skills for Educators)

. The following Passing Scores are required.

Reading (test 5712)	156
Writing (test 5722)	162
Mathematics (test 5732)	150

Alternate route teacher candidates are required to pass the Praxis I and II tests in order to obtain licensure.

Praxis II

Praxis II Specialty Area (Content), the assessments are designed to measure the knowledge of specific subjects and teaching skills that candidates for K-12 certification have to acquire through completion of the Master of Arts in Teaching Program. Listed below are the Specialty Test Codes:

Art 5134	German 5183	Physical Education 5091
Biology 5235	Health 5551	Physics 5265
Business 5101	Home Economics 5122	Social Studies 5081
Chemistry 5245	Latin 5601	Spanish 5195
Elementary Education (grades 4-6) 5018	Marketing 5561	Special Education Mild/Moderate 5354
English 5038	Math 5161	Speech 5221
French 5174	Music 5113	

Test registration and information for Specialty Area Tests is available from Educational Testing Service 1-800-772-9476 or <http://www.ets.org>

Mississippi Foundations of Reading Test

The Mississippi State Board of Education approved the implementation of the Foundations of Reading Test in accordance with Mississippi Code Ann. 37-3-2, *which is effective July 1, 2016*, which is applicable for licensure candidates completing traditional and alternate routes, and supplemental endorsement programs in elementary education. A teacher candidate in Mississippi must earn a passing score of 229 on this rigorous test of scientifically research-based reading instruction and intervention and data-based decision-making principles as approved by the State Board of Education. The purpose of test is to ensure that each licensed educator has the subject matter knowledge essential for entry-level teaching in the field. This licensure requirement also supports the critical role of the classroom teacher in ensuring that the students exit third grade reading on grade level.

The test measures proficiency in and depth of understanding of the subject of reading, reflects scientifically based reading research, conforms to the recommendations of the National Reading Panel, and is in alignment with Mississippi's 2014 College- and Career-Readiness Standards.

Test Code: SA090: Foundations of Reading (Parson)

The Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)

The TOEFL test is designed to test the English language proficiency of prospective international students. The test is required of all applicants whose native language is not English. This requirement by the Office of Graduate Studies is waived only for applicants who will have received a baccalaureate degree, or its foreign equivalent, prior to matriculation at Alcorn State University, from a university or college where English is the primary language of instruction (i.e. Ghana, India, etc.). Scores from this examination must be "released" to Alcorn State University Office of Graduate Studies.

International English Language Testing System (IELTS)

This test is an option for international students to assess their ability to communicate in English across all four language skills: listening, reading, writing, and speaking. The university level cut-score is generally 6 or 7.

International students can take either the TOEFL or the IELTS exam to meet university requirements for assessment of language ability.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Students who are seeking the master's degree must hold the bachelor's degree or its equivalent from an accredited institution. Graduates of unaccredited institutions should read the guidelines for conditional admissions.

All applicants must submit a complete admissions packet before an admissions decision can be made. The application packet includes:

- a. completed application;
- b. official transcript(s) of all academic work on the collegiate level;
- c. the results of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE), the Graduate Management Admissions Test (GMAT), or CASE and Praxis II;
- d. two letters of recommendation;
- e. application fee of \$10.00 (money order). **This applies to out-of-state students only;** and
- f. copy of current teacher's license. *

*Students enrolling in Elementary Education, Secondary Education, and Education Specialist programs.

There are four types of applications for admission:

1. First Time Graduate Application for Admission
2. Graduate Readmission Application
3. Second Master's Degree Application
4. Non-Degree Application

The Admission Process

A. Office of Graduate Studies (OGS) will receive:

- Application and Application Fee, if applicable
- Letters of Recommendation
- Appropriate Standardized Test Scores
- Official Transcript(s)

- Credential Course-by-Course Evaluation (International Students)
 - TOEFL or IELTS (International Students)
 - Statement of Financial Support (International Students)
 - Copy of Educator License, if applicable (M.S. in Education)
 - Statement of Purpose (Non-degree)
 - Goal Statement (Applied Science and Nursing applicants only)
 - Resume (Applied Science, MBA, Nursing)
- B. Office of Graduate Studies will verify the student's file is complete, assemble credentials for electronically transmitting to appropriate department.
- C. Departmental Admissions Committee will review file and return decision within **3 days** to Office of Graduate Studies.
- D. Office of Graduate Studies will send letter of acceptance or rejection to applicant with recommended advisor and copy department chair.
- E. Official student record will be maintained by the Office of Graduate Studies in electronic format.

This process will give Departments an opportunity to be involved in the decision-making. It will also give Departments the autonomy to select those applicants who best fit their program need for quality students.

Students are either admitted as Unconditional, Conditional, or Non-Degree based on their credentials at the time of application.

Disposition of Application Materials

Credentials or supporting materials submitted for admission to the Office of Graduate Studies become the property of the University and are not returned. Copies will not be provided to a third party outside the University even at the applicant's request. Copies of application materials may be provided to appropriate offices at the University in the interest of academic matters or in the interest of financial aid awards, or scholarships that are relative to the applicant. Any exception to this process will be determined by the appropriate Graduate Studies administrator.

DOCTORAL APPLICANTS

The doctoral is offered to students who are a certified Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP). Admission This is a 36 credit hours program to prepare FNPs for the highest level of nursing clinical practice. Emphasis is on evaluating and applying the evidence that upports nursing practice and creating practice delivery systems to improve client outcomes.

SPECIALIST IN EDUCATION

Admission to the Specialist Program is contingent on the applicant holding endorsement in elementary education, or related field, AA Educator License in elementary education and a transcript documenting completion of a master's level program of study. Thirty-nine (39) hours are required for degree completion. Students are required to complete a thesis.

MASTER'S DEGREE APPLICANTS

The master's degree requires a minimum of 33 semester hours of graduate course work. Some master-level programs may exceed this number of hours. Students pursuing a degree or endorsement in Biology and Agriculture have an option of thesis or non-thesis. Students may not enroll in two master's programs concurrently.

SECOND MASTER'S DEGREE

Applicants holding a graduate degree in one area may earn a second master's degree in another area at Alcorn State University.

Students who already have a master's degree in an area from Alcorn State University may earn a second master's degree with fewer than the usual number of credits if the core courses in the first degree are the **same** for the second degree and are completed within the maximum time limit of six years. Including the core courses previously completed, all degree programs require at least 33 semester hours of credit. (Some programs will require more than a total of 33 semester hours.) If the core courses in the first master's degree are common to the second master's degree, retaking of the core examination is waived.

1. If core courses exceed the time limit, an Appeal must be presented to the department to make a determination regarding curriculum content or alternate core courses to replace core courses that have exceeded the time limit.
2. All candidates for a second master's degree must meet the following 1. Must complete the requirements for one degree in full before any final admission decision is made concerning application toward the second degree. 2. Meet all graduate admission requirements of Alcorn State University and the department. and 3. Complete the application for a Second Master's Degree from Alcorn State University.
3. On the recommendation of the program advisor, students may transfer up to the following credits from the first master's into the second master's degree program.
 - For 30-33-semester-hour programs, no more than 9 approved hours.
 - For 36-60-semester-hour programs, no more than 12 approved hours.
 - A thesis completed for a previous degree cannot be used for a second master's degree.
 - Core courses common from the first master's degree to the second master's will be the limit allowed for transfer.
 - The six-year time limit does not apply to courses from a previous master's degree used for transfer (core courses do not apply).

Courses allowed for transfer from the first master's degree must be graduate courses completed with a B, or better, providing the hours are in a related field of study for the second master's degree

Academic units may specify additional requirements depending on the length of the program, prerequisites for the individual student, and/or the nature of the first degree.

4. Second master's degrees are not allowed in the same program of study for students who earned their first master's degree at Alcorn State University or at any other university. The second master's degree must be based on: A different option from the first master's degree and a curriculum distinct from the first master's degree containing a minimum of 30 units of coursework different from those taken to earn the first master's degree.
5. Dual enrollment in different programs concurrently is not permitted. Thus, students may only be enrolled in one program of study at a time.
6. No Thesis or Research Project credits from the first master's degree can be used for the second master's degree.

A Second Master's Degree When the First Degree Received from A Different University

1. Students coming to the University with a master's degree from another accredited institution may receive a master's degree from the University in a different field.
2. For students who earned their first master's degree at another institution, no coursework may be repeated from the first program of study unless otherwise determined by the admitting department.
3. Only six transfer hours from the first program of study may be counted toward the second master's degree if the maximum time limit does not exceed six years on the coursework.
4. The student must submit a First Time Graduate application for admission.
5. The academic unit for the second master's must approve the transfer credits and they must be recorded on the student's program of study sheet.
6. Academic units may specify additional requirements depending on the length of the program, prerequisites for the individual student, and/or the nature of the first degree.

NON-DEGREE ADMISSION

Applicants must meet general admissions requirements of the Office of Graduate Studies. Non-degree admission is granted to those who wish to enroll in courses but do not intend to qualify for a degree. The non-degree admission category includes prospective students entering Graduate School for these purposes:

- a. to enrich their professional development;
- b. to complete certification requirements, students should consult the appropriate academic department and School of Education Dean and Department Chair;
- c. to enroll in courses related to a program of study until applicant can satisfy all credentials required for admission;
- d. to transfer credits earned to a degree program at another institution.

Credits earned in the non-degree category are not ordinarily requirements for degrees. If subsequently, a student classified as non-degree is accepted into a degree program, the student may by petition, if approved, carry forward not more than nine (9) semester hours of credit previously earned as a non-degree student in graduate-level courses, provided that the grade in each course is not less than 3.0. Departments may restrict non-degree students to designated courses only. Non-degree students must have the approval of the department head (or designee) to enroll in a class.

The Assistant Vice President for Academic Program Support and Graduate Studies is the Advisor for all non-degree students. If students desire to change their status to degree seeking, they must complete a "First Time Graduate Application for Admission to the Office of Graduate Studies, submit all required documents such as test scores, and subsequently be recommended for admission to the graduate degree program by the academic unit's admission committee in accordance with their departmental program requirements.

PROCEDURES FOR READMISSION

Students who have not been in attendance at Alcorn for one or more semesters need to reapply for admission. This includes students on academic probation who do not continue their program to improve their GPA after being placed on academic probation. Readmission entails completing the Readmission Application to reenter the same program

of study. If the admission guidelines have changed since a student's last attendance, the student must comply with the guidelines in place at the time he/she is seeking readmission.

ADMISSION OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

International students who meet specific program requirements and for whom Alcorn has appropriate programs at the graduate level are invited to make application. Such applications must be supported by satisfactory evidence of their qualifications to pursue a full course of study at this institution.

Applications for admission of international students must submit the following items:

Application: All international graduate applicants must complete an application form and send it with the appropriate non-refundable application fee (\$10.00) to the Office of Graduate Studies, 1000 ASU Drive #689, Lorman, MS 39096.

Official Transcripts: Applicants must submit an official transcript of all course work completed on the collegiate level. All transcripts from international colleges and universities must be accompanied by verification that the degree is equivalent to a B.S., B.A., or M.S. degree from a college or university in the United States. Students transferring to the university from another college must submit a copy of their domestic transcript.

GPA: Verification that the student's grade point average is at least a 2.5 on a 4.0 scale must be submitted as part of the admissions process. Verification must be certified by a professional credential evaluation service. Applicants may select any National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES) member to provide this service. (See NACES web site, www.naces.org, for a list of NACES members.)

Credential Evaluations: All credential evaluations must include each educational credential and its U.S. equivalent 1) grade average and 2) information regarding the accreditation status of the institution attended.

An official transcript of all **course-by-course** work completed on the collegiate level must be submitted. All transcripts from international colleges and universities must be accompanied by verification that the degree is equivalent to a bachelor's or master's degree from a college or university in the United States. Also, verification that the student's grade point average is at least a 2.5 on a 4.0 scale is needed. Verification must be certified by a professional credential evaluation service. Applicants may select any National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES) member to provide this service. (See NACES web site, www.naces.org, for a list of NACES members.)

Test of English as a Foreign Language: All international graduate applicants must present an official TOEFL score to the Office of Graduate Studies. An IELTS may be submitted as alternative test results for the TOEFL.

Standardized Test Scores: Each applicant must submit an official score on a standardized test (GMAT, GRE, CASE, PRAXIS, etc.), as appropriate to the discipline. An adequate score on an appropriate standardized test is required for admission to a graduate degree program. Scores must not be older than five (5) years.

Statement of Financial Support: Declaration and certification of finances on the financial institution's letterhead and notarized must be submitted. The declaration must equate to the assessed amount by the university in American dollars.

Additional Requirements for admittance: The U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service requires certification that **ALL** standards for admission have been met before the I-20 form for F-1 is issued. International students are required to complete their admissions procedures at least 30 days prior to the term in which they expect to enter.

Letters of Recommendation: Each applicant must submit two letters of recommendation from individuals, professors, or colleagues who can attest to their academic potential as a prospective student. The letters must be signed and dated.

Appropriate I-20 forms will be issued after all official credentials have been received and the completed application has been reviewed and approved by the major department. The U. S. Immigration and Naturalization Service requires certification that all standards for admission have been met before the I-20 form is issued. International students are required to complete their admissions procedures at least 30 days prior to the term in which they expect to enter.

F-1 Students: Basic roles and relationships of an International Student on F-1 Visa

An F-1 student is a nonimmigrant who is pursuing a “full course of study” to achieve a specific education or professional objective, at an academic institution in the United States that has been designated by the department of Homeland security to offer courses of study to students, and has been enrolled in Student and Exchange Visitor Information Systems. A student acquires F-1 status using Form I-20, issued by a Designated School Official assigned by the Assistant Vice President for Academic Program Support and Graduate Studies. Status is acquired in two ways:

- a. if the student is abroad, by entering the United States with the I-20 and an F-1 visa obtained at the U. S. consulate; or
- b. if the student is already in the United States, by sending the I-20 to USCIS with an application for change of nonimmigrant status.

APPLICATION TERMS AND APPLICATION DEADLINES

Priority processing is given to applicants submitting all required credentials for admission by the specified deadlines. Applications received after the deadlines are not guaranteed to be processed in time before registration ends. It is the responsibility of the prospective student to make certain that all admission materials are complete and submitted to the Office of Graduate Studies in a timely manner with respect to admission deadlines. Submission of complete application credentials will insure consideration by the admission committees for the respective programs of study. Therefore, it is critical that prospective students adhere to the deadlines below.

The deadlines for applications are:

July 15 (Fall)

November 25 (Spring)

April 25 (Summer I)

May 25 (Summer II)

School of Nursing

- June 15th - Family Nurse Practitioner (Fall Entry)
- June 15th - Post Master's Family Nurse Practitioner (Summer Entry)
- June 15th – Doctor of Nursing Practice
- June 15th - Nurse Educator (Spring Entry)
- June 15th - Post Master's Nurse Educator (Spring Entry)

PROGRAM SPECIFIC ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS**ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES**

Master of Science in Applied Science and Technology

- application
- two letters of recommendation
- official transcript(s)
- resume
- Career Goal Statement

Master of Science in Workforce Education Leadership

- application
- two letters of recommendation
- transcript(s)

AGRICULTURE

Master of Science in Agriculture

- application
- two letters of recommendation
- official transcript(s)

Master of Science in Secondary Education

Agricultural Education

- application
- two letters of recommendation
- standard educator license
- official transcript(s)

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Master of Science in Biology

- application
- two letters of recommendation (must be academic only)
- official transcript(s)

Master of Science in Secondary Education

Biology Education

- application
- two letters of recommendation (must be academic only)
- standard educator license
- official transcript(s)

BIOTECHNOLOGY

Master of Science in Biotechnology

- application
- two letters of recommendation
- official transcript(s)

BUSINESS (MBA)

Master of Science in Business

- application
- two letters of recommendation (supervisory, managerial, professional)
- official transcript(s)
- resume

CHEMISTRY AND PHYSICS

Master of Science in Secondary Education

Chemistry

- application
- two letters of recommendation
- standard educator license
- official transcript(s)

Master of Science in Secondary Education

Science

- application
- two letters of recommendation
- standard educator license
- official transcript(s)

EDUCATION AND PSYCHOLOGY**Master of Arts in Teaching: Elementary Education**

- application
- two letters of recommendation
- C.A.S.E.
- Praxis II Content Area scores
- Mississippi Foundations of Reading Test
- official transcript(s)

Master of Arts in Teaching: Secondary Education

- application
- two letters of recommendation
- C.A.S.E.
- Praxis II Content Area scores
- official transcript(s)

Master of Science in Elementary Education

- application
- two letters of recommendation
- standard educator license
- Mississippi Foundations of Reading Test

Master of Science in Secondary Education**Clinical Mental Health Counseling**

- application
- two letters of recommendation
- official transcript(s)

Master of Science in Secondary Education**School Counseling**

- application
- two letters of recommendation
- official transcript(s)

Master of Science in Secondary Education**Special Education**

- application
- two letters of recommendation
- standard educator license
- official transcript(s)

Education Specialist in Elementary Education

- application
- two letters of recommendation
- standard AA license
- official transcript(s)

ENGLISH, LANGUAGES, AND MASS COMMUNICATION**Master of Liberal Arts (MLA)****English Literature and Mass Communication**

- application
- two letters of recommendation
- official transcript(s)

Master of Science in Secondary Education**English**

- application
- two letters of recommendation
- standard educator license
- official transcript(s)

FINE ARTS

Master of Liberal Arts (MLA)

Music

- application
- two letters of recommendation (1 professional, 1 academic)
- official transcript(s)
- resume

Master of Science in Secondary Education

Music

- application
- two letters of recommendation (1 professional, 1 academic)
- standard educator license
- official transcript(s)

HEALTH, PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND RECREATION

Master of Science in Secondary Education

Athletic Administration and Coaching (Teaching)

- application
- two letters of recommendation
- standard educator license
- official transcript(s)

Master of Science in Secondary Education

Athletic Administration and Coaching (Non-Teaching)

- application
- two letters of recommendation
- standard educator license
- official transcript(s)

NCAA Compliance and Academic Progress Reporting (Non-Teaching)

- application
- two letters of recommendation
- official transcript(s)

MATHEMATICS AND COMPUTER SCIENCE

Master of Science in Computer and Information Science

- application
- two letters of recommendation
- GRE General Test scores (no older than five years)
- official transcript(s)

Master of Science in Secondary Education

Mathematics

- application
- two letters of recommendation
- standard educator license
- official transcript(s)

NURSING

Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)

- application
- three letters of recommendation on letterhead (1 professional, 1 academic, 1 personal)
- GPA of 3.0 or higher in MSN program
- official transcript(s)
- resume
- Registered Nurse and APRN license
- goal statement
- interview
- Criminal history background check
- Drug screen

Master of Science in Nursing

- application
- three letters of recommendation on letterhead (1 professional, 1 academic, 1 personal) official transcript(s)
- resume
- goal statement two-minute video

NURSING Cont.

Post Master Option

- application
- three letters of recommendation on letterhead (1 professional, 1 academic, 1 personal)
- official transcript(s) from all universities attended
- resume
- goal statement
- two-minute video

SOCIAL SCIENCES

Master of Arts in History

- application
- two letters of recommendation
- official transcript(s)

Master of Liberal Arts (MLA)

Criminal Justice, History, and Political Science

- application
- two letters of recommendation (professional, academic)
- official transcript(s)
- resume

Master of Science in Secondary Education

Social Science

- application
- two letters of recommendation
- standard educator license
- official transcript(s)

ACADEMIC DEPARTMENTS

Academic units at the graduate level offer rigorous programs in a variety of disciplines to prepare students for various careers in a global society. Course offerings are designed with a numeric system to indicate level of the degree program. Each course is designated by a number containing three digits.

500 Level Courses
600 Level Courses
700 Level Courses

Graduate Masters
Specialist
Doctoral

Course Prefixes:

The title of courses are coded with three digits separated by hyphens. The first digit indicates the number of lecture hours per week required in the course; the second digit indicates the number of laboratory hours required per week in the course; and the third digit indicates the number of semester hours credit allowed per semester in the course.

Agribusiness	AB
Accounting	AC
Advanced Technologies	IT
Agricultural Economics	AE
Agricultural Engineering	AG
Agricultural Education	AN
Animal Science	AS
Agronomy	PS
Applied Science and Technology	ST
Business Administration	BA
Biology	BI
Biotechnology	BT
Chemistry	CH
Communications	CO
Computer Science	CS
Counseling	CM
Criminal Justice	CJ
Economics	EC
Education	ED
Educational Administration	EA
English	EN
Finance	FI
General Science	GS
Health, Physical Education, and Recreation	PE
History	HS
Industrial Arts Education	IE
Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts	ILA
Management	MG
Marketing	MK
Mathematics	MA
Music	MU
Nursing	NU
Political Science	GT
Psychology	PH
Reading	RE
Social Science	SS
Social Work	SY
Special Education	SE
Trade and Industrial Education	TI

SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE AND APPLIED SCIENCES



**"Never tell people how to do things. Tell them what to do and they will surprise you with their ingenuity." --
George S. Patton**

SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE AND APPLIED SCIENCES

Edmund Buckner, Ph.D., Dean
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601-877-6137 FAX 601-877-6219

DEPARTMENT OF ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES

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GRADUATE FACULTY

David Addae, Ed.D., Professor of Advanced Technologies
John Adjaye, Ph.D.; Associate Professor of Advanced Technologies
Steve Adzanu, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Advanced Technologies
Kwabana Agyepong, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Advanced Technologies
Maxwell Ankrah, Ph.D., Adjunct
Jessica Buck, Ph.D., Adjunct
Mamie Griffin, Ph.D., Adjunct
Beitollahi Masoud, Ph.D., Adjunct
Sam Nwaneri, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Advanced Technologies
Erol Sarigul, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Advanced Technologies
Angel Skinner, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Advanced Technologies
Yufeng Zheng, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Advanced Technologies

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN APPLIED SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Program Description

Master of Science in Applied Science and Technology is designed to provide access to technical graduate work in Southwest Mississippi and the rural counties served. The intended student audience is all technical undergraduate majors in the areas of engineering, technology, applied science, and physical sciences.

The concentrations are offered with the thesis and project options. Both thesis and project options require a minimum of 36 credit hours to graduate: 30 course hours and 6 hours of *thesis-and-defense or project-and-defense*. The two options offer students the opportunity to fulfill their academic aspirations and course requirements through a thesis or non-thesis track.

Stakeholders involved in the design and delivery of this graduate program include the Systems Research Institute (SRI), an Institutions of Higher Learning of Mississippi approved institute, the Department of Advanced Technologies, Industry and Businesses in Southwest Mississippi. The institute operates a technology incubator in Southwest Mississippi, focused on technology based economic development. There are several centers and labs which comprise the institute. The scientist in the institute and faculty in the Department of Advanced Technologies together with graduates focus on solving technology based problems for business, industry, and entrepreneurs in Southwest Mississippi, the United States, and internationally. Projects are focused on development of prototypes and solving real world industry and business related problems using the partnership of the stakeholders listed.

Advisory Council: The academic advisory committee includes relevant industry partners such as, Grand Gulf, Entergy, Ergon, Engineering Research Development Center (ERDC), and the US Army Corp of Engineers. Federal agencies supporting research of faculty and scientists working with the department of Advanced Technologies and the Systems Research Institute include: DOD, AFRL, SBA, DHS, DOE, NRC, and DOED etc.

The graduate program offers both online and conventional face-to-face classroom delivery of instruction and training. This is intended to maximize the convenience to students from remote locations which are enrolled in the program.

Student Learning Outcomes:

The educational objectives of the Master of Science in Applied Science & Technology Degree program include:

Students should be able to:

- 1) Understand and communicate mathematics underlying relevant/appropriate research work in engineering, technology, and physical sciences;
- 2) Effectively use modeling tools/software tools, and implement algorithms on appropriate platforms such as math lab, C++ etc.
- 3) Use project management tools effectively; and
- 4) Be able to write a technical report (either thesis or project) that meets graduate school standards.

Admission:

Admission directly into the graduate program requires a 2.75 cumulative GPA with 3.0 minimum in the senior year of undergraduate work from an accredited program. Decisions are made based on the combination of transcript, prior work experience, statement of career goals, and letters of recommendation. Prospective students with work experience or transferable credits will be individually evaluated and are encouraged to apply. Applicants must submit with their application a resume that highlights professional and personal accomplishments, technical expertise, and leadership experience. Undergraduate students in STEM areas may be approved for nine (9) hours of graduate credit toward the completion of the Master's Program requirement in their senior year. With additional nine (9) graduate hours completed during the summer of their graduation year of their bachelor's degree, it is possible to complete both the Bachelor's and Master's degree in five years. Admitted students taking advantage of this program with proper permissions and advising have an opportunity to earn a dual bachelor's and master's degree within five years.

Approval for taking courses toward the M.S. in Applied Science & Technology for undergraduate students at ASU with a STEM related area of study includes a cumulative grade point average of 3.0. Full admission into the graduate program will require a BS degree in Applied Science or Engineering Technology, Mathematics, Physics, Engineering, Technology, Mathematics, Physics, or equivalent with a cumulative bachelor's grade point of 2.75 or

higher, with a combined 3.0 in the senior years. Students must satisfy Alcorn State University Graduate school admission requirements. Applicants must submit with their application a resume that highlights professional and personal accomplishments, linguistic abilities, technical expertise and leadership experience.

COMPUTER SYSTEMS & NETWORK TECHNOLOGY

Program Description

The Computer Systems and Networks Technology concentration focuses on Computer Networking and Management, providing advanced study in the implementation and management of information technology. The program covers hardware and software experiences in advanced technologies used in the design, implementation, administration, monitoring, optimization, and maintenance of data communication and computer networking systems in industry. Graduation from this concentration opens up career opportunities in occupations such as: Chief Information Officer, Network Architect, Information Security Officer, Network Administrator, Corporate Technology Trainer, Computer Analyst, Information Systems Consultant, and Technology Integration Specialist.

Course Requirements (Thesis Option)

Core Courses (12 hours Thesis/Non-Thesis Plan)	Credits
ST 510 Research Methods in AS&T	3 hrs.
ST 512 Mathematics for AS&T	3 hrs.
ST 514 Computation in AS&T	3 hrs.
ST 516 Project Management	3 hrs.
Thesis and Project Option (6 hours)	Credits
ST 610A Thesis A	3 hrs.
ST 610B Thesis B	3 hrs.
Restricted Electives (18 hours)	Credits
ST 580 Information Security Mgmt.	3 hrs.
ST 581 Network Mgmt. Technology	3 hrs.
ST 582 Network Security	3 hrs.
ST 583 Info. Infrastructure Design	3 hrs.
ST 584 Enterprise Web Development	3 hrs.
ST 585 Distributed Systems & Cloud Computing	3 hrs.
ST 586 Data Science and Big Data Analytics	3 hrs.
ST 587 Information Storage and Management	3 hrs.
ST 588 Cloud Infrastructure and Services	3 hrs.
ST 599 Special Topics (Applied Science and Technology)	3 hrs.
ST 5/6XX Approved Elective(s)	6 hrs.
TOTAL	36 hrs.

Course Requirements (Non-Thesis Option)

Core Courses (12 hours Thesis/Non-Thesis Plan)		Credits
ST 510	Research Methods in AS&T	3 hrs.
ST 512	Mathematics for AS&T	3 hrs.
ST 514	Computation in AS&T	3 hrs.
ST 516	Project Management	3 hrs.
Thesis and Project Option (6 hours)		Credits
ST 599	Special Topics in Applied Science and Technology	3 hrs.
ST 615	Project	3 hrs.
Restricted Electives (18 hours)		Credits
ST 580	Information Security Mgmt.	3 hrs.
ST 581	Network Mgmt. Technology	3 hrs.
ST 582	Network Security	3 hrs.
ST 583	Info. Infrastructure Design	3 hrs.
ST 584	Enterprise Web Development	3 hrs.
ST 585	Distributed Systems & Cloud Computing	3 hrs.
ST 586	Data Science and Big Data Analytics	3 hrs.
ST 587	Information Storage and Management	3 hrs.
ST 588	Cloud Infrastructure and Services	3 hrs.
ST 599	Special Topics (Applied Science and Technology)	3 hrs.
ST 5/6XX	Approved Elective(s)	6 hrs.
TOTAL		36 hrs.

APPLIED SCIENCE CORE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ST 510 – RESEARCH METHODS IN AS & T

3-0-3

(3 credits)

Research design, qualitative and quantitative research, sources of data. Data collection procedures, measurement strategies, questionnaire design, interviewing techniques, content analysis, literature surveys, information data bases, probability testing, and inferential statistics.

ST 512 - MATHEMATICS FOR APPLIED SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

3-0-3

(3 credits)

The course exposes students to concepts of mathematics encountered throughout the physical science, engineering and technology management disciplines. This course explores the diversity of math and is focused on developing quantitative skill and reasoning ability. Topics include mathematical methods to solve graduate level Applied Science, Engineering and Technology Management problems. Includes a research project applying the student's skills and background to an engineering, technology management or science-oriented project

ST 514 - COMPUTATION IN AS&T

3-0-3

(3 credits)

The course is an introduction to computational methods with emphasis on programming and problem solving skills using a variety of software tools. A brief introduction to computer architecture, numbering systems and data representation will be given in the beginning followed by topics introducing students to computational methods, and

a systems approach to problem solving. Students learn to plan and design computer programs using defining diagrams and solution algorithms expressed in pseudo-code, and flowcharts.

ST 516 - PROJECT MANAGEMENT**3-0-3**

(3 credits)

Provide students with tools to manage projects and operations to ensure that a project is completed on time, within budget, and with high quality by exploring specific techniques for accomplishing those three goals. Prepare students to manage people, budgets, scheduling, and quality of project. This course also prepares students for technical and professional communication. Students will learn how to gather, organize, and present information effectively according to audience and purpose.

COMPUTER SYSTEMS & NETWORK TECHNOLOGY COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**ST 580 - INFORMATION SECURITY MANAGEMENT****3-0-3**

(3 credits)

Survey of information security terms, concepts, principles, and applications in data networking environment.

ST 581 – NETWORK MANAGEMENT TECHNOLOGY**3-0-3**

(3 credits)

Current technologies to address enterprise wide data communication network management. Topics include planning and deploying hardware and software solutions for enterprise network management.

ST 582 – NETWORK SECURITY**3-0-3**

(3 credits)

Survey of security challenges to data communication and computer networks. The topics include evaluation of networks security threats, fundamental configuration of enterprise network devices, and enterprise network security policy development.

ST 583 - INFORMATION INFRASTRUCTURE DESIGN**3-0-3**

(3 credits)

Advanced features in providing reliable information infrastructure for organizations. Topics include current and future development of dynamic routing and switching protocols, such as OSPF, BGP, MLS, etc. covers issues on IPv6 and its deployment.

ST 584 - ENTERPRISE WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT**3-0-3**

(3 credits)

Latest technology in developing successful web sites on the internet as relates to industry and business applications, including protocols, standards and programming tools. Modern technologies for providing dynamic content with enterprise websites. Topics include creation and management of dynamic web services.

ST 585 - DISTRIBUTED SYSTEMS & CLOUD COMPUTING**3-0-3**

(3 credits)

Study of integrated web services to a successful enterprise web presence. Topics include development of web site with multiple integrated services, website performance, and security considerations. Latest technology in developing successful web sites on the internet as relates to industry and business applications, including protocols, standards and programming tools. Modern technologies for providing dynamic content with enterprise websites. Topics include creation and management of dynamic web services.

ST 586 - DATA SCIENCE AND BIG DATA ANALYTICS**3-0-3**

(3 credits)

This course provides practical foundation level training that enables immediate and effective participation in big data and other analytics projects and establishes a skills baseline that can be enhanced by further formal training and

additional real-world experiences. The course provides a process framework for tackling business problems that leverage big data, a grounding in the theory behind key analytical techniques and an introduction to big data analytics technology and tools. The course has extensive hands-on labs to experience the application of these techniques and tools and includes a final hands-on lab where the course learning is applied to a big data analytics problem.

ST 587 - INFORMATION STORAGE AND MANAGEMENT**3-0-3**

(3 credits)

This course covers challenges and solutions for data storage and management. Intelligent storage systems are covered, as well as storage networking, backup recovery and archiving, business continuity and disaster recovery, storage security and virtualization, and managing and monitoring the storage infrastructure.

ST 588 - CLOUD INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES**3-0-3**

(3 credits)

The Cloud Infrastructure and Services (CIS) course educates participants about cloud deployment and service models, cloud infrastructure, and the key considerations in migrating cloud computing. For all definitions of cloud computing, the course has resorted to the U.S. national Institute of Standards and Technology as a guide. The course covers technologies required to build classic (traditional), virtualized, and cloud data center environments. These technologies include compute, storage, networking, desktop, and application virtualization. Additional areas of focus include backup/recovery, business continuity, security, and management. Students will learn about the key considerations and steps involved in transitioning from the current state of their data center to a cloud computing environment. Upon completing the course, participants will have the knowledge to make informed decisions about migrating to cloud infrastructure and choosing the best deployment model for their organization.

ST 589 - ADVANCED PROGRAMMING (C#) AND ITS APPLICATION TO INDUSTRY**3-0-3**

(3 credits)

The course will cover the following contents: basic Object-Oriented Technology in C# (C++), such as the concepts of class, inheritance, polymorphism, operator overloading, and IO streams; image data input/output manipulations, fundamental pattern recognition and image processing algorithm analysis and implementation, project schedule, documentation and test strategy. Some application examples of image medical diagnostics, industrial inspection, handwriting analysis, face recognition, security and surveillance, etc., will be analyzed in the course.

ST 597 – INTRODUCTION TO ACADEMIC WRITING**3-0-3**

(3 credits)

The course is designed to expose students to gain graduate level proficiency in professional writing. This course is a requirement for students who secured less than 3.0 in analytical writing part of the GRE. This course will help students to acquire writing skills, ability to read technical comprehension and answering questions, and more importantly the skill of writing technical documents. Students will be exposed to rigorous English writing skills; give an opportunity to critique other documents (professional and non- professional) and finally required to submit a technical document.

ST 610A – THESIS A**3-0-3**

(3 credits)

Three hours for thesis research including written and oral defense of thesis. Major focus will be on the first three chapters of thesis (Introduction, Literature Review, and Methodology).

ST 610B – THESIS B**3-0-3**

(3 credits)

Three hours for thesis research including written and oral defense of thesis. Major focus will be on the last two chapters of thesis (Results & Discussion, Conclusion) and oral defense of thesis.

ST 615 – PROJECT**3-0-3**

(3 credits)

Approved industry based project culminating in a prototype and an oral defense of a written project report.

ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONICS ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY**Program Description**

Electrical and Electronics Engineering technologist conducts research, and designs, develops, tests, and oversees the development of electronic systems and the manufacture of electrical and electronic equipment and devices. From the global positioning system that can continuously provide the location of a vehicle to giant electric power generators, electrical and electronics engineers are responsible for a wide range of technologies.

Course Requirements (Thesis Option)

Core Courses (12 hours) Thesis/Project Options		Credits
ST 510	Research Methods in AS&T	3 hrs.
ST 512	Mathematics for AS&T	3 hrs.
ST 514	Computation in AS&T	3 hrs.
ST 516	Project Management	3 hrs.
Thesis Option (6 hours)		Credits
ST 610A	Thesis A	3 hrs.
ST 610B	Thesis B	3 hrs.
Restricted Electives (18 hours)		Credits
ST 530	Automation	3 hrs.
ST 531	Electric Machinery	3 hrs.
ST 532	Electronics	3 hrs.
ST 533	Semiconductor Devices	3 hrs.
ST 534	Power System Analysis and Design	3 hrs.
ST 535	Analog Electronic Circuits	3 hrs.
ST 536	Electronic Communications Circuits and Systems	3 hrs.
ST 537	Digital Electronic Circuits	3 hrs.
ST 538	Electromagnetic Fields	3 hrs.
ST 539	RF & Microwave Technology	3 hrs.
ST 5xx	Approved Electives	6 hrs.
TOTAL		36 hrs.

Course Requirements (Non-Thesis Option)

Core Courses (12 hours) Thesis/Project Options		Credits
ST 510	Research Methods in AS&T	3 hrs.
ST 512	Mathematics for AS&T	3 hrs.
ST 514	Computation in AS&T	3 hrs.
ST 516	Project Management	3 hrs.

Project Option (6 hours)		Credits
ST 599	Special Topics in Applied Science and Technology	3 hrs.
ST 615	Project	3 hrs.
Restricted Electives (18 hours)		Credits
ST 530	Automation	3 hrs.
ST 531	Electric Machinery	3 hrs.
ST 532	Electronics	3 hrs.
ST 533	Semiconductor Devices	3 hrs.
ST 534	Power System Analysis and Design	3 hrs.
ST 535	Analog Electronic Circuits	3 hrs.
ST 536	Electronic Communications Circuits and Systems	3 hrs.
ST 537	Digital Electronic Circuits	3 hrs.
ST 538	Electromagnetic Fields	3 hrs.
ST 539	RF & Microwave Technology	3 hrs.
ST 5xx	Approved Electives	6 hrs.
TOTAL		36 hrs.

ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONICS ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ST 530 – AUTOMATION

3-0-3

(3 credits)

A study of the applications of automation systems, including identification of system requirements, equipment integration, actuators, controllers, and sensors. This course will include selected case studies of automated systems in aerospace, defense, medical, petroleum, transportation, airport operation, and homeland security.

ST 531 - ELECTRIC MACHINERY

3-0-3

(3 credits)

This course introduces the student to the principles of electrical machinery. Topics covered include: Transformers, AC machinery fundamentals, synchronous generators, synchronous motors, induction motors, DC machinery fundamentals, DC motors and generators, AC and DC motor drives.

ST 532 – ELECTRONICS

3-0-3

(3 credits)

This course provides a comprehensive treatment of topics in electronic devices. This course is designed to give the student an understanding of the fundamental theories and applications of electronic devices such as Junction Field-Effect Transistors, Metal Oxide Semiconductor Field-Effect Transistors, Operational Amplifiers, Thyristors, and active filters. Topics to be covered include basic to advance theories of electronics devices such as diodes, Bipolar-Junction transistors, and Operational amplifiers with hands-on laboratories to be complemented by the use of software simulation packages. Also, fundamentals of microprocessors will be explained.

ST 533 - SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICES

3-0-3

(3 credits)

The course introduces the student to the physics and operation of semiconductor devices. Topics include: PN junction diodes, bipolar junction transistors (BJTs), field effect transistors (FETs) such as junction field effect transistors (JFETs), metal oxide semiconductor field effect transistors (MOSFETs), metal semiconductor field effect transistors (MESFETs), thyristors, silicon controlled rectifiers, etc.

ST 534 - POWER SYSTEM ANALYSIS AND DESIGN**3-0-3**

(3 credits)

This course covers the methods of analysis and design of electric power systems. Topics covered include: Fundamental principles (phasors, complex power, network equations, balanced three-phase circuits, etc.). power transformers, transmission lines, power flow, symmetrical and unsymmetrical faults, symmetrical components, power system protection power system stability and power system controls.

ST 535 - ANALOG ELECTRONIC CIRCUITS**3-0-3**

(3 credits)

The course covers diode circuits such as clippers and clampers, rectifiers and power supplies, BJT and FET amplifiers, oscillators, modulators, demodulators, mixers, filters, operational amplifiers, etc. The course is supported by laboratory exercises and simulation software packages.

ST 536 - ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS CIRCUITS & SYSTEMS**3-0-3**

(3 credits)

This course investigates the fundamental concepts of electronic communications systems. Topics include: Amplitude Modulation (AM), Frequency Modulation (FM), Phase Modulation (PM), digital modulation schemes, principles of power spectra and time domain analysis.

ST 537 - DIGITAL ELECTRONIC CIRCUITS**3-0-3**

(3 credits)

This course provides a comprehensive treatment of topics in electronic devices. This course is designed to give the student an understanding of the fundamental theories and applications of electronic devices such as Junction Field-Effect Transistors, Metal Oxide Semiconductor Field-Effect Transistors, Operational Amplifiers, Thyristors, and active filters. Topics to be covered include basic to advance theories of electronic devices such as diodes, Bipolar-Junction transistors, and Operational amplifiers with hands on laboratories to be complemented by the use of software simulation packages. Also, fundamentals of microprocessors will be explained.

ST 538 - ELECTROMAGNETIC FIELDS**3-0-3**

(3 credits)

The course introduces the student to principles of electromagnetic fields. The course covers vector analysis, electrostatics fields, magnetostatic fields. Maxwell's equations, propagation of uniform plane waves, transmission lines, and waveguides and cavity resonators, antennas.

ST 539 - RF AND MICROWAVE TECHNOLOGY**3-0-3**

(3 credits)

The course emphasizes the fundamental concepts of electromagnetic, wave propagation, network analysis, and design principles applicable to modern radio frequency (RF) and microwave engineering. Topics covered are: electromagnetic theory, transmission line theory, transmission lines and waveguides, microwave network analysis, impedance matching and tuning, microwave resonators. Computer aided design (CAD) software packages will be used, power dividers and directional couplers, microwave filters, theory and design of ferromagnetic components, noise and active RF components, microwave and RF amplifier design, oscillators and mixers, introduction to RF and microwave systems. Computer aided design (CAD) software packages will be used.

TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT

Program Description

The Technology Management concentration prepares graduates to address today's complex business problems with innovative solutions. Organizations require managers and leaders that understand the importance of business knowledge, technology and innovation in driving organizational value to increase competitiveness. Therefore, the program offers graduates the needed interdisciplinary skills to successfully compete in today's team-oriented, horizontally organized and globally competitive workplace. Graduates are prepared to manage people, processes, and information in public and private sectors. Emphasis is placed on various facets including strategic, behavioral, organizational, and social topics.

Course Requirements (Thesis Option)

Core Courses (12 hours Thesis/Non-Thesis Plan)	Credits
ST 512 Mathematics for AS&T	3 hrs.
ST 514 Computation in AS&T	3 hrs.
ST 516 Project Management	3 hrs.
ST 510 Research Methods in AS&T	3 hrs.
Thesis Option (6 hours)	Credits
ST 610A Thesis A	3 hrs.
ST 610B Thesis B	3 hrs.
Restricted Electives (18 hours)	Credits
IE 508 Manufacturing Planning	3 hrs.
ST 545 Operations Research	3 hrs.
ST 560 Bus. Plan for New Tech Ventures	3 hrs.
ST 562 New Product Development	3 hrs.
ST 564 Managing for Tech. Innovation	3 hrs.
ST 566 Project Mgmt. and Operations	3 hrs.
ST 568 Total Quality Management	3 hrs.
ST 5xx Approved Electives	6 hrs.
TOTAL	36 hrs.

Course Requirements (Non-Thesis Option)

Core Courses (12 hours Thesis/Non-Thesis Plan)	Credits
ST 512 Mathematics for AS&T	3 hrs.
ST 514 Computation in AS&T	3 hrs.
ST 516 Project Management	3 hrs.
ST 510 Research Methods in AS&T	3 hrs.

Project Option (6 hours)		Credits
ST 599	Special Topics in Applied Science and Technology	3 hrs.
ST 615	Project	3 hrs.
Restricted Electives (18 hours)		Credits
IE 508	Manufacturing Planning	3 hrs.
ST 545	operation Research	3 hrs.
ST 560	Bus. Plan for New Tech Ventures	3 hrs.
ST 562	New Product Development	3 hrs.
ST 564	Managing for Tech. Innovation	3 hrs.
ST 566	Project Mgmt. and Operations	3 hrs.
ST 568	Total Quality Management	3 hrs.
ST 5xx	Approved Electives	6 hrs.
TOTAL		36 hrs.

TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ST 545 - OPERATIONS RESEARCH

3-0-3

(3 credits)

Operations management conveys skills in “set plays or thematic groups” as tools to apply to marketplace, through productivity, for competitive advantage. These thematic productivity groups, evolve with socioeconomic and cultural needs or demands in business, starting with natural resource management systems, digital and virtual customization of customers’ and market communities, electronic commerce enterprise, and supply chain logistics. The studies are equipped with the knowledge that technology is equivalent to product modeling, and appeals to direct services in the making of products. Impacts and involvements of mathematics in operations research deal with analysis and cross validation of functions, especially in convoluted systems or networks. The objective of this course is to manage change and available resources to enhance productivity and competition.

ST 560 - BUSINESS PLANNING FOR NEW TECHNOLOGY VENTURES

3-0-3

(3 credits)

Analysis including feasibility (studies and product impact) and creation of a business plan for a new business venture including demand forecasting, financial modeling, selling of the new business idea, and other issues for current business conditions.

ST 562 - NEW PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT

3-0-3

(3 credits)

Explores engineering and business topics important to the development of innovative customer-driven engineering products. Design optimization, innovative thinking and the principles and methodologies of product development are examined. Students are taught the tools, techniques and organizational structures that support new product development.

ST 564 - MANAGEMENT FOR TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION

3-0-3

(3 credits)

This course examines communication and key management functions including: envisioning and strategic planning, creating high performance teams, establishing appraisal/reward systems, and innovation and organizational change. Emphasis on leading innovative technical people, leadership that fosters entrepreneurship, and new forms of organizing.

ST 566 - PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS**3-0-3**

(3 credits)

Provide students with tools to manage projects and operations to ensure that a project is completed on time, within budget, and with high quality by exploring specific techniques for accomplishing those three goals. Prepare students to manage people, budgets, scheduling, and quality of project.

ST 568 - TOTAL QUALITY MANAGEMENT**3-0-3**

(3 credits)

This course focuses on the essence, principles, and practices of total quality management (TQM) in industry. The subjects and topics covered are: process improvement, process orientation, service quality, human resources, customer satisfaction programs, quality function deployment, process control and capability, role of inspection, economics of quality, productivity measurement, and learning and organizational performance measures.

GEOSPATIAL ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY

Program Description

The Geospatial Engineering Technology (GET) has broad emphasis on transportation and natural resources. It is offered in two specialty areas: 1) Transportation and 2) Natural Resource Management (NRM). Both areas are offered with the thesis and project options. The two options offer students the opportunity to fulfill their course requirements and academic aspirations. A total of 24 hours may be selected from the listed restricted electives.

Course Requirements (Thesis Option)

Core Courses (12 hours Thesis Plan)	Credits
ST 510 Research Methods in AS&T	3 hrs.
ST 512 Mathematics for AS&T	3 hrs.
ST 514 Computation in AS&T	3 hrs.
ST 516 Project Management	3 hrs.
Thesis Option (6 hours)	Credits
ST 610A Thesis A	3 hrs.
ST 610B Thesis B	3 hrs.
Restricted Electives (18 hours)	Credits
ST 540 Composite Mapping & Surface Characterization	3 hrs.
ST 541 Radiation Theory and Applications	3 hrs.
ST 542 Prob. & Stat. Decision Theories	3 hrs.
ST 543 Advanced Computer Cartography	3 hrs.
ST 545 Operations Research	3 hrs.
ST 643 Microwaves Remote Sensing	3 hrs.
ST 5xx Approved Electives	6 hrs.

TOTAL **36 hrs.**

Course Requirements (Non-Thesis Option)

Core Courses (12 hours Thesis Plan)	Credits
ST 510 Research Methods in AS&T	3 hrs.
ST 512 Mathematics for AS&T	3 hrs.
ST 514 Computation in AS&T	3 hrs.
ST 516 Project Management	3 hrs.
Project Option (6 hours)	Credits
ST 599 Special Topics in Applied Science and Technology	3 hrs.
ST 615 Project	3 hrs.
Restricted Electives (18 hours)	Credits
ST 540 Composite Mapping & Surface Characterization	3 hrs.
ST 541 Radiation Theory and Applications	3 hrs.
ST 542 Prob. & Stat. Decision Theories	3 hrs.
ST 543 Advanced Computer Cartography	3 hrs.
ST 545 Operations Research	3 hrs.
ST 643 Microwaves Remote Sensing	3 hrs.
ST 5xx Approved Electives	6 hrs.
TOTAL	36 hrs.

GEOSPATIAL ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ST 540 - COMPOSITE MAPPING AND SURFACE CHARACTERIZATION 3-0-3 (3 credits)

This course must cover and complete the following seven mini projects in land surveying: 1) Plane and solid geometry 2) Basic theodolite surveying 3) Compass Surveying 4) Chain surveying 5) Hydrographic surveying 6) Topographic surveying and mapping 7) Leveling, and 8) Resolution of land survey and modern applications of GPS and GIS technologies. The objective is to create balanced geospatial knowledge for students' development in any branch of engineering.

ST 541 - RADIATION THEORY AND APPLICATIONS 3-0-3 (3 credits)

This course builds proper knowledge for students to understand scientific observations and nomenclature schemas for sources of radiation. It presents radiation theory to the student to be able to differentiate between radiometric and photometric observations, applications and symbiology, including properties of radiation--functions, geometry, temperature, and processes. It further deals with artificial sources of radiation for surface and subsurface data (Target) acquisition with commercial applications in agriculture and security initiatives (as with the DOD). The modeling uses radioactive transfer modeling to focus on the determination of properties of natural materials, such as soil, rocks, and minerals; thermal modeling will be utilized for moving vehicles. Secondary or dynamic burden deals with classifications of moving phenomena such as in epidemiology, environmental health, contamination vectors, and military and protected area burden classifications. The demand on this burden is usually acquisition, processing and classification of target signatures.

ST 542 - PROBABILITY & STATISTICAL DECISION THEORIES**3-0-3**

(3 credits)

The evolution of society and the needs to communicate faster and over a long distance is ever increasing. This is placing severe emphasis on the definition of human and economic well-being. Although engineering requires details but this course is focused on specifics of communication systems, like analysis and synthetic approaches to communication problems. Homeland security DSS runs on different methods, such as cellphones, internet, scrambled radio channels; some are available on different electromagnetic windows. Therefore, specificity and methodology will facilitate communication network links and the diagnostics of their problems.

ST 543 - ADVANCED COMPUTER CARTOGRAPHY**3-0-3**

(3 credits)

This course is an overview of the Homestead, general land use and transportation planning in the U.S. The focus is on physical and constitutional provisions for citizen participation in land ownership, development, including legal practices, federal and state government policies and provisions. Students must take and complete seven state symposia projects involving feasibility and impact studies on environmental, engineering, economic, and management [F (x) 3EM] in four U.S. regions—east, west, north, and south.

ST 545 - OPERATIONS RESEARCH**3-0-3**

(3 credits)

Operations management conveys skills in “set plays or thematic groups” as tools to apply to marketplace, through productivity, for competitive advantage. These thematic productivity groups, evolve with socioeconomic and cultural needs or demands in business, starting with natural resource management systems, digital and virtual customization of customers’ and market communities, electronic commerce enterprise, and supply chain logistics. The studies are equipped with the knowledge that technology is equivalent to product modeling, and appeals to direct services in the making of products. Impacts and involvements of mathematics in operations research deal with analysis and cross validation of functions, especially in convoluted systems or networks. The objective of this course is to manage change and available resources to enhance productivity and competition.

ST 643 - MICROWAVES REMOTE SENSING**3-0-3**

(3 credits)

Microwave signal is the dominant in communication and information systems; from common radio signals to top military signals and frequencies for jamming and spying on the enemy. Most interesting, the digital and electronic marketplace use microwave signals. This includes the huge internet and all handheld mobile devices like cellphones and GPS units. Further, in the electromagnetic spectrum windows, microwaves have special remote sensing characteristics that create special knowledge among other remote sensing windows and platforms. The objective of this course is to unfold this knowledge and link it with the digital society and electronic markets.

HOMELAND SECURITY MANAGEMENT

Program Description

Homeland Security will be a top priority and a critical issue for local, state, and the federal government as well as the corporate sector in the next decades. As America continues to face threats, the need for professionals with applied knowledge, solid skills, and practical experience will increase.

Graduates of the program will possess proficiency in the research, development, and analysis of security strategies; critical agency infrastructures and their inter-relationships; team leadership and cooperative planning; and formulating and executing integrated, rapid responses to crisis situations. **Note:** The sequence of courses listed applies to students in the dual Bachelors and Master's degree. Other students will select courses in consultation with academic advisor.

Course Requirements (Thesis Option)

Core Courses (12 hours Thesis Plan)	Credits
ST 512 Mathematics for AS&T	3 hrs.
ST 514 Computation in AS&T	3 hrs.
ST 516 Project Management	3 hrs.
ST 510 Research Methods in AS&T	3 hrs.
Thesis Option (6 hours)	Credits
ST610A Thesis A	3 hrs.
ST610B Thesis B	3 hrs.
Restricted Electives (18 hours)	Credits
ST 550 Principles of Homeland Security	3 hrs.
ST 552 Technology for Homeland Security	3 hrs.
ST 553 Critical Infrastructure Analysis	3 hrs.
ST 554 Vulnerability Analysis and Protection	3 hrs.
ST 556 Emergency Management (Fifth Year Fall)	3 hrs.
ST 5xx Approved Electives	6 hrs.
TOTAL	36 hrs.

Course Requirements (Non-Thesis Option)

Core Courses (12 hours Thesis Plan)	Credits
ST 512 Mathematics for AS&T	3 hrs.
ST 514 Computation in AS&T	3 hrs.
ST 516 Project Management	3 hrs.
ST 510 Research Methods in AS&T	3 hrs.

Project Option (6 hours)		Credits
ST 599	Special Topics in Applied Science and Technology	3 hrs.
ST 615	Project	3 hrs.
Restricted Electives (18 hours)		Credits
ST 550	Principles of Homeland Security	3 hrs.
ST 552	Technology for Homeland Security	3 hrs.
ST 553	Critical Infrastructure Analysis	3 hrs.
ST 554	Vulnerability Analysis and Protection	3 hrs.
ST 556	Emergency Management (Fifth Year Fall)	3 hrs.
ST 5xx	Approved Electives	6 hrs.
TOTAL		36 hrs.

HOMELAND SECURITY MANAGEMENT COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ST 550 - PRINCIPLES OF HOMELAND SECURITY **3-0-3** (3 credits)

This course provides an overview of the essential ideas that constitute the emerging discipline of homeland security. It has two central objectives: to expand the way participants think, analyze and communicate about homeland security; and to assess knowledge in critical homeland security knowledge domains: including strategy, history, terrorism, fear management, crisis communication, conventional and unconventional threats, network leadership, weapons of mass destruction, lessons learned from other nations, civil liberties and security, intelligence and information, homeland security technology, and analytics.

ST 551 - PRINCIPLES OF CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT **3-0-3** (3 credits)

The principles of construction management are required for an emergency responder to swiftly serve good purpose during emergencies. For example, the ability to read blueprints and understand basic building construction is a required skill. Secondly, the student is made to know regulations and compliances in order to avoid creating hazard situations in addition to an existing emergency. This knowledge is also important during debris recovery, installation, and management of new shelters in the affected areas.

ST 552 - TECHNOLOGY FOR HOMELAND SECURITY **3-0-3** (3 credits)

This course provides individuals involved in homeland security a broad overview of homeland security technology, information systems, inspections and surveillance technology, communications, knowledge, management and information security. The course focuses on technology as a tool to support homeland security personnel regardless of functional specialty. The methodology used in the course will frame technology in terms of its contribution to deterrence; preemption; prevention; protection; response after an attack.

ST 553 - CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE ANALYSIS **3-0-3** (3 credits)

Critical infrastructure protection is one of the cornerstones of homeland security. The National Strategy for Protection of Critical Infrastructure and Key Assets lists 11 sectors: Water, Power & Energy, Information & Telecommunications, Chemical Industry, Transportation, Banking & Finance, Defense Industry, Postal & Shipping, Agriculture & Food, Public Health, and Emergency Services. Based on assigned readings of key government documents, independent reports and expert analyses, the student will gain enough knowledge on the vast scope of activities required to protect the nation's most essential asset.

ST 555 - REMOTE SENSING & DATA ACQUISITION SYSTEMS **3-0-3**

(3 credits)

This course exclusively deals with terrain burden—primary or non-dynamic burden includes changes in land use terrain that demands land use/land cover change (LUCC) evaluation. The principal approach to this demand is usually to conduct land use classification(s) using any applicable algorithms. The Critical Infrastructure protection is one of the cornerstones of homeland security. While PDD-63 lists 8 sectors, the National Strategy for Protection of Critical Infrastructure and Key Assets lists 11 sectors: Water, Power & Energy, Information & Telecommunications, Chemical Industry, Transportation, Banking & Finance, Defense Industry, Postal & Shipping, Agriculture & Food, Public Health, and Emergency Services. Based on assigned readings of key government documents, independent reports and expert analyses, the student will gain a base of knowledge about the vast scope of effort and activities required to protect the nation's most essential assets.

ST 556 - EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

3-0-3

(3 credits)

This course examines historical and contemporary theories, principles, and practices of Emergency Management, particularly the all-hazards approach and the related processes of mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery. Using a case study approach, the course considers the evolution of Emergency Management and its practical application within government and private-sector institutions. The roles, responsibilities, and duties of Emergency Managers at various levels of government are discussed, as are the relationships between the agencies, organizations, and individuals involved.

ST 557 - DEBRIS CONTROL IN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

3-0-3

(3 credits)

This course examines historical and contemporary theories, principles, and practices of Emergency Management, with regards to control of debris. This includes transportation of all-hazardous materials and the process of mitigation and recovery. Using a case study approach, this course research and reproduce some evolutions of debris control during emergency management. Emphasis will be on the practical aspects involving governments and private sector.

ST 558 - EXPLOSIVE IMPACT MODELING

3-0-3

(3 credits)

This course deals with hypervelocity impact engineering and introduces students to understand the theoretical, experimental and numerical analysis of hypervelocity impact due to natural and artificial explosive sources. The modeling deals with international signature of explosive impact and powder metallurgy analysis.

ST 559 - NATIONAL INTERESTS IN FORCE PLANNING

3-0-3

(3 credits)

This course provides students with the fundamentals of force planning, framework of national security; defense planning, U.S. defense strategy, emerging international threats, specific and non-specific threats in commerce, economy, and industry. Students gain global security awareness in this course through visible observations of regional threats and national interests.

ST 650 - TOPICS IN ENERGY & TRANSPORTATION NETWORKS

3-0-3

(3 credits)

Energy and environment are such important issues that the next generation cannot afford to be illiterate about. This course starts with a survey of energy and their impacts on the environment. It emphasizes the production and use of renewable energy. Selected topics will be determined by the polarity of energy (one-way or two-way) at the point of.

ST 651 - FACILITY DEFINITION

3-0-3

(3 credits)

RADIOLOGICAL HEALTH SCIENCE

Program Description

The Radiological Health Science concentration prepares graduates to address/solve applied health-physics problems in an industry, hospital, academia, research, or in any settings where radiation is used for beneficial purposes. The nuclear industry requires professionals who can demonstrate broad technical knowledge, professional judgment in radiation related issues; ability to work independently, and knowledge in different areas of nuclear related fields. The program prepares its graduates to be able to take up professional jobs in the nuclear related fields, with abilities to conduct advanced research, prepare them to continue doctoral level education. A total of 24 hours may be chosen from the restricted electives below.

Course Requirements (Thesis Option)

Core Courses (12 hours Thesis Plan)	Credits
ST 510 Research Methods in AS&T	3 hrs.
ST 512 Mathematics for AS&T	3 hrs.
ST 514 Computation in AS&T	3 hrs.
ST 516 Project Management	3 hrs.
Thesis Option (6 hours)	Credits
ST 610A Thesis A	3 hrs.
ST 610B Thesis B	3 hrs.
Restricted Electives (18 hours)	Credits
ST 571 Intro to Radiation Health Physics	3 hrs.
ST 572 Radiation Detection and Measurement	3 hrs.
ST 573 External Dosimetry	3 hrs.
ST 574 Radiation Regulations	3 hrs.
ST 575 Advanced Radiobiology	3 hrs.
ST 576 Internal Dosimetry	3 hrs.
ST 577 Radiochemistry	3 hrs.
TOTAL	36 hrs.

Course Requirements (Non-Thesis Option)

Core Courses (12 hours Thesis Plan)	Credits
ST 510 Research Methods in AS&T	3 hrs.
ST 512 Mathematics for AS&T	3 hrs.
ST 514 Computation in AS&T	3 hrs.
ST 516 Project Management	3 hrs.

Project Option (6 hours)		Credits
ST 599	Special Topics in Applied Science and Technology	3 hrs.
ST 615	Project	3 hrs.
Restricted Electives (18 hours)		Credits
ST 571	Intro to Radiation Health Physics	3 hrs.
ST 572	Radiation Detection and Measurement	3 hrs.
ST 573	External Dosimetry	3 hrs.
ST 574	Radiation Regulations	3 hrs.
ST 575	Advanced Radiobiology	3 hrs.
ST 576	Internal Dosimetry	3 hrs.
ST 577	Radiochemistry	3 hrs.
TOTAL		36 hrs.

RADIOLOGICAL HEALTH SCIENCE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ST 570 - APPLICATION OF NUCLEAR RADIATION IN SOCIETY 3-0-3

(3 credits)

This course starts with technology of nuclear energy, human experience with Peaceful use of nuclear radiation in many fields of science and technology including, medicine, industry, agriculture, safety instruments etc. The impact of nuclear radiation in industry has been estimated to be more than auto-industry economically.

ST 571 - INTRODUCTION TO RADIATION HEALTH PHYSICS 3-0-3

(3 credits)

This course primarily discusses various topics related to atomic structure, quantum mechanics interpretation of atom, origin of radiation, dose calculation for various sources and geometries (both internal and external), effect of radiation on human body, radiation detectors used in safety discipline, concepts of shielding.

ST 572 - RADIATION DETECTION AND MEASUREMENT 3-0-3

(3 credits)

Due to its nature radiation has to be detected and measured through instruments. This course gives theoretical and practical experience in setting up, troubleshooting, calibration, radiation measurement using G-M counters, proportional counters, scintillation counters (NaI detectors) using SCA & MCA, solid-state detectors (Germanium detectors) using MCA, Thermo Luminescence Dosimeter (TLD), Liquid Scintillation Counters associated with radiation detection and measurement at graduate level.

ST 573 – EXTERNAL DOSIMETRY 3-0-3

(3 credits)

To understand the fundamentals of external radiation dosimetry including computations for extended sources. To understand the properties, measurements and dosimetry related to radiation and principles of radiation shielding. Point-Kernel methods and performing calculations based on NCRP 49 documents.

ST 574 - RADIATION REGULATIONS 3-0-3

(3 credits)

Due to its nature radiation (hazardousness), radioactive materials are regulated. This course primarily deals with regulation of radioactive materials by various regulating authorities including NRC, DOE, EPA, States, and local governments. In addition, regulation of radioactive materials at various work places including but not limited to nuclear plants, hospitals, industries, universities, and research laboratories will be discussed.

ST 575 - ADVANCED RADIOBIOLOGY**3-0-3**

(3 credits)

This course provides an in-depth study of the biological effects of ionizing radiation on living cells/tissues. Emphasis is placed on analysis and interpretation of data from survival and dose response curves. Topics include cell biology, structure and functions of DNA and chromosomes, the cell cycle, cell/tissue sensitivity and response to radiation, tolerance doses, modification of cell/tissue response to radiation, acute and chronic effects of radiation on various organs and systems, radiation syndromes, somatic and genetic effects of radiation, risks to the embryo and fetus, federal radiation protection laws, and new radiation modalities and treatment techniques.

ST 576 - INTERNAL DOSIMETRY**3-0-3**

(3 credits)

Calculation of Internal Dose resulted from exposure of radioactive materials using various approved documents-ICRP2, ICRP 30, ICRP 60, ICRP 66, and MIRD Model. In addition, dose calculation using internal dosimetry related software like IMBA, LUDEP, RADTOOL are performed.

ST 577 – RADIOCHEMISTRY**3-0-3**

(3 credits)

This is a graduate level radiochemistry class that gives students a practical experience in handling radioisotopes (sealed and unsealed) measurements techniques, liquid scintillation counting, dating of radioactive materials, sample preparation for gamma spectroscopy, handling radioactive waste materials and other topics of importance.

ST 578 - RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL HANDLING (CRADLE-TO-GRAVE CONCEPT**3-0-3**

(3 credits)

Due to its nature and the way that radiation and nuclear materials were introduced to society its proper handling received a lot of attention. This course follows the proper handling of radioactive materials from mining to different chemical processes, applications and usages, post-usage handling when they become wastes, as well as refused part during its part and the suggested proper ways of their storage, process and disposal.

ST 579 – RADIO TRACERS IN INDUSTRY AND MEDICINE**3-0-3**

(3 credits)

Radioactive materials have a wide variety application in various segments of industry and medicine. Having the capability of being traced while they are a part of living beings or a component in a system they can be traced to determine the location on those being and provide a means to study them. This application is a big part of nuclear medicine; it also can be used for therapeutic purposes. This course provides detail understanding and case demonstrations of radiotracers at advanced graduate level.

STATISTICS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**ST 501 - APPLIED STATISTICS I FOR AS&T****3-0-3**

(3 credits)

A basic first course in probability and statistics with textbook, examples, and problems aimed toward the business, biological sciences, and economics, social and applied sciences. Frequency distributions, averages, measures of variation, probability; graphical display of data; parameter estimation and confidence intervals; hypothesis tests of mean and proportion; significance tests appropriate to binomial, multinomial, poisson, and normal sampling; simple regression and correlation; one-way analysis of variance and covariance; t-test; chi-square test. Pre-requisites: MA 377 or EG 377.

ST 502 - APPLIED STATISTICS II FOR AS&T**3-0-3**

(3 credits)

Analysis and interpretation of biological data using two- or higher-way analyses of variance and covariance, multiple regression and correlation, simple comparative methods, and simple designs of experiment. Emphasis is on computer analysis of data.

Pre-requisite: ST 501-Applied Statistics I.

ST 503 - APPLIED LINEAR STATISTICAL MODELS FOR AS&T**3-0-3**

(3 credits)

Matrix-based regression and analysis of variance procedures at a mathematical level appropriate for a first-year graduate statistics major. Topics include simple linear regression, linear models in matrix form, multiple linear regression, model building and diagnostics, analysis of covariance, multiple comparison methods, contrasts, multifactor studies, blocking, sub-sampling, and split plot designs.

Pre-requisites: ST501-Applied Statistics I and/or ST502-Applied Statistics II.

ST 504 - DESIGN OF EXPERIMENTS FOR AS&T**3-0-3**

(3 credits)

Planning experiments so as to minimize error variance and avoid bias including completely randomized design; randomized complete block design; Latin squares; split-plot designs; sub-sampling; switch-back or reversal designs; incomplete block designs; split-plot design; repeated measure design; crossover design; bioequivalence; efficiency.

Requisites: ST501-Applied Statistics

ST 599 – SPECIAL TOPICS IN APPLIED SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**3-0-3**

(3 credits)

This is a graduate level course design for graduate students to investigate a selected or related area/topic in Applied Science and Technology (AS&T) that is not included in the curriculum. The independent study allows the student to explore a topic of interest under the close supervision or guidance of a faculty member. The course may include directed readings, applied work, assisting a faculty member with a research project, carrying out an independent research project, or other activities deemed appropriate.

IMAGE PROCESSING AND PATTERN RECOGNITION COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**ST 610 - ADVANCED RESEARCH TOPICS****3-0-3**

(3 credits)

This course covers the topics that reflect the most recent research and development in the Applied Science field. The course is offered in a form of graduate research seminar that closely combines the teaching efforts and the research findings. The lecturers may be invited from outside the campus who are in the frontier of industry or academia. The topic usually reflects new developments in the Applied Science Master's Program field. Offering is based on student and faculty interests.

ST 620 - DIGITAL SIGNAL PROCESSING**3-0-3**

(3 credits)

Fundamentals of discrete-time signal processing are presented. The course emphasizes on the basic concepts of discrete linear shift-invariant systems, including sampling, aliasing, quantization, and the reconstruction of analog signals. Extensive coverage of digital filter design, the Z-transform, discrete Fourier transform, and fast Fourier transform is given. It also covers filter structures, round-off noise, finite length register effects, and limit cycles in discrete-time digital systems.

ST 622 - ADVANCED IMAGE PROCESSING**3-0-3**

(3 credits)

The course covers the concepts and techniques of modern digital image processing. The topics include image acquisition and display, properties of the human visual system, sampling and quantization, point operations, color representations, nonlinear filtering, contrast and color enhancement, noise reduction, linear image filtering and correlation, image registration, image segmentation, transforms and sub-band decompositions, and dithering and image restoration, object tracking, feature extraction and image recognition.

ST 624 - PATTERN RECOGNITION**3-0-3**

(3 credits)

This course will introduce the fundamentals of pattern recognition with examples from several applications areas. It includes topics in Bayes rule, parameter estimation, statistical decision making, measures of classification performance and measures of classification risk, classifier combination, feature selection, non-Parametric decision making, minimum squared error discriminate functions, clustering techniques, artificial neural networks and so on.

ST 626 - PRINCIPLES OF IMAGING**3-0-3**

(3 credits)

This course aims to provide the students with a basic understanding of the scientific principles associated with image capture and formation. The topics includes optical imaging, ultrasound imaging, X-ray imaging, magnetic resonance imaging, infrared imaging, microwave imaging, stereo imaging and 3-D imaging, image reconstruction, and so on.

ST 628 - MACHINE LEARNING**3-0-3**

(3 credits)

This course will present an introduction to algorithms for machine learning and data mining. It covers topics in supervised learning (generative/discriminative learning, parametric/non-parametric learning, neural networks, support vector machines), unsupervised learning (clustering, dimensionality reduction, kernel methods), learning theory (bias/variance tradeoffs, VC theory, large margins), and reinforcement learning.

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN WORKFORCE EDUCATION LEADERSHIP (JOINT ASU/MSU PROGRAM)

Dr. David K. Addae (WEL Program Director – ASU)

GRADUATE FACULTY

David Addae, Ed.D., Professor of Advanced Technologies

Kwabena Agyepong, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Advanced Technologies

Steve Adanu, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Advanced Technologies

Jessica Buck, PhD, Adjunct

Angri Skinner, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Advanced Technologies

Program Description

This Master's degree program, offered jointly through Alcorn State University (ASU) and Mississippi State University (MSU), will prepare graduates to become facilitators of workforce, industry, and community change that will meet the needs of an increasingly diverse clientele. The main objective of this program is to train students to be employed in workforce education leadership positions at rural community colleges. Courses offered only at ASU may be taken by distance education by MSU students and vice versa. That is, students at either university are encouraged to take some of their courses at the other institution, usually via distance education techniques. (Each institution's name will appear on each diploma.) The program is designed to prepare students to become effective leaders in a variety of rural educational settings, business and industry.

Students will:

- master the necessary concepts to think critically about how organizations function,
- learn a range of methods to diagnose the needs of particular individuals and programs they serve,
- develop the leadership skills and technological competencies required to propose and effectuate interventions to help organizations and communities become more effective, and
- acquire the research and management skills needed to assess the usefulness of their interventions in order to modify and improve them accordingly.

Program of Study Guidelines include:

- 1/2 of the courses must be comparable to the course numbers below
- Up to 6 hours may be transferred or substituted from accredited institution or program
- 6 years' maximum to complete program of study
- 36 hours minimum beyond baccalaureate degree

Application and Registration Process

The admissions process for this program has been designed so that the student will complete only one admissions application packet. Acceptance in this program will require that the student complete an admissions application through the Alcorn State University Department of Advanced Technologies or Mississippi State University. Therefore, it is very important that a primary institution is marked in Section II of the application. If ASU is marked as the primary institution, Alcorn State admissions requirements must be met and the admissions decision will be made by ASU. Likewise, if MSU is marked as the primary institution, Mississippi State admissions requirements must be met and the admissions decision will be made by MSU. Therefore, all WEL applicants must first be admitted

to the Graduate School at their chosen primary institution and clear all holds prior to registration. Please contact your specific department for academic advising. Any exceptions in course requirements must be approved through your academic department and WEL Program advisor. The Operations Unit at Mississippi State University will collect the completed packets from the ASU Graduate School via the ASU Admissions/Contact person and forward a duplicate copy to the ASU WEL Program contact person. The contact persons at each school will complete the registration process for each student.

MSU Contact for WEL Application:

Amy Wallace
MSU Division of Academic Outreach &
Continuing Education
P.O. Box 5247
Mississippi State University, MS 39762
Fax: 662-325-3473
E-Mail: AWallace@aoce.msstate.edu

ASU Admissions/Contact Person:

Denease Moore
Department of Advanced Technologies
1000 Alcorn Drive #360
Alcorn State, MS 39096-7500
Phone: 601-877-6494
Fax: 601-877-3941
denmoore@alcorn.edu

Download WEL Registration Form: www.distance.msstate.edu/PDF/MSURegFrm05.pdf

** Internships are offered to enrich your educational experience. The internship requirement may be waived for those students who can document experience comparable to the planned internship.

Course Requirements

Industrial Technology and Workforce Development (12 hours)

Required Courses (12 hours)

		Credits
IE 500	Research in Industrial & Occupational Education	3 hrs.
IE 579	Federal & State Job Training Programs	3 hrs.
IE 590	Vocational Administration Certification Course or	3 hrs.
TKT 8263	Philosophy and Admin of Vocational Education (MSU Option)	
IE 586	Qualitative Research Design or	3 hrs.
TKT 8233	Career Planning & Decision Making (WEB-MSU Option)	3 hrs.
TKT 6733	Managing Multimedia Learning Environ (WEB-MSU Option)	3 hrs.
TKT 8763	Seminar in Planning Instructional Tech (WEB-MSU Option)	3 hrs.
TKT 8723	Instructional Design for Industry (MSU Option)	3 hrs.

Approved Electives (24 hours) to be chosen by student under the supervision and approval of his or her Advisor. **Credits**

IE 519	Industrial Management & Organizational Behavior	3 hrs.
IE 552	School to Work Initiatives	3 hrs.
IE 578	Welfare to Work Programs	3 hrs.
IE 548	Internship in Workforce Development or	3 hrs.
TKT 8200	Internship in Vocational Education (MSU Option)	
TI 552	Instructional Planning in Industrial & Vocational Programs	3 hrs.
TI 501	History & Philosophy of Industrial Education	3 hrs.
IE 508	Manufacturing Planning and Control	3 hrs.
TI 550	Delivery of Instruction in Industrial & Vocational Education	3 hrs.
AE 508	Rural Economic & Enterprise Development	3 hrs.
IE 526	Principles & Objectives Evaluation of Vocational Education Students	3 hrs.

TOTAL**36 hrs.****Industrial Education Course Descriptions (IE)****IE 500 - RESEARCH IN INDUSTRIAL & OCCUPATIONAL EDUCATION****3-0-3**

(3 credits)

This course will introduce participants to the characteristics and various approaches to designing and conducting qualitative research in industrial and occupational education and market research analysis (feasibility study). Students will gain hands-on experience with qualitative methods and analysis techniques while carrying out a research project related to their field of interest.

IE 508 - MANUFACTURING PLANNING AND CONTROL**3-0-3**

(3 credits)

The purpose of IE 508 is to provide students with an opportunity to develop an understanding of production organizations and production product planning. Taking an idea and crossing the gap to market production involves careful planning, production fundamentals, and support of reliable vendors. This three (3) credit unit course bridges the gap and provides students with the fundamentals and building blocks of product concept into market production. The course prepares students for leadership roles in entrepreneurial as well as large production-oriented companies. This course deals with theories and concepts that are essential when considering material flow, management problems, decision making techniques and supporting data base in manufacturing industry. Emphasis is placed on information systems and the use of contemporary manufacturing resources and materials requirement planning software and applications.

IE 519 - INDUSTRIAL MANAGEMENT & ORGANIZATIONAL BEHAVIOR**3-0-3**

(3 credits)

Industrial Management for workforce education. Topics include Employee Selection, Appraisal, Training, Development, Leadership Motivation, Job Satisfaction and Job Involvement, Working Conditions, and Employee Safety in an industrial environment.

IE 526 - PRINCIPLES & OBJECTIVES EVALUATION OF VOCATIONAL EDUCATION STUDENTS**3-0-3**

(3 credits)

Scope, nature, tools, language, and interpretation of elementary statistics. Descriptive statistics; graphical and numerical representation of information; measures of location, dispersion, position, and dependence; exploratory data analysis. Elementary probability theory, discrete and continuous probability models. Inferential statistics, point and interval estimation, tests of statistical hypotheses. Inferences involving one or two populations, ANOVA, regression analysis, and chi-square tests; use of statistical computer packages ®.

IE 548 - INTERNSHIP IN WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**3-0-3**

(3 credits)

The internship program in workforce development allows the student to learn about the various types of internship program and how to plan and set up and evaluate internship programs at the various levels. Students will have the opportunity to listen to experienced professionals on how to develop and run an internship program and have first-hand experience in setting symbolic intern programs in a particular field of interest.

IE 552 - SCHOOL-TO- WORK INITIATIVES**3-0-3**

(3 credits)

This online course is designed to reveal the systematic approach of the transition from the academic environment to the workforce. This course will also focus on the planning, design, implementation, and impact of school-to-work transition reform initiatives. Students will be able to identify the design and reliability of commendable programs, and identify program experiences and impacts linked to schools with the business community as it seeks to improve the transition from school to work. This course will be delivered over the Internet for graduate students enrolled in the Workforce Education Leadership Program.

IE 578 - WELFARE TO WORK PROGRAMS**3-0-3**

(3 credits)

This course is designed to assist graduates to understand welfare to work programs and how to assist Welfare recipients to obtain or prepare for regular employment. Graduates will also have group projects on Welfare to Work leadership activities and appraisal of Welfare-to-Work participants' education and employment backgrounds.

IE 579 - FEDERAL & STATE JOB TRAINING PROGRAMS**3-0-3**

(credits)

This online course is designed to coordinate with federal and state guidelines that are necessary to contingency planning and operations of an association with Agreement States, local officials, other Federal agencies and American governments. Ultimately, this course will examine how real people in real businesses struggle every day with making training "right" for the people who work in those businesses. This course will be delivered over the Internet for graduate students enrolled in the Workforce Education Leadership (WEL) Program.

IE 586 - QUALITATIVE RESEARCH DESIGN**3-0-3**

(3 credits)

This course provides an overview of qualitative research methods. Students consider mainstream qualitative research design techniques including case study, grounded theory, ethnography, and phenomenology. Data collection methods are also discussed along with qualitative analysis and reporting techniques. Students are prepared to identify, interpret, evaluate and present qualitative data and to design their own qualitative research study.

IE 590 - VOCATIONAL ADMINISTRATION CERTIFICATION COURSE**3-0-3**

(3 credits)

This course is part of a professional development sequence of courses required for certification in trades and industrial teachers in Mississippi. It is consistent with the new vision for teacher education. This course will be based on validated learners' outcome and will include non-traditional methods of evaluation, such as portfolio assessment. Therefore, all activities will be linked to attainment of specific outcomes and performance standards as demonstrated by each student. This course will also enhance the professional research skills of the students by connecting the knowledge of general studies with the knowledge of the professional area, in this case, administration of vocational technical institutions. The course enables students to conduct in-depth research with the professional area of service and contributes to problem solving endeavors in vocational/technical settings.

Trades and Industrial Education Course Descriptions (TI)**TI 501 - HISTORY & PHILOSOPHY OF INDUSTRIAL EDUCATION****3-0-3**

(3 credits)

This course ensures that the student knows and can briefly discuss American democratic government to guide the student in establishing social expectations from government, industry, and traditional education. It further provides the students the knowledge to go into the workforce with basic understanding of sociopolitical elements in education. Among these elements are educational approaches in solving social problems, including technological and traditional education, and how these elements define social classes and industrial aptitude of different geopolitical regions. The objective of the course is for students to learn how to create and/or fit a social responsibility distribution and use it to improve social, industrial, and educational workforce systems.

TI 550 - DELIVERY OF INSTRUCTION IN INDUSTRIAL & VOCATIONAL PROGRAMS**3-0-3**

(3 credits)

This course will introduce participants to Delivery Instructions in Industrial and Vocational Programs. Learning the instructional delivery methods provides an invaluable foundation for anyone entering today's workforce development world. Topics covered in this course include the role of instructor, learning theory, learner assessment, instructional methodology, and instructional technology and learning environments. To summarize- "this course will teach how to teach."

TI 552 - INSTRUCTIONAL PLANNING IN INDUSTRIAL & VOCATIONAL PROGRAMS

3-0-3

(3 credits)

This course is required for the Masters of Science Degree in Workforce Educational Leadership Career and Technical Education. The course addresses key knowledge, competencies, and skills required by careers, vocational and technical instructors/specialist or private trainers in developing and studying the problems and practices underlying curriculum construction in Trade and Industrial Education. This course will focus on, but not limited to, the study of problems and practices underlying curriculum construction in Instructional Planning in Trade/Industrial and Vocational programs.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Victor Njiti, Ph.D., Department Chair
Morris –Boykin Agricultural Science Building
Phone: 601-877-6543 FAX: 601 877-4189

GRADUATE FACULTY

Dovi Alipoe, Ph.D., Director of Global Programs and Professor of Agricultural Economics
Lashunda Anderson, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Agronomy
Wanda Arrington, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Agriculture
Barry L. Bequette, Ph.D., Professor of Horticulture
Anthony Baffoe-Bonnie, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Agricultural Economics
Gwendolyn Boyd, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Forestry
Edmund R. Buckner, Ph.D., Dean and Director of Land Grant Programs
Daniel Collins, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Plant Pathology
Magid A. Dagher, Ph.D., Professor of Agricultural Economics
Michael O. Ezekwe, Ph.D., Director of Swine Development Center and Professor of Animal Nutrition
Avis Joseph, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Agricultural Education
Leonard C. Kibet, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Soil and Environmental Science
Keerthi Mandyam, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Soil Microbiology
Melissa Mason, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Animal Science
Jacqueline McComb, Ph.D., Director of Mississippi River Research Center and Assistant Professor of Agriculture
Yan Meng, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Genetics/Plant Breeding and Physiology
Samuel Mwangi, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Animal Science
Ananda Nanjundaswamy, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Grain Science and Bioprocessing
Victor Njiti, Ph.D., Chairperson and Associate Professor of Plant and Soil Science and Education
Girish K. Panicker, Ph.D., Director for Conservation Research and Associate Professor of Horticulture
Tahir Rashid, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Entomology
Kenneth K. Stallings, Ph.D., Professor of Animal Nutrition and Poultry
Cassandra Vaughn, D.V.M., Assistant Professor of Veterinarian Medicine

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN GENERAL AGRICULTURE

Program Description

The Master of Science in Agriculture with Endorsement Options in Agronomy, Agricultural Economics, Animal Science and Agricultural Education is designed to accommodate the demands and needs of students and potential employers of program graduates.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Master of Science in Agriculture is to provide fundamental training in basic and applied agricultural sciences. Upon completion of this program, students will be able to formulate, design, and implement research, evaluate and interpret data objectively, communicate results of their work effectively in oral and written forms, apply economic theories to real world agriculture problems and be effective managers of agricultural enterprises.

Objectives

1) Develop effective programs for students that allow them to become well educated and highly skilled individuals

- with the potential to be national and international leaders;
- 2) Conduct scientific research on globally relevant problems in crop, soil, natural resources, agricultural economics and environmental science
 - 3) Enhance the visibility and impact of graduate programs in agriculture;
 - 4) Place students in lead academic, research, and industry positions.

AGRONOMY*

Program Description

The following learning outcomes are expected for the Agronomy Option:

- (1) Students completing the M.S. degree in Agronomy will have advanced knowledge and skills to analyze and solve major problems confronting growers of agronomic and horticultural crops;
- (2) students will analyze research results and make policy recommendations that will conserve natural resources;
- (3) Students will apply integrated practices to maximize productivity and protect the environment; and
- (4) Students will be able to analyze data, interpret results and prepare research reports.

Course Requirements (Thesis Plan)

Core Courses (9 hours)	Credits
PS 535 Advanced Soil Classification	3 hrs.
PS 559 Advanced Soil Fertility	3 hrs.
PS 590 Advanced Research Techniques	3 hrs.
Required Courses (12 hours)	Credits
AG 610 Thesis I	3 hrs.
AG 611 Thesis II	2 hrs.
AG 612 Thesis III	1 hr.
BT 544 Advanced Plant Breeding	3 hrs.
PS 595 Experimental Designs	3 hrs.
Elective Courses (12 hours)	Credits
AG 558 Special Problems in Agricultural Mechanics	3 hrs.
AG 577 Advanced Power and Machinery	3 hrs.
AN 500 Administration of Agriculture Education	3 hrs.
AN 510 Agricultural Education Media	3 hrs.
BT 570A Biotechnology Techniques	3 hrs.
BT 570B Biotechnology Techniques	3 hrs.
PH 504 Psychological Statistics	3 hrs.
PS 539 Soil Microbiology	3 hrs.
PS 548 Advanced Soil Management	3 hrs.
PS 550 Bioenergy and Bioproduct Develop	3 hrs.
PS 551 Plant Metabolism and Biochemistry	3 hrs.
PS 580 Soil Chemistry	3 hrs.
PS 595 Experimental Design	3 hrs.

PS 600	Research and Plant Science	3 hrs.
PS 601	Special Prob. In Vegetables and Small Fruit	3 hrs.
PS 602	Special Problems in Forage Production	3 hrs.
TOTAL		33 hrs.

AGRONOMY: PROFESSIONAL OPTION* (Online, Non-thesis)

Course Requirements (Non-Thesis Plan)

Core Courses (9 hours)		Credits
PS 535	Advanced Soil Classification	3 hrs.
PS 559	Advanced Soil Fertility	3 hrs.
PS 590	Advanced Research Techniques	3 hrs.
Required Courses (12 hours)		Credits
BT 544	Advanced Plant Breeding	3 hrs.
PS 537	Soil Conservation Land Use	3 hrs.
PS 541	Agricultural Plant Pathology	3 hrs.
PS 603	Integrated Pest Management (IPM)	3 hrs.
Elective Courses (12 hours)		Credits
AG 558	Special Problems in Agricultural Mechanics	3 hrs.
AG 577	Advanced Power and Machinery	3 hrs.
AN 500	Administration of Agriculture Education	3 hrs.
AN 510	Agricultural Education Media	3 hrs.
BT 570A	Biotechnology Techniques	3 hrs.
BT 570B	Biotechnology Techniques	3 hrs.
PH 504	Psychological Statistics	3 hrs.
PS 539	Soil Microbiology	3 hrs.
PS 548	Advanced Soil Management	3 hrs.
PS 550	Bioenergy and Bioproduct Develop	3 hrs.
PS 551	Plant Metabolism and Biochemistry	3 hrs.
PS 580	Soil Chemistry	3 hrs.
PS 595	Experimental Design	3 hrs.
PS 600	Research and Plant Science	3 hrs.
PS 601	Special Prob. In Vegetables and Small Fruit	3 hrs.
PS 602	Special Problems in Forage Production	3 hrs.
TOTAL		33 hrs.

*Requires professional experience in agronomy and a research project is required

Plant and Soil Science Course Descriptions (PS)

PS 535 – ADVANCED SOIL CLASSIFICATION

3-0-3

(3 Credits)

Classification system including the seventh approximation will be covered. Aerial photos and current reviews of literature will be used and discussed. The course deals with advanced study of soil development, soil morphology, and principles of soil classification. Pre-requisite: PS 446.

PS 539 - SOIL MICROBIOLOGY

3-0-3

(3 Credits)

In this class students will learn about the vast microbial diversity of the soil, their innumerable and wondrous activities, interrelationships and their indispensability in the greater scheme of things. Specifically, this course aims to provide an overview of soil microbiota, their physiology, interactions with plants, roles in soil biogeochemistry with emphasis on nitrogen cycle, management of soil microbiota for improved productivity, and anthropogenic activities and their impact on soil. We will also study the various methods to analyze soil microbiota, their diversity and community structure. The course will consist of lectures and reading assignments. By the end of the course, students should gain an appreciation of the soil microbes and microfauna in enhancing soil health, their critical roles in decomposition and nutrient cycling, their emission and consumption of greenhouse gases and bioremediation.

PS 541 – ADVANCED PLANT PATHOLOGY

3-0-3

(3 Credits)

This advanced course will cover the principles of Plant Pathology and classical plant diseases. Students will study microorganisms that induce plant diseases, molecular interactions between hosts and pathogens, plant disease epidemics, integrated management for prevention and control of diseases. There will be assigned readings from the required text book. Students will understand plant disease development and management, be able to design and develop processes for new emerging diseases.

PS 548 – ADVANCED SOIL MANAGEMENT

3-0-3

(3 Credits)

Basically this course is designed to critically examine soil conservation practices and soil analysis, as well as showing the importance of soil moisture in the uptake of cation and anion and the functional roles of cations and anions in the nutrition of plants.

PS 550 – BIOENERGY AND BIOPRODUCT DEVELOPMENT

3-0-3

(3 Credits)

This course will highlight the environmental and national security problems caused by use of fossil fuels and the seriousness of declining rural economies, and emphasize the role that bioenergy could play in alleviating these problems. It will also focus on public policy and research that is needed to expand the use of bioenergy.

PS 559 – ADVANCED FERTILITY

3-0-3

(3 Credits)

Advanced concepts of soil fertility with emphasis on physical, chemical, biological, and mineralogical properties of soils. Soil-plant relationships from nutritional standpoint and uses of different fertilizers under various soil conditions for better crop growth will be studied.

PS 560 – GROUNDWATER HYDROLOGY

3-0-3

(3 Credits)

This course explores the advanced fundamentals of subsurface flow and transport, emphasizing the role of groundwater in the hydrologic cycle, the relation of groundwater flow to geologic structure, and the management of contaminated groundwater.

PS 580 – SOIL CHEMISTRY**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This course is designed to provide basic concepts of soil from its chemical standpoint. Soil chemistry as it is related to colloidal chemistry will be discussed.

PS 590 – ADVANCED RESEARCH TECHNIQUES**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This course is designed to prepare students to determine and evaluate the current problems in plant science. This will include literature reviews, research planning, and an organized attempt to collect information for answering the problems.

PS 592 – MICROCLIMATOLOGY**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

Microclimatology, leaf energy balance, plant responses to temperature and radiation, physiological adaptations, water relations and plant gas exchange. Advanced topics include energy and deliberate and inadvertent climate modification.

PS 593 – SOIL PHYSICS**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This course explores advanced theoretical development of key topics in soil physics. Topics may include: evaporation from porous media, multiphase fluid movement, soil deformation, and soil salinization, with respect to either, historical development, present day understanding or future needs of the field. The course structure incorporates lectures and discussion requiring rigorous student participation.

PS 595 – EXPERIMENTAL DESIGN**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

Fundamental principles of experimental designs especially in relation to computation and analyses of biological research data.

PS 597 - AGRICULTURAL ENVIRONMENT LAW**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

The course will focus attention to advanced federal agricultural law and regulation, real conditions, problems, and dealing with issues via illustrations with real examples and approaches. The student will be able to develop basic skills in legal research, case analysis, statutory interpretation and regulatory design.

PS 600 – RESEARCH IN PLANT SCIENCE**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This course will be comprised of proper identification and execution of laboratory, greenhouse, and/or field experiments to meet a particular research goal in the area of plant science.

PS 601 – SPECIAL PROBLEMS IN VEGETABLE AND SMALL FRUIT**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

A general discussion of the modern principles and practices in efficient vegetable and small fruits; seeds and seed growing; managing soils and fertilizing; growing plants, handling, and transplanting; cultivating and rotating; irrigating and mulching, controlling insects and diseases, storing vegetables and small fruits; harvesting, handling, and marketing vegetables and small fruits.

PS 602 – SPECIAL PROBLEMS IN FORAGE PRODUCTION**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

Problem identification, library, laboratory, greenhouse and/or field research will be included in one of the areas of forage establishment, production or management according to the individual's interest.

PS 605 – INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

It is designed to introduce students to the theory and practice of integrated pest management systems in major agronomic and horticultural crops; pasture systems; aquatic, non-cropland, and urban settings. It is the utilization and integration of pest control tactics (cultural methods, biological control, pesticides, host resistance) for management of insects, pathogens, and weeds. The major methodologies for controlling pests are discussed individually and within the context of profitable production of selected commodities followed by discussion of multiple pest management using integrated control techniques.

PS 610 – THESIS I**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

The thesis courses are designed to allow graduate students to make original contribution to knowledge in agronomy. Students completing thesis I will be expected to produce a research prospectus that will include introduction and literature review.

PS 611 – THESIS II**3-0-2**

(2 Credits)

The thesis courses are designed to allow graduate students to make original contribution to knowledge in agronomy. Students completing thesis II will be expected to outline the methodology, including data collection and analysis.

PS 612 – THESIS III**3-0-1**

(1 Credit)

The thesis courses are designed to allow graduate students to make original contribution to knowledge in agronomy. Students completing thesis III will be expected to complete the rest of the thesis which will include presentation of results, discussion and recommendations.

ANIMAL SCIENCE**Program Description**

The following learning outcomes are expected for the animal science option:

- (1) Students completing the graduate program in Animal Science will be able to analyze data, interpret results and prepare research reports;
- (2) Gain admission into a doctoral or professional program at various institutions; and
- (3) Apply knowledge and skills gained in administrative and professional positions in animal science and related industries.

Course Requirements (Thesis Option*)

Core Courses (12 hours)		Credits
AS 523	Advanced Animal Nutrition	3 hrs.
AS 533	Physiology and Anatomy of Farm Animals	3 hrs.
AS 553	Advanced Psysiology of Reproduction	3 hrs.
AS 564	Special Problems in Selected Topics	3 hrs.

Required Courses (12 hours)		Credits
AG 610	Thesis I	3 hrs.
AG 611	Thesis II	2 hrs.
AG 612	Thesis III	1 hr.
PS 595	Experimental Design	3 hrs.
Approved Electives (12 hours)		Credits
AB 601	Special Problems and Ag Management	3 hrs.
AE 525	Advanced Marketing	3 hrs.
AN 500	Administration of Agricultural Education	3 hrs.
AS 503	Meat Science	3 hrs.
AS 586	Special Problems in Feeder Pig Production	3 hrs.
BI 525	Advanced Immunology	3 hrs.
BT 540	Molecular Genetics	3 hrs.
BT 565	Molecular and Cell Biology	3 hrs.
BT 570A	Biotechnology Techniques	3 hrs.
PS 537	Soil Conservation and Land Use	3 hrs.
PS 548	Soil Management	3 hrs.
PS 590	Advanced Research Techniques	3 hrs.
PS 603	Integrated Pest Management	3 hrs.
TOTAL		33 hrs.

*Students enroll in this degree plan are required to complete, defend and submit bound copies of thesis to the office of graduate studies to be eligible for graduation.

Course Requirements (Non-Thesis Option*)

Core Courses (12 hours)		Credits
AS 523	Advanced Animal Nutrition	3 hrs.
AS 533	Physiology and Anatomy of Farm Animals	3 hrs.
AS 553	Advanced Physiology of Reproduction	3 hrs.
AS 564	Special Problems in Selected Topics	3 hrs.
Required Courses (9 hours)		Credits
AG 610	Thesis I	3 hrs.
AG 611	Thesis II	2 hrs.
AG 612	Thesis III	1 hr.
PS 595	Experimental Design	3 hrs.
Approved Electives (12 hours)		Credits
AB 601	Special Problems and Ag Management	3 hrs.
AE 525	Advanced Marketing	3 hrs.
AN 500	Administration of Agricultural Education	3 hrs.
AS 503	Meat Science	3 hrs.
AS 586	Special Problems in Feeder Pig Production	3 hrs.

BI 525	Advanced Immunology	3 hrs.
BT 540	Molecular Genetics	3 hrs.
BT 565	Molecular and Cell Biology	3 hrs.
BT 570A	Biotechnology Techniques	3 hrs.
PS 537	Soil Conservation and Land Use	3 hrs.
PS 548	Soil Management	3 hrs.
PS 590	Advanced Research Techniques	3 hrs.
PS 603	Integrated Pest Management	3 hrs.
TOTAL		33 hrs.

*Students enroll in this degree plan are required to complete, defend and submit bound copies of thesis to the office of graduate studies to be eligible for graduation.

Animal Science Course Descriptions (AS)

AS 503 – MEAT SCIENCE 3-0-3 (3 Credits)

This course focuses on the growth and development of livestock animals with emphasis on the prenatal and postnatal differentiation and development of skeletal muscle, bone, and adipose tissue. Other topics include the molecular events occurring during the conversion of muscle to meat, molecular and cellular properties of meat responsible for the functional and palatability properties of meat products. A review of recent literature as well as classical concepts of genetic, hormonal, and nutritional factors that affect growth will be discussed.

AS 523 – ADVANCED ANIMAL NUTRITION 3-0-3 (3 Credits)

This course is a complete and comprehensive study of the chemistry and functions of carbohydrates, proteins, lipids, vitamins, minerals, and water; physiology of digestion and absorption of these nutrients in animals; biochemistry of nutrient metabolism. A review of analytical methods and pertinent literature will also take place.

AS 533 – PHYSIOLOGY AND ANATOMY OF FARM ANIMALS 3-0-3 (3 Credits)

This course will provide further study into the prenatal development of body systems. An emphasis will be made on structure and function of the systems, developmental changes from age, and common problems and diseases associated with each body system.

AS 544 – SPECIAL PROBLEMS IN LIVESTOCK BREEDING 3-0-3 (3 Credits)

Advanced study of application of systems and methods of breeding to livestock production and experimental breeding.

AS 553 – PHYSIOLOGY OF REPRODUCTION 3-0-3 (3 Credits)

The goal of this course is for students to learn the critical role of the endocrinology system. Emphasis will be made on the mammalian endocrine glands from the standpoint of their structure, their physiological function in relation to the organism, the chemical nature and mechanism s of action of their secretory products, and the nature of anomalies manifested with their dysfunction. Current theories will be evaluated and discussed using information from recent scientific publications.

AS 564 – SPECIAL PROBLEMS IN SELECTED TOPICS 3-0-3 (3 Credits)

Formal courses given infrequently to explore in depth a comparatively narrow subject which may be topical or of special interest. A specific title may be used in each instance and will be entered on the student's transcript.

AS 566 – SPECIAL PROBLEMS IN FEEDER PIG PRODUCTION**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

Deals with principles of efficient pork production, including comparative breed evaluation, breeding, feeding, management, marketing, and business aspects. Problems and practices associated with tropical environment emphasized. *Course Objectives in:* 1. Students will integrate and apply scientific principles of genetics, environmental physiology, nutrition, health and reproduction to swine production and management; 2. Students will combine science and practical considerations in describing and comparing swine production systems, including breeding, reproduction, growth, feeding, housing, health, and their relationship to quality pork and profitability; and 3. Students will develop a written technical description of a swine production farm. The course is writing intensive.

AS 586 – ENDOCRINE SECRETIONS**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

Deals with principles of endocrinology and the role of endocrine systems in regulating metabolism, growth, reproduction and lactation in mammals. Course Objective: Students will gain knowledge of hormone synthesis, secretion, and action of all the endocrine glands while gaining an appreciation for the complex endocrine systems. Students will think critically about how genes and environment interact to regulate chemical communications within the body. Students will also come to understand how the endocrine system coordinates the brain and body activities to control functions that are necessary for survival and reproduction such as: growth, development, gamete production, pregnancy, parental care, stress responses, energy supply, fluid balance, and metabolism.

AS 610 – THESIS I**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

Thesis I is correlated with a research project conducted under the supervision of the animal science students' advisor. Typical length of the research is two years. The thesis I class is to help students begin writing their thesis and having to complete their introduction and literature review by the end of the semester.

AS 611 – THESIS II**3-0-2**

(2 Credits)

Thesis II is the continued research project conducted under the supervision of the animal science students' advisor as in Thesis I. The thesis II class is to help students writing their thesis and having to complete their methodology, results, conclusion, and discussion sections.

AS 612 – THESIS III**3-0-1**

(1 Credit)

Thesis III is the completion of the student's research project with a bound thesis from the graduate studies office after the student has defended their thesis with an oral presentation in front of their committee members.

AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS (Non-Thesis Plan)

Program Description

The following desired outcomes are expected for the Agricultural Economics Option:

1) Students completing the M.S. degree program in Agricultural Economics will be knowledgeable about contemporary aspects of U.S. agricultural production and distribution;

(2) Students completing the M.S. program in Agricultural Economics will be prepared to pursue advanced degrees at the doctoral level in a graduate school of their choice;

(3) Students completing the M.S. program in Agricultural Economics will be prepared to contribute to the teaching of future generations; and

(4) Students completing the M.S. program in Agricultural Economics will be well prepared to accept positions in agriculture-related industries.

Course Requirements

Core Courses (9 hours)		Credits
AE 510	Resource Development	3 hrs.
AE 520	Advanced Farm Organization and Management	3 hrs.
AE 525	Advanced Marketing	3 hrs.
Required Courses (12 hours)		Credits
AE 511	Theory Agricultural Demand Ag Production	3 hrs.
AE 515	Economics of Consumer Behavior	3 hrs.
AG 610	Thesis I	3 hrs.
PS 595	Experimental Designs	3 hrs.
Approved Electives (12)		Credits
AB 601	Special Problems and Agriculture Management	3 hrs.
AB 604	Agribusiness International Trade	3 hrs.
AE 508	Rural Economic and Community Develop	3 hrs.
AE 580	Org. Operations Coop Limit Res People	3 hrs.
AE 601	Special Problems in Agricultural Economics	3 hrs.
AG 558	Special Problems in Agricultural Mechanics	3 hrs.
AG 577	Advanced Farm Power and Machinery	3 hrs.
AN 500	Administration of Agricultural Education	3 hrs.
AN 510	Agricultural Education Media	3 hrs.
AN 515	Advanced Principles and Philosophy of Voc. Ed.	3 hrs.
EC 501	Advanced Microeconomics	3 hrs.
EC 502	Advanced Macroeconomics	3 hrs.
EC 520	Comparative Economic Systems	3 hrs.
EC 530	Economic Security and Social Welfare	3 hrs.
FI 530	Survey of Finance	3 hrs.
MG 541	Survey of Management	3 hrs.
MG 560	Survey of Quantitative Methods	3 hrs.
PH 504	Psychological Statistics	3 hrs.
PS 590	Advanced Research Techniques	3 hrs.
TOTAL		33 hrs.

AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS (Thesis Plan)

Course Requirements

Core Courses (9 hours)	Credits
AE 510 Resource Development	3 hrs.
AE 520 Advanced Farm Organization and Management	3 hrs.
AE 525 Advanced Marketing	3 hrs.
Required Courses (12 hours)	Credits
AE 511 Theory Agricultural Demand Ag Production	3 hrs.
AE 515 Economics of Consumer Behavior	3 hrs.
AG 610 Thesis I	3 hrs.
PS 595 Experimental Designs	3 hrs.
Approved Electives (12)	Credits
AB 601 Special Problems and Agriculture Management	3 hrs.
AB 604 Agribusiness International Trade	3 hrs.
AE 508 Rural Economic and Community Develop	3 hrs.
AE 580 Org. Operations Coop Limit Res People	3 hrs.
AE 601 Special Problems in Agricultural Economics	3 hrs.
AG 558 Special Problems in Agricultural Mechanics	3 hrs.
AG 577 Advanced Farm Power and Machinery	3 hrs.
AN 500 Administration of Agricultural Education	3 hrs.
AN 510 Agricultural Education Media	3 hrs.
AN 515 Advanced Principles and Philosophy of Voc. Ed.	3 hrs.
EC 501 Advanced Microeconomics	3 hrs.
EC 502 Advanced Macroeconomics	3 hrs.
EC 520 Comparative Economic Systems	3 hrs.
EC 530 Economic Security and Social Welfare	3 hrs.
FI 530 Survey of Finance	3 hrs.
MG 541 Survey of Management	3 hrs.
MG 560 Survey of Quantitative Methods	3 hrs.
PH 504 Psychological Statistics	3 hrs.
PS 590 Advanced Research Techniques	3 hrs.
TOTAL	33 hrs.

*A research project is required for graduation

Agricultural Economics Course Descriptions (AE)

AB 601 – SPECIAL PROBLEMS AND AGRICULTURE MANAGEMENT

3-0-3

(3 Credits)

A general discussion of the modern principles and practices in Agribusiness Management. Students read and write reports on selected topics in Agribusiness Management and Agricultural Economics.

AB 604 - AGRIBUSINESS INTERNATIONAL TRADE**3-0-3**

3 hrs.

The primary objective of the course is to study theories, historical and contemporary policies related to international trade of agricultural products. The course will cover essential topics, e.g., the economic gains from trade, trade policies, exchange rates, multinational trade negotiations, etc. Also, concepts and issues that have become recently relevant (e.g., technical barriers to agricultural trade, preferential trade agreements, flexible exchange rates, trade and the environment) will be covered as well. Lastly, students will be introduced to topics pertaining to direct foreign investment and international marketing in the agricultural and food industries.

AE 508 – RURAL ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This course deals with economic and social conditions in rural areas. It discusses patterns, trends, and problems in rural communities. It deals with economic concepts that help in understanding and analyzing rural communities, and theories of growth and economic development. Completion of this course will result in understanding theories, concepts, and frameworks of community and economic development and community decision-making models.

AE 510 – RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

A study of the principles of land utilization; meaning, present status, importance and techniques of resource conservation and development; development for public and private land use. Particular emphasis will be directed to the role of agriculture and agricultural resources in economic development.

AE 511 – THEORY OF AGGREGATIVE DEMAND AND SUPPLY FOR AGRICULTURE PRODUCTS**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

Advanced theories of demand and supply, including topics in consumer behavior, theory of production and cost, theories of the firm and market organization; the course also covers advanced analytical techniques used to estimate demand and supply relations in agriculture. Students are expected to demonstrate practical knowledge through the development of empirical models.

AE 515 – ECONOMICS OF CONSUMER BEHAVIOR**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

The course is designed to teach theoretical and applied economics to those with a direct or indirect interest in the consumer as a crucial economic unit in a market economy. It focuses on the economic organization of the household as a consuming unit. Primary emphasis will be placed on human capital development theories; economic welfare; the economics of poverty; consumption and saving relation models; time allocation models; consumer behavior; consumer equilibrium, household resources and activities. Attention will also be paid to consumption patterns and trends in the United States as well as other countries around the world.

AE 520 – ADVANCED FARM ORGANIZATIONS AND MANAGEMENT**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This course involves the study of the farm business from the standpoint of maximizing net returns over time. Major emphasis is on the fundamental principles underlying sound farm organization and operation. It deals with the development of problem solving and risk management skills needed on the modern farm operation. It will apply spreadsheets to perform production planning and analysis of farm and ranch problems with linear programming, simulations, and other tools. Students will apply the analysis of the acquisition of resources and the use of information systems in managing the individual farm.

AE 525 – ADVANCED MARKETING**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

A study of the principles and problems associated with marketing of agricultural product-functional and commodity approaches. Students will be expected to conceptualize and analyze market data relative to conditions of competition.

AE 580 – ORGANIZATION AND OPERATION OF COOPERATIVES FOR LIMITED RESOURCE PEOPLE **3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

A study of the organization and operation of cooperatives for limited resource people using the case method. Field trips will be made to limited resource cooperatives.

AE 601 – SPECIAL PROBLEMS IN AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS **3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

Credits from 1-4 hours may be attained. May be taught on individual or group basis with one or more written reports treating special problems in several areas of agricultural economics.

AG 558 – SPECIAL PROBLEMS IN AGRICULTURAL MECHANICS **3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This course is primarily for graduate students with special interest in solving problems in agricultural mechanics.

AG 577 – ADVANCED FARM POWER AND MACHINERY **3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

The care, operation and maintenance of farm machinery with an emphasis in mechanization and cybernation.

AG 610 – THESIS I **3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

The thesis courses are designed to allow graduate students to make original contribution to knowledge in their respective fields of study (agronomy, animal science and agricultural economics). Thesis research may involve field-based study, library-based study, or most likely, some combination. The kind of research most appropriate to the thesis will vary by topic and discipline. Students should consult closely with their thesis advisors throughout the process. Students completing thesis I will be expected to produce a research prospectus that will include introduction and literature review.

AG 611 – THESIS II **3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

The thesis courses are designed to allow graduate students to make original contribution to knowledge in their respective fields of study (agronomy, animal science and agricultural economics). Thesis research may involve field-based study, library-based study, or most likely, some combination. The kind of research most appropriate to the thesis will vary by topic and discipline. Students should consult closely with their thesis advisors throughout the process. Students completing thesis II will be expected to outline the methodology, including data collection and analysis.

AG 612 – THESIS III **3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

The thesis courses are designed to allow graduate students to make original contribution to knowledge in their respective fields of study (agronomy, animal science and agricultural economics). Thesis research may involve field-based study, library-based study, or most likely, some combination. The kind of research most appropriate to the thesis will vary by topic and discipline. Students should consult closely with their thesis advisors throughout the process. Students completing thesis III will be expected to complete the rest of the thesis which will include presentation of results, discussion and recommendations.

ENDORSEMENT AREA: AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

Program Description

The Agricultural Education is a Concentration in the Master of Science in Secondary Education. Admission requirements for this program require an application, two letters of recommendation, transcript from an accredited school validating a Bachelor's degree has been earned, and a Standard Educator License.

The following learning outcomes are expected for the Agricultural Education Endorsement:

- (1) students completing the program will be well trained and proficient in the technical fields of agriculture;
- (2) the students will master the skills and techniques for teaching youth and adults leadership and life skills;
- (3) graduates of the program will be competent extension educators, and program development specialists;
- (4) graduates of the program will acknowledge that they had adequate preparation to become competent teachers of Agriculture (6-12); and that they are prepared for agriculture-related careers in the government agencies and in industry

Course Requirements

Core Education Courses (12 Hours)	Credits
ED 512 Foundations of American Education.	3 hrs.
ED 514 Methods of Educational Research	3 hrs.
ED 533 Curriculum Development	3 hrs.
PH 513 Advanced Educational Psychology	3 hrs.
Required Courses (9 Hours)	Credits
AN 500 Administration of Agricultural Education	3 hrs.
AN 506 Advanced Methods of Teaching	3 hrs.
AN 515 Advanced Principles of Agricultural Education	3 hrs.
Electives 12 Hours)	Credits
AE 520 Advanced Farm Organization and Management	3 hrs.
AE 525 Advanced Agricultural Marketing	3 hrs.
AE 601 Special Problems in Agricultural Economics	3 hrs.
AN 510 Agricultural Education Media	3 hrs.
AN 511 Youth Organization and Program Management	3 hrs.
AN 601 Special Problems in Agricultural Education	3 hrs.
AS 523 Advanced Animal Nutrition	3 hrs.
AS 533 Physiology and Anatomy of Farm Animals	3 hrs.
AS 553 Physiology of Reproduction	3 hrs.
PH 504 Psychological Statistics	3 hrs.
PS 535 Advanced Soil Classification	3 hrs.
PS 548 Advanced Soil Management	3 hrs.
PS 601 Special Problems in Vegetable and Small Fruits	3 hrs.
TOTAL	33 hrs.

*A core Examination (Education Department) and Area Examination (Agriculture Department) are required for graduation

Agriculture Education Course Descriptions (AN)

AN 500 – ADMINISTRATION OF AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION **3-0-3**
(3 Credits)

A careful study of the federal and state acts, laws and policies in vocational education governing agriculture.

AN 501 – TECHNICAL WRITING IN AGRICULTURE **3-0-3**
(3 Credits)

This course is designed to fulfill the English Proficiency requirements for all students who are admitted to graduate school conditionally. Focus will be on academic and technical writing with emphasis on critical reading, thinking, writing, and key aspects of writing within student's discipline.

AN 504 – CURRICULA AND PROGRAMS FOR TEACHING RURAL DISADVANTAGED **3-0-3**
(3 Credits)

This course is designed to analyze programs and curricula within the school system with emphasis on the disadvantaged. Pre-requisite: AN 487 or consent of advisor.

AN 506 – ADVANCED METHODS, TECHNIQUES, AND DEVICES IN TEACHING AGRICULTURE **3-0-3**
(3 Credits)

This course is concerned with analysis, administration and evaluation of methods, techniques and devices used in teaching agriculture. Emphasized concepts, methods and learning theories relevant for both formal and informal education.

AN 510 – AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION MEDIA **3-0-3**
(3 Credits)

This course deals with the sources, selection, evaluation, and use of material related to agriculture. 118 Graduate Catalog 2014-2016 Alcorn State University.

AN 515 – ADVANCED PRINCIPLES AND PHILOSOPHY OF VOCATIONAL EDUCATION **3-0-3**
(3 Credits)

This course is designed primarily for those people who are engaged in the profession of vocational education. AN 315 is a similar course and is needed before enrolling in this course.

AN 584 – ADVANCED OCCUPATIONAL INFORMATION **3-0-3**
(3 Credits)

An extension of AN 484. An examination and analysis in the world of work with emphasis toward teaching.

AN 601 – SPECIAL PROBLEMS IN AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION **3-0-3**
(3 Credits)

An observation, identification, and analysis of problems related to teaching agriculture. Primarily designed for in-service teachers.

AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION EDUCATION (Online, Non-Thesis Option)

Course Requirements

Core Courses (12 hours)	Credits
AE 508 Rural Economics and Community Development	3 hrs.
AG 610 Thesis I	3 hrs.
AN 511 Youth Organization and Program Management	3 hrs.
AN 601 Special Prob in Ag and Extension Management	
Required Courses (9 hours)	Credits
AN 500 Administration of Agricultural Education	3 hrs.
AN 506 Advanced Methods of Teaching	3 hrs.
AN 515 Advanced Principles of Teaching Ag Education	3 hrs.
PS 548 Advanced Soil Management	3 hrs.
Approved Electives (12)	Credits
AE 520 Advanced Farm Organization and Management	3 hrs.
AE 525 Advanced Agricultural Marketing	3 hrs.
AG 558 Special Problems in Ag Mech	3 hrs.
AN 510 Agricultural Education Media	3 hrs.
AN 584 Advanced Occupational Information	3 hrs.
AS 523 Advanced Animal Nutrition	3 hrs.
AS 533 Physiology & Anatomy of Farm Animals	3 hrs.
AS 553 Physiology of Reproduction	3 hrs.
AS 564 Special Problems in Selected Topics	3 hrs.
ED 512 Foundation of American Education	3 hrs.
ED 514 Methods of Educational Research	3 hrs.
PH 504 Psychological Statistics	3 hrs.
PH 513 Advanced Educational Psychology	3 hrs.
PS 535 Advanced Soil Classification	3 hrs.
PS 541 Agricultural Plant Pathology	3 hrs.
PS 548 Advanced Soil Management	3 hrs.
PS 559 Advanced Soil Fertility	3 hrs.
PS 590 Advanced Research Techniques	3 hrs.
PS 597 Agricultural Environmental Law	3 hrs.
PS 601 Special Problems in Vegetables & Small Fruits	3 hrs.
TOTAL	33 hrs.

*A research project is required for graduation.

AGRICULTURE EDUCATION COURSE DESCRIPTION (AN)

AN 500 - ADMINISTRATION OF AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION 3-0-3
(3 Credits)

A careful study of the federal and state acts, laws and policies in vocational education governing agriculture.

AN 501 - TECHNICAL WRITING IN AGRICULTURE 3-0-3
(3 Credits)

This course is designed to fulfill the English Proficiency requirements for all students who are admitted to graduate school conditionally. Focus will be on academic and technical writing with emphasis on critical reading, thinking, writing, and key aspects of writing within student's discipline.

AN 504 - CURRICULA AND PROGRAMS FOR TEACHING RURAL DISADVANTAGED 3-0-3
(3 Credits)

This course is designed to analyze programs and curricula within the school system with emphasis on the disadvantaged. Pre-requisite: AN 487 or consent of advisor.

AN 506 - ADVANCED METHODS, TECHNIQUES, AND DEVICES IN TEACHING AGRICULTURE 3-0-3
(3 Credits)

This course is concerned with analysis, administration and evaluation of methods, techniques and devices used in teaching agriculture. Emphasized concepts, methods and learning theories relevant for both formal and informal education

AN 510 - AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION MEDIA 3-0-3
(3 Credits)

This course deals with the sources, selection, evaluation, and use of material related to agriculture. 118 Graduate Catalog 2014-2016 Alcorn State University

AN 515 - ADVANCED PRINCIPLES AND PHILOSOPHY OF VOCATIONAL EDUCATION 3-0-3
(3 Credits)

This course is designed primarily for those people who are engaged in the profession of vocational education. AN 315 is a similar course and is needed before enrolling in this course.

AN 584 - ADVANCED OCCUPATIONAL INFORMATION 3-0-3
(3 Credits)

An extension of AN 484. An examination and analysis in the world of work with emphasis toward teaching.

AN 601 - SPECIAL PROBLEMS IN AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION 3-0-3
(3 Credits)

An observation, identification, and analysis of problems related to teaching agriculture. Primarily designed for in-service teachers.

CENTER FOR BIOTECHNOLOGY

Keith A. McGee, Ph.D., Program Director
 Biotechnology Building
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 Phone: 601-877-6678 FAX: 601-877-6683

Graduate Faculty

Keith McGee, Ph.D., Director of Biotechnology and Associate Professor of Biology
 Edmund R. Buckner, Ph.D., Dean, School of Agriculture and Applied Sciences

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN BIOTECHNOLOGY

Program Description

The primary purpose of the master's degree program in biotechnology is to train students in cellular and molecular biology and genetic engineering. The students will be provided with a firm foundation in the principles of genetics and molecular biology of both prokaryotic and eukaryotic organisms. Each student will then specialize in an area appropriate to his or her interest and career goals. Graduates will be prepared to assume government, university, and industry positions or continue their training towards advanced degrees in graduate or professional schools.

The successful student upon completing a Master of Science in Biotechnology, will in having broadened his other specific knowledge, as related to biotechnology and related fields of study:

1. Be able to state and clearly articulate the research goals, objectives, as well as, experimental design goals, and potential experimental outcomes of a proposed thesis level research project.
2. Organize, interpret and present the results generated by a thesis level research project, in a manner consistent with the guidelines set forth by ASU's Office of Graduate Studies.
3. Be able to prepare and submit an abstract of approved thesis level research work at a national, regional, or state research conference, and be able to make a quality oral or poster presentation at a designated conference.
4. Be able to obtain employment in related biotechnology fields, or admission to a doctoral degree program at a university, or enhance the likelihood of entering a professional program leading to a position at a teaching institution such as secondary schools, junior colleges, or occupational/technical/vocational schools.

Course Requirements

Core Courses (24 hours)		Credits
BT 500	Research Seminar	1 hr.
BT 505	Current Topics in Biotechnology	1 hr.
BT 540	Molecular Genetics	3 hrs.
BT 565	Advanced Cell and Molecular Biology	3 hrs.
BT 570A	Techniques in Biotechnology	3 hrs.
BT 600	Internship in Biotechnology	3 hrs.
BT 650	Thesis Research	5 hrs.
CH 580	Advanced Biochemistry	3 hrs.
PS 595	Experimental Design and Method	3 hrs.

Elective Courses (9 hours)		Credits
BI 503	Mycology	3 hrs.
BI 523	Advanced Biostatistics	3 hrs.
BI 525	Advanced Immunology	3 hrs.
BI 526	Advanced Pharmacology	3 hrs.
BI 581	Advanced Toxicology	3 hrs.
BT 526	Economic Aspects of Biotechnology	3 hrs.
BT 544	Advanced Plant Breeding	3 hrs.
BT 545	Laboratory Methods in Tissue/Cell Culture	3 hrs.
BT 546	Principles of Population Genetics	3 hrs.
BT 551	Genomics	3 hrs.
BT 552	Proteomics	3 hrs.
BT 570B	Techniques in Biotechnology	3 hrs.
BT 590	Bio-informatics	3 hrs.
TOTAL		33 hrs.

Biotechnology Course Descriptions (BT)

BT 500 – RESEARCH SEMINAR

3-0-1

(1 Credit)

This course will focus on effective communication of ideas and research findings in biotechnology. Students will be required to provide both oral and written evaluations of research publications and proposals. **The first part** of the semester will focus on a dissection, evaluation, and discussion of recent biotechnology-related research publications. Students will discuss the aspects of successful oral presentations, including the effective use of visual aids. **The middle of the semester** will be spent developing a research proposal, focusing on the separate components of a proposal. **The end of the semester** will involve student presentations of a research proposal that they have developed.

BT 505 – CURRENT TOPICS IN BIOTECHNOLOGY

3-0-1

(1 Credit)

An introduction to biotechnology: historical perspectives, current applications, and future directions. This course will consist of informal lectures and interactive discussions led by biotechnology faculty and visiting professionals. The course will orient students to the educational/career opportunities in biotechnology and assist them in developing a focus for their individualized degree programs. The course is also designed to acquaint students with ethical issues associated with agricultural biotechnology. Students will take considerable advantage of resources available on the internet. Students will acquire information that would enable them to participate in national debates about the ethics of biotechnology. Lecture, two hours per week.

BT 526 – ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF BIOTECHNOLOGY

3-0-3

(3 Credits)

This course surveys microeconomics, macroeconomics, agribusiness and finance topics relevant to conceptual analyses of problems and decision-making situations in the agricultural and non-agricultural biotechnology industries. Credit: Lectures, three hours per week.

BT 540 – MOLECULAR GENETICS

3-0-3

(3 Credits)

This course introduces students to methods of analyzing DNA sequences and the use of sequence information available in international databases. Topics include assembly of raw data into a contiguous sequence, finding open reading frames, translating nucleotide sequences into amino acid sequences, determining protein and DNA

characteristics, identifying genes by database searches, determining which database searching method to use, motif searches to identify amino acid signature sequences, searching for and downloading sequences from the GenBank database, importing and interconversion of sequences, aligning sequences, calculating and drawing phylogenetic trees, and genome analysis.

BT 544 – ADVANCED PLANT BREEDING**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

Principles of plant breeding will be emphasized, along with its application to the practical breeding of agronomic, horticultural, and forest plants. Students will be trained in the decision-making process that plant breeders encounter. Effective strategies for cultivar development will be discussed. Students will be able to understand alternative methods used in plant breeding, evaluate the genetic improvement that can be realized from each method, and understand the advantages and disadvantages associated with each plant breeding method. The role of cellular and molecular biology in genetic improvement of plant species will be discussed. Students will understand the process of selection, testing, release, and distribution of new cultivars. Pre-requisites: genetics and consent of the instructor.

BT 545 – LABORATORY METHODS IN TISSUE/CELL CULTURE**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

Students will learn several techniques necessary for the culture of animal tissue and cells in the laboratory. This will include protocols for sterile technique and laboratory safety and useful assays such as cell proliferation, ELISA, RNA isolation and PCR. Students will not only learn the methodology and theory behind various protocols but also develop skills via hands-on experience.

BT 546 – PRINCIPLES OF POPULATION GENETICS**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This course, an introduction to the field of population genetics, is concerned with the genetic structure of populations and how it changes through time. This is a general introductory course on empirical and theoretical population genetics. The course will cover primary forces and processes involved in shaping genetic variation in natural populations (mutation, drift, selection, migration, recombination, mating patterns, population size, and population subdivision), methods of measuring genetic variation in nature, experimental tests of important ideas in population genetics, transposable elements, the evolution of multigene families, and molecular clocks.

BT 551 – GENOMICS**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This course is designed to give students a solid understanding of plant and animal gene and protein research and the tools required for such research. The first part of the course will involve analysis of genes and genomes with an emphasis on function, transmission, mutation and evolution in plants. Topics include: genetic, molecular, and quantitative and bioinformatics approaches. Pre-requisites include Advanced Biochemistry, (CH 580) and Molecular Genetics (BT 540).

BT 552 – PROTEOMICS**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This course involves an in-depth study of research methods and techniques used to study proteomes. Research utilizing methods such as ELISA, HPLC, Mass Spectrometry, and Electrophoresis to study proteins will be discussed.

BT 565 – ADVANCED CELL AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This course is an integrated cell and molecular biology course. It is designed to thoroughly introduce the student to the mechanisms of DNA replication, recombination, repair, transcription, protein synthesis, gene regulation and signal transduction. At the conclusion of this course, the student will be able to describe, in detail, the mechanisms of DNA metabolism, protein synthesis, gene regulation, and signal transduction. The student will also be able to describe and indicate the basis for current diagnostic tests that incorporate modern cell and molecular biology techniques.

BT 570A – TECHNIQUES IN BIOTECHNOLOGY**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This course is designed to provide students with hands on experience with common and advanced tools used in molecular biology and biotechnology. Students will become familiar with each piece of equipment and learn how to choose the correct device for a specific type of procedure. These approaches will be coupled with short-term workshops and hands on experiences. The second half of the course will cover research involving techniques such as protein extraction, protein sequencing, electrophoresis, chromatography, mass spectrometry, X-ray crystallography, and enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA), and spectrophotometry and high performance liquid chromatography.

BT 570B – TECHNIQUES IN BIOTECHNOLOGY**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

The course will cover research involving techniques such as protein extraction, protein sequencing, electrophoresis, chromatography, mass spectrometry, X-ray crystallography, and enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA), and spectrophotometry and high performance liquid chromatography.

BT 590 – BIO-INFORMATICS**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This course is designed to provide an introduction to the types of information analysis obtained from DNA sequencing projects, ranging from the sequences of individual genes to those of entire genomes, as well as, the massive data obtained microarrays. There will be two core themes in the class: the analytical techniques that can be used to evaluate data, and examples of the biological significance of such analyses.

BT 650 – THESIS RESEARCH**3-0-5**

(5 Credits)

This course is designed to synthesize the knowledge and skills developed in previous research courses and apply them in the preparation of the Master's thesis. Candidates to the Master's Degree in Biotechnology will learn about all aspects of the process of developing and carrying out the production of an acceptable manuscript. Students will gain an understanding of standards and expectations that must be met in order to successfully complete the thesis. Throughout the course, students are required to work closely with their major advisor/thesis director and committee, as appropriate.

Biotechnology Curriculum Courses in Other Disciplines**BI 515 – COMPUTER APPLICATIONS IN BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES****3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This course provides introduction to computer applications in the biological sciences. The three major applications involved in this course are data interpretation, presentation in appropriate formats, charts, graphs, tables, database usage, and statistical analysis.

BI 523 – ADVANCED BIOSTATISTICS**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

Methods of collection, tabulation, analysis, and application of biological data specifically related to various problem solving activities in biology using descriptive statistics probability theory and statistical inference.

BI 526 – ADVANCED PHARMACOLOGY**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This course is designed to study various classes of drugs relative to their specific mechanisms of action and clinical application.

BI 546 – ADVANCED HISTOLOGY**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

An advanced study of the microscopic and chemical structures of organs, tissues, and their cellular constituents.

BI 556 – MICROBIAL GENETICS**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This course provides a detailed description of the processes of heredity in bacteria including a discussion of gene structure and evolution, gene expression and its control, the exchange of genetic material in the microbial world and genetic engineering and its applications. Also included are studies on the genetics of bacterial viruses and other infectious agents of bacteria and fungi.

BI 581 – ADVANCED TOXIOLOGY**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This course is designed to fill the need for a comprehensive source of information concerning toxicology. It presents a definite description of basic concepts and methods employed in environmental toxicology studies as well as examples of typical data and its interpretation. Specific topics covered in this course include: toxicity of generic types of chemicals (such as pesticides and metals) to organisms; the distribution and fate of chemicals in the environment.

Note: (*) These supporting courses are offered in the Department of Biology as shown in the university catalog

Chemistry (CH)**CH 580 – ADVANCED BIOCHEMISTRY****3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This course stresses the techniques involved in purification and modification of enzymes and polynucleotides, expression of genetic information, and recombinant DNA technology.

Plant Science (PS)**PS 595 – EXPERIMENTAL DESIGN AND METHOD****3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

Fundamental principles of experimental designs especially in relation to computation and analyses of biological research data.

SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES



BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

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Elena Kostyleva, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Biology
Marta Piva, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Biology
Debarshi Roy, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Biology
Robert Sizemore, Ph.D. Professor of Biology
Archie Taylor, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Biology

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN BIOLOGY

Program Description

This curriculum is designed primarily to accommodate students who wish to pursue a Master of Science (M.S.) degree in Biology. This program supports a broad range of student needs and interests. This program will serve students who wish to pursue advanced study towards a doctoral degree or prepare for a professional career.

Mission Statement of Master of Science in Biology Program

The mission of the Master of Science degree in Biology is to equip students with advanced scientific knowledge and skills necessary to pursue doctoral programs and professional careers in biological sciences. The M.S. program in biology consists of classroom instruction at an advanced level, along with mentored scholarly pursuit of new knowledge leading to the preparation of a thesis document or a special project paper. The graduate program intends to prepare creative scientists with a good theoretical background, training in research techniques, and communication skills required to disseminate the research results including the significance of such research work in relation to the human environment.

Student Learning Outcomes / Objectives

A student completing a Master of Science in Biology will:

- Broaden his/her knowledge in a discipline related to his/her thesis research.
- Be able to state clearly the research goals or objectives, hypothesis, and explain the significance of his/her planned thesis research work.
- Organize and interpret the results generated from his/her research in a thesis consistent with the guidelines set by ASU's Office of Graduate Studies.
- In case of Non-Thesis, a student will develop a project paper on review of literature on a selected research topic or idea.
- Be able to prepare and submit an abstract of his/her research work to a national / regional / state research conference; and be able to make a quality oral or poster presentation at a designated conference.

- Be capable of communicating his/her research finding in the form of a research manuscript for publication in a scientific journal.
- Be capable of relating his/her knowledge in biological science in daily life and utilize inquiry
- Gain a better understanding of professional practices and responsibilities for the community at-large.
- Be able to gain admission to a doctoral degree program at a university or enhance his/her success in seeking admission into a professional program.
- Enhance student's likelihood of success in finding employment at a workplace related to the biological sciences or closely related area.
- Gain employment at teaching institutions such as secondary schools, junior colleges, or occupational/technical/vocational schools.

Program Requirements:

A student must meet all requirements for graduate admission as described in the Alcorn State University Graduate Catalog. This program requires completion of 33 semester credit hours of course work as follows: 12 semester graduate hours as Core and 21 semester graduate hours as Electives. Students granted a conditional acceptance will be required to complete six (6) additional elective course hours.

Students must not receive more than two letter grades of "C" in any given degree option and must maintain at least a minimum GPA of 3.00. Students with an "Analytical" GRE score of less than 3.0, must enroll in one of the following: ST 597 (an online technical writing course), EN 500 (Teaching Writing), or AN 501 (Technical Writing in Agriculture) to fulfill the proficiency requirement. Students are to maintain at least a "B" in ST 597/EN 500 AN 501, and this is in addition to the 33-hour required curriculum.

Courses under the elective group must be approved by the student's Faculty Research Advisor (FRA) and shall be selected from the graduate courses in biology or related areas that are offered during the time the student is in residence. For the benefit of the student, a suggested list of Required and Elective courses is given. The Director of Biology Graduate Program or the Chairperson of the Department of Biological Sciences must approve all courses before registration. By the end of the first semester, the student must indicate his/her preference for an FRA. The FRA must be a member of the graduate faculty. The FRA (in consultation with the student) will select other members of the Thesis Research Advisory Committee (TRAC). This Committee must be approved by the Department Chair and communicated to the office of the Dean of Graduate Studies.

Each prospective graduate student must submit a written statement of planned research (Research Proposal) to the FRA. This document must be carefully prepared in consultation with the student's FRA. It must present in a concise and literate manner the research problem that a student plans to investigate as part of her/his Thesis research. The proposal should not be more than ten (10) pages, typewritten, and double-spaced, including references which may be single-spaced.

Upon completion of the proposed thesis research work under the guidance of a designated FRA, a student must prepare a master's thesis document. The Thesis should reflect a student's competence in conceptualization of research, experimental designs, and selection of appropriate statistical methods to process, analyze, and interpret research data. The student is also encouraged to prepare a manuscript based on his/her research work for possible publication in a peer reviewed scientific journal. Prior to the approval of the Thesis, a student must defend his/her research work by making an oral presentation before the members of the TRAC. The FRA may invite other faculty members and members of the graduate class in biology to attend such thesis defense.

Transfer Credits

A graduate student may transfer up to 6 semester graduate credit hours earned in an accredited graduate program.

Course Requirements (Thesis Option)

Core Biology Courses (12 Sem. Hours)		Credits
BI 507	Advanced Cellular & Molecular Biology	3 hrs.
BI 523	Advanced Biostatistics	3 hrs.
BI 599	Thesis I	3 hrs.
BI 600	Thesis II	3 hrs.
General Electives (Select 21 Sem. Hours)		Credits
BI 500	Advanced Parasitology	3 hrs.
BI 501	Advanced Plant Physiology	3 hrs.
BI 502	Advanced Plant Pathology	3 hrs.
BI 503	Mycology	3 hrs.
BI 509	Current Literature Topics in Biology	3 hrs.
BI 515	Computer Application in Biology	3 hrs.
BI 522	Natural History of the Animal Kingdom	3 hrs.
BI 525	Advanced Immunology	3 hrs.
BI 526	Advanced Pharmacology	3 hrs.
BI 531	Advanced Invertebrate & Vertebrate Zoology	3 hrs.
BI 536	Bioethics	3 hrs.
BI 540	Molecular Genetics	3 hrs.
BI 546	Advanced Histology	3 hrs.
BI 547	Advanced Field Biology & Ecology	3 hrs.
BI 550	Graduate Research Methods & Seminar	3 hrs.
BI 560	Advanced Modern Problems in Biology	3 hrs.
BI 581	Advanced Toxicology	3 hrs.
BI 590	Advanced Environmental Biology	3 hrs.
BI 591	Advanced Anatomy & Physiology	3 hrs.
BI 598	Biology Research Instrumentation	3 hrs.
TOTAL		33 hrs.

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN BIOLOGY NON-THESIS OPTION

Program Description

This program is designed for students who do not plan to pursue a research-based career, but need an advanced degree in biology to enhance their careers. However, these candidates will be introduced to basics in research such as defining a research problem, review of research literature, gain knowledge of laboratory techniques and research methods such as data acquisition, statistical analysis, and data interpretation. For this purpose, non-thesis students are required to take BI 597 Special Project and submit a Research Review Paper on selected topics in biological sciences.

Course Requirements

The student must meet all requirements for graduate admission as described in the Alcorn State University Graduate Catalog. The student will be required to complete 33 graduate credit hours: 12 semester graduate hours as Core (including BI 597 Special Project), and 21 semester graduate hours as General Electives. "Students granted conditional acceptance will be required to complete 6 additional course hours".

The required Core Courses for Non-Thesis Option are different from that of the Thesis Option.

Core Biology Courses (12 Sem. Hours)	Credits
BI 507 Advanced Cellular & Molecular Biology	3 hrs.
BI 523 Advanced Biostatistics	3 hrs.
BI 540 Molecular Genetics	3 hrs.
BI 597 Special Project	3 hrs.
General Electives (Select 21 Sem. Hours)	Credits
BI 500 Advanced Parasitology	3 hrs.
BI 501 Advanced Plant Physiology	3 hrs.
BI 502 Advanced Plant Pathology	3 hrs.
BI 503 Mycology	3 hrs.
BI 509 Current Literature Topics in Biology	3 hrs.
BI 515 Computer Applications in Biology	3 hrs.
BI 525 Advanced Immunology	3 hrs.
BI 526 Advanced Pharmacology	3 hrs.
BI 531 Advanced Invertebrate & Vertebrate Zoology	3 hrs.
BI 536 Bioethics	3 hrs.
BI 546 Advanced Histology	3 hrs.
BI 547 Advanced Field Biology & Ecology	3 hrs.
BI 550 Graduate Research Methods and Seminar	3 hrs.
BI 560 Advanced Modern Problems in Biology	3 hrs.
BI 581 Advanced Toxicology	3 hrs.
BI 590 Advanced Environmental Biology	3 hrs.
BI 591 Advanced Anatomy & Physiology	3 hrs.
BI 598 Biology Research Instrumentation	3 hrs.
TOTAL	33 hrs.

Note: The courses used in one master's degree program cannot be applied toward a second master's or advanced degree program. When in doubt, consult the Chairperson of the Department of Biological Sciences.

BIOLOGY ONLINE OPTION

Program Description

This program is offers an online Master of Science in Biology program that will be completely web-based. The program provides the opportunity to gain advanced education and training in the Biological Sciences leading to the enhancement of knowledge and preparing students to pursue careers in a variety of fields. The program exposes students to a wide range of online courses providing a well-rounded graduate education.

Essential Knowledge and Skills:

Students must have completed a Bachelor of Science Degree in an area of Biology or in a closely related area. Many of the online courses in the curriculum are advanced courses. To be successful, students must have the appropriate academic background and should be proficient with the use of computers and the Internet.

Who the Program Is for:

The online Master of Science Degree in Biology is designed for non-traditional students with a desire to complete an advanced degree via distance learning. The highlight of this program is its flexibility with scheduling, cost effectiveness, and overall convenience.

Delivery Format

The program is designed to be completely web-based with course offerings in a sixteen-week session during an Academic Calendar Year (fall and spring semesters) and two four-week sessions during the summer. The program will require the completion of 33 credit hours with a minimum 3.0 Grade Point Average (GPA).

Orientation

Online instructions will be delivered using “Canvas”. This is a user-friendly platform with online tutorials to aid with the maneuverability of course materials. Students can also seek assistance from the Canvas Helpdesk and Canvas Support Team.

Interaction with professors and other students

Students will be encouraged to maintain effective communication with instructors and advisors via email and Canvas Support Team throughout the duration of the course. Additionally, students may interact with peers in the course via Canvas Discussion board and other means available through Canvas.

Technology and Computer Skills

Students must have access to a reliable computer with a minimum recommended specification of Windows-7, 8,10 or OSX, 4 GB of RAM and updated JAVA. Students should be able to download instructional materials (Word files, pdf documents, audio-visual media files), upload assignments and take online examinations using Canvas. Using this type of technology for coursework requires a dependable and high-speed internet connection. Please note that Google Chrome, Foxfire, or Safari support most applications.

Advising

Student advisement will be available via email and telephone. Advisors will have access to student records via the university’s Advisement System. The Degree Plan includes the length of the program, curriculum, learning resources, etc.) along with the ease of access on go.alcorn.edu.

Students will have the opportunity to complete the program in one year provided they attend full-time (Fall, Spring, and both summer sessions). Part-time graduate students should be able to complete the program in two years based upon their course load(s) and work pace. Students are encouraged to use online university resources such as library, counseling, writing center, student support services, etc. during their tenure at the university.

Assessments

Students must successfully complete 33 credit hours of core and elective courses including BI-597 (Special Research Project) to complete this program. Students must not receive more than two grades of “C” and must maintain at least a minimum GPA of 3.00.

Course Requirements

The student must meet all requirements for graduate admission as described in the Alcorn State University Graduate Catalog. The student will be required to complete 33 graduate credit hours: 12 semester graduate hours as Core (including BI 597 Special Project), 6 semester graduate hours as General Electives, and 15 semester graduate hours as General Electives.

The required Core Courses for Non-Thesis Option are different from that of the Thesis Option.

Core Biology Courses (12 Sem. Hours)		Credits
BI 507 OL	Advanced Cellular & Molecular Biology	3 hrs.
BI 523 OL	Advanced Biostatistics	3 hrs.
BI 591 OL	Advanced Anatomy and Physiology	3 hrs.
BI 597 OL	Special Project	3 hrs.
General Elective Courses (21 Sem. Hours)		Credits
BI 501 OL	Advanced Plant Physiology	3 hrs.
BI 502 OL	Advanced Plant Pathology	3 hrs.
BI 503 OL	Mycology	3 hrs.
BI 509 OL	Current Literature Topics	3 hrs.
BI 515 OL	Computer Applications in Biology	3 hrs.
BI 522 OL	Natural History of the Animal Kingdom	3 hrs.
BI 525 OL	Advanced Immunology	3 hrs.
BI 526 OL	Advanced Pharmacology	3 hrs.
BI 531 OL	Advanced Invertebrate Zoology	3 hrs.
BI 536 OL	Bioethics	3 hrs.
BI 546 OL	Advanced Histology	3 hrs.
BI 547 OL	Advanced Field Biology and Ecology	3 hrs.
BI 560 OL	Modern Problems in Biology	3 hrs.
BI 581 OL	Advanced Toxicology	3 hrs.
BI 590 OL	Advanced Environmental Biology	3 hrs.
BI 591 OL	Advanced Anatomy and Physiology	3 hrs.
TOTAL		33 hrs.

ENDORSEMENT AREA: BIOLOGY EDUCATION

Program Description

The Department of Biological Sciences offers the Master of Science in Education degree in Secondary Education with a Concentration in Biology Education. In this program, the curriculum consists of core courses in education and courses in the biological sciences. The objectives for biology education are to:

1. Provide students for teaching careers in biology (secondary education);
2. Provide a foundation in research, education, industry, and the health professions;
3. Pursue programs of study leading to advanced degrees in Biological Sciences or closely related areas.

Course Requirements

Core Education Courses (12 hours)	Credits
ED 512 Foundations of American Education.	3 hrs.
ED 514 Methods of Educational Research	3 hrs.
ED 533 Curriculum Development	3 hrs.
PH 513 Advanced Educational Psychology	3 hrs.
Generally Required Courses (12 Hrs.)	Credits
BI 507 Advanced Cellular & Molecular Biology	3 hrs.
BI 509 Current Literature Topics in Biology	3 hrs.
BI 585 Methods of Teaching Science	3 hrs.
BI 597 Special Research Project	3 hrs.
Electives (21 Hours)	Credits
BI 500 Advanced Parasitology	3 hrs.
BI 501 Advanced Plant Physiology	3 hrs.
BI 502 Advanced Plant Pathology	3 hrs.
BI 515 Computer Applications in Biology	3 hrs.
BI 522 Natural History of the Animal Kingdom	3 hrs.
BI 525 Advanced Immunology	3 hrs.
BI 526 Advanced Pharmacology	3 hrs.
BI 531 Advanced Invertebrate & Vertebrate Zoology	3 hrs.
BI 536 Bioethics	3 hrs.
BI 540 Molecular Genetics	3 hrs.
BI 545 Advanced Immunology	3 hrs.
BI 546 Advanced Histology	3 hrs.
BI 547 Advanced Field Biology and Ecology	3 hrs.
BI 550 Graduate Research Methods and Seminar	3 hrs.
BI 560 Advanced Modern Problems in Biology	3 hrs.
BI 581 Advanced Toxicology	3 hrs.
BI 590 Advanced Environmental Biology	3 hrs.
BI 591 Advanced Anatomy & Physiology	3 hrs.
BI 598 Biology Research Instrumentation	3 hrs.
ED 521 Classroom Management	3 hrs.
ED 527 Evaluation and Measurement in Schools	3 hrs.

GS 503	Advanced Evolution	3 hrs.
PH 525	Psychology of the Exceptional Child	3 hrs.
TOTAL		33 hrs.

Biology Course Descriptions (BI)

BI 500 – ADVANCED PARASITOLOGY

3-0-3

(3 Credits)

An advanced study of the morphological and physiological characteristics of organisms that live in the vectors of the organisms.

BI 501 – ADVANCED PLANT PHYSIOLOGY

3-0-3

(3 Credits)

Advanced study of metabolism, mineral nutrition, absorption and translocation, respiration, photosynthesis, transpiration, plant hormones, flower parts, growth and reproduction in plants. Students will also learn about planting seeds, seed maturation, seed germination, seed storage, relation between seed and quality crop production in the field; study of fruits and seed and fruit dispersals. Pre-requisite: BI 124 or BI 324, CH 122. This course is specifically designed to meet the needs of agricultural and related science majors.

BI 502 – ADVANCED PLANT PATHOLOGY

3-0-3

(3 Credits)

Advanced study of selected diseases of important field and garden crops. Students study in detail representative plant diseases commonly observed on field crops, garden crops, fruit and vegetable crops caused by different pathogens, disease development, epidemiology and control of diseases. Pre-requisite : BI 124.

BI 503 – MYCOLOGY

3-0-3

(3 Credits)

This course deals with fungi from a cultural, ecological, phylotype, and phylogenetic perspective. It will involve the taxonomy, habitat, structure, physiology, and adaptation of fungi.

BI 507 – ADVANCED CELLULAR AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY

3-0-3

(3 Credits)

A study designed to provide a deeper insight and understanding of the cellular and molecular functions. Emphasis is placed on control and regulatory mechanisms of various cellular activities such as metabolic, genetic, and bio-energetic mechanisms.

BI 509 – CURRENT LITERATURE TOPICS IN BIOLOGY

3-0-3

(3 Credits)

This course deals with current and emerging problems of global significance that are identified through scientific research. It takes under consideration both scientific and technical problems that exist currently. It discusses consequences and opportunities available through scientific and technological capabilities of today's world. Students study the contributions made towards resolution of these problems. Students study department faculty members' representative research publications.

BI 515 – COMPUTER APPLICATIONS IN BIOLOGY

3-0-3

(3 Credits)

This course provides introduction to computer applications in the biological sciences. The three major applications involved in this course are data interpretation, presentation in appropriate formats, charts, graphs, tables, database usage, and statistical analysis.

BI 522 – NATURAL HISTORY OF THE ANIMAL KINGDOM**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This course is designed to provide the student with information on animal density and diversity. It shows the student the basic principles that control population dynamics, animal dispersal, evolutionary trends, and the changes that have occurred over centuries of animal development. The focus of the course deals with global changes and how these changes are causing the species diversity that exists today.

BI 523 – ADVANCED BIOSTATISTICS**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

Methods of collection, tabulation, analysis, and application of biological data specifically related to various problem solving activities in biology using descriptive statistics probability theory and statistical inference.

BI 525 – ADVANCED IMMUNOLOGY**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

Basic mechanism of immune responses will be presented from a theoretical basis. Students will be assigned several research articles to read covering both classic and current studies in immunology and will discuss the experiment data and conclusions in class. Students learn the historical significance of these studies as well as, the methodology used to determine the results.

BI 526 – ADVANCED PHARMACOLOGY**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This course is designed to study various classes of drugs relative to their specific mechanisms of action and clinical application.

BI 531 – ADVANCED INVERTEBRATE & VERTEBRATE ZOOLOGY**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This course is designed to provide the student with a broad background dealing with the taxonomy, locomotion, feeding habits, mode of life, and adaptive biology of invertebrates. In addition, anatomical, physiological, and embryological descriptive details are discussed and compared for various groups of animals.

BI 536 – BIOETHICS**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This course introduces students to the history of bioethics, role of various theories and approaches in medical, environmental and technological bioethics as well as critical issues related to novel technologies including: genetically engineered food crops, cloning, stem cell therapies, and nanotechnology. This course will also include discussions with examples on ethical questions that arise in the relationships between life sciences, biotechnology and medicine.

BI 540 – MOLECULAR GENETICS**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This course explores the molecular basis of heredity with a focus on the structure and function of genes, mutations and their effect on the phenotype, genetic analysis of prokaryotes and lower eukaryotes, gene transfer, and selection, plasmids, plasmid analysis, genetic recombination, and non-Mendelian patterns of inheritance, particularly the organization of the mitochondrial genome. In the laboratory component, students learn basic molecular genetics techniques such as: bacteria transformation and selection, plasmid preparation, restriction analysis of plasmids, agarose gel electrophoresis, endpoint polymerase chain reaction, primer design, and basic yeast genetics techniques: mating, sporulation, diploid selection, tetrad dissection and allele segregation. Pre-requisites: BI 327, 327L; Cell Biology, CH 331 & CH 331L; Introduction to Biochemistry, and BI 445, BI 445L Genetics.

BI 546 – ADVANCED HISTOLOGY**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

An advanced study of the microscopic and chemical structures of organs, tissues, and their cellular constituents.

BI 547 – ADVANCED FIELD BIOLOGY AND ECOLOGY**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

An advanced study of environmental factors influencing the distribution of plants and animals including the interrelationships of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, concentrating on biological, physical, and chemical relationships.

BI 550 – GRADUATE RESEARCH METHODS AND SEMINAR**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

A survey of current research articles with emphasis on techniques, the scientific method, and basic research. Lectures will cover the fundamentals of research and the study of several scientific manuscripts encompassing various areas of biology. Students will also be required to present data from other published scientific papers as a part of a seminar series. Students will be introduced to selected high precision research methodologies adopted in the laboratories of departmental faculty members.

BI 560 – ADVANCED MODERN PROBLEMS IN BIOLOGY**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This course encompasses numerous areas concerning new and developing issues in biological sciences. Students are required to address several topics assigned in class and in addition, describe what they think are “modern problems.” Although the course is designed to allow students independence in selecting certain topics, it also enables them to learn how to read and interpret scientific articles and to present those articles to the class.

BI 581 – ADVANCED TOXICOLOGY**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This course is designed to fill the need for a comprehensive source of information concerning toxicology. It presents a definite description of basic concepts and methods employed in environmental toxicology studies as well as examples of typical data and its interpretation. Specific topics covered in this course include: toxicity of genetic types of chemicals (such as pesticides and metals) to organisms, the distribution and fate of chemicals in the environment.

BI 585 – METHODS OF TEACHING SCIENCE**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This course presents the methods of teaching science in the secondary school, placing emphasis upon the integration of the curriculum and the individual in a democracy. It seeks to provide experiences leading to the creation of dynamic classroom conditions for effective teaching – essentially a special methods course dealing with techniques and procedures on the high school level. Students will be required to prepare teaching units, lesson plans, examinations, and to observe classroom teaching in nearby schools.

BI 590 – ADVANCED ENVIRONMENTAL BIOLOGY**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

An advanced study of specific ecological problems, research methodology and techniques, and solutions of local and national environmental problems.

BI 591 – ADVANCED ANATOMY AND PSYCHOLOGY**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This is a one-semester graduate course in Human Anatomy & Physiology. This course is designed to provide advanced concepts in human anatomy and physiology for students who plan to pursue careers in education, biology, biotechnology, medical technology, dentistry, physical therapy, nursing, or medicine.

BI 597 – SPECIAL RESEARCH PROJECT**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This course involves individual investigation of a specific problem in biology or related area. This includes extensive survey of literature to write a professional paper based on research data. The student will work under the supervision of biology Faculty Research Advisor (FRA) and bound copies of the completed work will be submitted to the Office of Graduate Studies as a requirement of Non-thesis M.S. degree program. Consent of the FRA is required.

BI 598 – BIOLOGY RESEARCH INSTRUMENTATION**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This is a laboratory-based course where students will learn the theory and practice behind techniques and instruments commonly used in modern biological research with special emphasis on detection, quantification, and analysis of nucleic acids and proteins, enzymatic assays, fluorescent microscopy, cell structure, and aseptic technique. Students will learn basic experimental design and methods, and will be expected to present their experiences in a seminar format. Pre-requisites: BI 327, BI 327L, CH 330, CH 330L, or instructor's permission.

BI 599 – THESIS I**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This course is designed to prepare candidates for a Master of Science Degree Program. It assists students in preparing a research proposal that is a pre-requisite before beginning actual thesis research work.

BI 600 – THESIS II**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This course is required for students in the Master of Science Degree Program. Its main thrust is to assist students in preparing a written document of their research work in an acceptable thesis format. Students will defend their research work before the graduate committee.

DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY AND PHYSICS

Yolanda Jones, Ph.D., Department Chairperson

Math and Science Building, 2nd Floor

1000 ASU Drive #780

Phone: 601-877-6436 FAX: 601-877-6695

Graduate Faculty

Yolanda Jones, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Chemistry

Anant Singh, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Physics

ENDORSEMENT AREA: CHEMISTRY EDUCATION

Program Description

The Department of Chemistry and Physics offers an "AA" endorsement in chemistry as a part of the Master of Science in Education degree in Secondary Education. In this program, a student has the option to become certified in a combination of chemistry and the physical science areas. The area objectives for chemistry education are to:

1. provide for all students a basic and broad knowledge of chemistry necessary for a career in secondary education;
2. offer courses leading to certification in chemistry and the physical sciences;
3. offer courses leading to a Master of Science in Education degree in Secondary Education with "AA" endorsement in Chemistry;
4. offer instruction on the most modern theories of learning and behavior;
5. offer courses in modern methodologies of instruction at the secondary level;
6. prepare teachers for scholarship, service, and leadership in the area of general and applied knowledge;
7. provide curricula in teacher training which responds to the demands of a dynamic democratic society;

8. provide a graduate education program which enables students to obtain advanced training in specialized fields and to contribute to the advancement of knowledge and new truths through scholarly research and inquiry.

Course Requirements

Core Education Courses (12 hours)		Credits
ED 512	Foundations of American Research	3 hrs.
ED 514	Methods of Educational Research	3 hrs.
ED 533	Curriculum Development	3 hrs.
PH 513	Advanced Educational Psychology	3 hrs.
Required Courses* (15 hours)		Credits
CH 510	Development of Modern Chemistry	3 hrs.
CH 550	Analytical Methods	3 hrs.
CH 560	Selected Topics in Chemistry	3 hrs.
CH 585	Principles of Chemistry for Teachers	3 hrs.
CH 586	Principles of Chemistry for Teachers	3 hrs.
Electives* (6 hours)		Credits
CH 500	Science and Environment	3 hrs.
CH 506	Astronomy	3 hrs.
CH 520	Advanced Inorganic Laboratory	3 hrs.
CH 530	Advanced Inorganic Chemistry	3 hrs.
CH 540	Advanced Organic Chemistry	3 hrs.
CH 570	Modern Theoretical Chemistry	3 hrs.
GS 503	Earth and Space Science	3 hrs.
GS 511	Nuclear Science	3 hrs.
GS 580	Advanced Biochemistry	3 hrs.
TOTAL		33 hrs.

*The specific required and elective courses will be determined on an individual basis by each student's advisory committee in accordance with the student's preparation and needs.

Chemistry Course Descriptions (CH)

CH 510 – DEVELOPMENT OF MODERN CHEMISTRY (3 Credits)	3-0-3
A survey of the development of chemical theories from the chemical revolution to the present.	
CH 520 – ADVANCED INORGANIC LABORATORY (3 Credits)	3-0-3
An advanced laboratory course dealing with preparation, purification, and characterization of inorganic compounds.	
CH 530 – ADVANCED INORGANIC CHEMISTRY (3 Credits)	3-0-3
The descriptive chemistry of the main group elements and reaction mechanisms of coordination compounds.	

CH 540 – ADVANCED ORGANIC CHEMISTRY (3 Credits) Reaction mechanisms and structures of organic compounds.	3-0-3
CH 550 – ANALYTICAL METHODS (3 Credits) Theory and methodology of instrumentation and various techniques of chemical analysis.	3-0-3
CH 560 – SELECTED TOPICS IN CHEMISTRY (3 Credits) A study of specialized topics in various areas of chemistry.	3-0-3
CH 570 – MODERN THEORETICAL CHEMISTRY (3 Credits) An introduction to the basic principles of quantum mechanics as applied to chemistry.	3-0-3
CH 585 – PRINCIPLES OF CHEMISTRY FOR TEACHERS I (3 Credits) A course designed for in-service teachers. An investigation of the main concepts of the five major areas of chemistry with emphasis on those concepts involved in the teaching of secondary school chemistry. A strenuous laboratory is involved to relate chemical principles to laboratory activity.	3-0-3
CH 586 – PRINCIPLES OF CHEMISTRY FOR TEACHERS II (3 Credits) A continuation of CH 585.	3-0-3

ENDORSEMENT AREA: SCIENCE EDUCATION

Program Description

The Department of Chemistry and Physics offers an “AA” endorsement in Science Education as part of a Master of Science in Education degree in Secondary Education. In this endorsement, a student has the option to become certified in a combination of physical and biological sciences or may choose heavy emphasis in the physical science area. The area objectives for general science are to:

1. provide for all students a basic and broad knowledge of the physical sciences necessary for a career in secondary education;
2. offer courses leading to certification in the physical sciences in the areas of general sciences, physical science, and earth and space science;
3. offer courses leading to a Master of Science in Education degree in Secondary Education with “AA” endorsement in one or more areas of physical science.

Course Requirements

Core Education Courses (12 hours)		Credits
ED 512	Foundations of American Research	3 hrs.
ED 514	Methods of Educational Research	3 hrs.
ED 533	Curriculum Development	3 hrs.
PH 513	Advanced Educational Psychology	3 hrs.

Required Courses (15 hours)		Credits
GS 500	Science and the Environment	3 hrs.
GS 503	Earth and Space Science	3 hrs.
GS 506	Astronomy	3 hrs.
GS 511	Nuclear Science	3 hrs.
GS 585	Methods of Teaching Science	3 hrs.
Electives (6 hours)		Credits
BI 547	Field Biology and Ecology	3 hrs.
CH 580	Advanced Biochemistry	3 hrs.
CH 585	Principles of Chemistry for Teachers	3 hrs.
GS 501	Earth Science	3 hrs.
GS 504	Radiation Chemistry and Biology	3 hrs.
GS 505	Atmospheric Science	3 hrs.
GS 550	Research and Thesis	6 hrs.
GS 560	Problems in General Science	3 hrs.
TOTAL		33 hrs.

General Science Course Descriptions (GS)

GS 500 – SCIENCE AND ENVIRONMENT **3-0-3**
(3 Credits)

A study designed to forge a crucial link between chemical and biological principles and the natural environment. Current problems dealing with air, water, and soil pollution are stressed.

GS 501 – EARTH SCIENCE **3-0-3**
(3 Credits)

An integrated course which intends to stress the relationships between energy, traditional earth science topics, and the three spheres comprising our environment. The origin of the atmosphere, structure of the earth, energy resources and consumption and selected geological content are major topics in the course.

GS 502 – GENERAL SCIENCE SEMINAR **3-0-3**
(3 Credits)

Discussion of current periodicals, books and research reports in the natural sciences.

GS 503 – EARTH AND SPACE SCIENCE **3-0-3**
(3 Credits)

An introductory survey course on the basic concepts of astronomy, meteorology, and geology. Additional topics are selectively treated from the areas of chemistry and physics to develop and broaden an understanding of the chemical and physical forces influencing the quality of life on earth.

GS 504 – RADIATION CHEMISTRY AND BIOLOGY **3-0-3**
(3 Credits)

A study of the types, sources and measurement of radiation and the chemical changes induced by these radiations especially as they affect biological systems.

GS 505 – ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCE **3-0-3**
(3 Credits)

A study of the physical characteristics of the atmosphere. The course will stress the use of instruments, computer assisted methods and building equipment suitable for atmospheric studies. Pre-requisite: PY 112.

GS 506 – ASTRONOMY**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

A basic course on the origin and nature of planets, stars, galaxies; to include also a description of techniques and equipment used to study outer space.

Pre-requisite: PY 112.

GS 510 – SPECIAL TOPICS IN GENERAL SCIENCE**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This course is a series of four two-hour credit mini courses. The complete series consists of four mini courses for a total of eight credit hours. A student may elect any one or more of the mini courses and earn from two to a maximum of eight credits.

GS 511 – NUCLEAR SCIENCE**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

Basic concepts on nuclear reactions, nuclear energy, use of nuclear energy and problems of waste and storage. Pre-requisite: PY 111.

GS 550 – RESEARCH AND THESIS**3-0-3**

(6 Credits)

The completion of a research project under the direction of an advisor and the preparation of a thesis incorporating the results. An oral defense of the thesis will be required.

GS 560 – PROBLEMS IN GENERAL SCIENCE**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

Selected problems involving descriptive or experimental research with special emphasis or interdisciplinary approaches to these problems.

GS 594 – GENERAL SCIENCE FOR ELEMENTARY SCIENCE TEACHERS**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This course is designed expressly for in-service elementary science teachers, and is restricted to those teachers having a National Science Foundation Grant, or to persons with written permission of the instructor. The course will deal with Science Curriculum Improvement Study (SCIS) materials along with other selected topics from biological and physical sciences for the enlightenment of the in-service teachers to certain scientific principles.

GS 595 – GENERAL SCIENCE FOR ELEMENTARY SCIENCE TEACHERS**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

A continuation of 594. Teachers who have participated in the elementary science teacher program will be visited six times per semester in the individual classroom by staff members. They will participate in two Saturday seminars each semester

GS 596 – GENERAL SCIENCE FOR ELEMENTARY SCIENCE TEACHERS**3-0-3**

(1 Credit)

A continuation of GS 595.

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH, LANGUAGES, AND MASS COMMUNICATION

Cynthia Scurria, Ph.D., Department Chair
Lanier Hall
1000 ASU Drive #120
Phone: 601-877- 6400 FAX: 601-877-2469

Graduate Faculty

Cecile Dianne Bunch, Ph.D., Professor of English
Peter Malik, Ph.D., Professor of English
Anne-Marie Olilade, Ph.D., Associate Professor of English
Allison Olivier, Ph.D., Associate Professor of English
Murray Shugars, Ph.D., Professor of English
Cynthia Scurria, Ph.D., Department Chairperson and Professor of English and Foreign Languages

ENDORSEMENT AREA: ENGLISH

Program Description

The Department of English, Languages, and Mass Communication offers an endorsement in English for the Master of Science in Secondary Education degree. The English curriculum at the graduate level seeks to provide individuals with advanced skills and tools in the areas of language, literature, and criticism, by 1) enhancing mastery of the English language, 2) developing skills and technique for effective writing, 3) broadening the base of literary knowledge, 4) refining literary skills in analysis, 5) improving research skills, and 6) enhancing teaching skills. Before graduating, candidates will demonstrate knowledge of American and British Literature along with proficiency in writing.

As stated in the Core Comprehensive Examinations section for the School of Education, to successfully complete the Master of Science in Secondary Education degree with an endorsement in English, a candidate must pass the Area Exit Examination administered by the Department of English as well as the Core Comprehensive Examination administered by the School of Education.

Though the program was designed primarily for graduate teaching majors, it can also benefit those in other endorsement areas through its courses in communication/writing skills, cultural history, and literature, all of which may be taken as electives.

Course Requirements

Core Education Courses (12 hours)	Credits
ED 512 Foundations of American Research	3 hrs.
ED 514 Methods of Educational Research	3 hrs.
PH 513 Advanced Educational Psychology	3 hrs.
ED 533 Curriculum (Methods) Development	3 hrs.
 Required Courses (15 hours)	 Credits

EN 501	Theory and Practice of Composition	3 hrs.
EN 502	Methods and Principles of Literary Analysis	3 hrs.
EN 585	Methods of Teaching English	3 hrs.
EN 511	Seminar in English Literature	3 hrs.
Or		
EN 512	Seminar in American Literature	3 hrs.
EN 521	Literary History of England	3 hrs.
Or		
EN 522	Literary History of the U.S.	3 hrs.

Electives (6 hours chosen from the following)		Credits
EN 511	or EN 512 (whichever was not taken above)	3 hrs.
EN 521	or EN 522 (whichever was not taken above)	3 hrs.
EN 503	The Structure of Modern English	3 hrs.
EN 560	Problems in English	3 hrs.
EN 561	Special Topics in Literature or	3 hrs.
EN 562	Special Topics in Teaching English	3 hrs.
TOTAL		33 hrs.

English Course Descriptions (EN)

EN 501 – THEORY AND PRACTICE OF COMPOSITION **3-0-3** (3 Credits)

An examination of recent research and writing on the art of composition, concerning the relation of the composing process to grammar instruction; intensive practice in many types of composition. Pre-requisite: graduate standing or permission of department chairperson.

EN 502 – METHODS AND PRINCIPLES OF LITERARY ANALYSIS **3-0-3** (3 Credits)

An overview and application of the fundamental aspects of the major genres of imaginative literature and a study of approaches in literary criticism. The place of literature in the curriculum and in the life of the student is emphasized.

EN 503 – THE STRUCTURE OF MODERN ENGLISH **3-0-3** (3 Credits)

The fundamentals of linguistic analysis, with some attention to Southern and African-American speech patterns; also some attention to the role of linguistics in the secondary school. Pre-requisite: graduate standing or permission of department chairperson.

EN 511 – SEMINAR IN ENGLISH LITERATURE **3-0-3** (3 Credits)

The intensive study of a selected genre, theme, or author in English literature, with close collaboration between instructor and students in defining the area of study. Pre-requisite: graduate standing or permission of department chairperson.

EN 521 – THE LITERARY HISTORY OF ENGLISH **3-0-3** (3 Credits)

An examination of English literature against the background of major political, social, and intellectual developments in England and Europe. Pre-requisite: graduate standing or permission of departmental chairperson.

EN 522 – THE LITERARY HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

A study of American literature as it reflects and is affected by America's early settlement, revolution, Civil War, and rise to the position of world power.

Pre-requisite: graduate standing or permission of department chairperson.

EN 560 – PROBLEMS IN ENGLISH**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

A course providing for directed independent studies on particular aspects of language, literature, or pedagogy. Pre-

requisite: graduate standing or permission of department chairperson.

EN 561 – SPECIAL TOPICS IN LITERATURE**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

A seminar course focusing on an area of literature specified by the faculty and ranging across historical periods and genres.

EN 562 – SPECIAL TOPICS IN TEACHING ENGLISH**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

A seminar course focusing on literature with an emphasis on best practices of teaching literature in the secondary classroom.

EN 585 – METHODS OF TEACHING ENGLISH**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This course presents the methods of teaching English in the secondary school, placing emphasis upon the integration of the curriculum and the individual in a democracy. It seeks to provide experiences leading to the creation of dynamic classroom conditions for effective teaching – essentially a special methods course dealing with techniques and procedures on the high school level. Students will be required to prepare teaching units, lesson plans, and examinations.

MASTER OF LIBERAL ARTS

Cynthia Scurria, Ph.D., Department Chair
Lanier Hall
1000 ASU Drive #120
Phone: 601-877- 6400 FAX: 601-877-2469

Program Description

The educational objectives of the Master of Liberal Arts Program (MLA) are to provide both depth and breadth of study in the liberal arts. It is by nature an interdisciplinary program, pulling together general coursework from disciplines such as behavioral sciences, humanities, and social sciences. The program is designed to train students to think critically and contextually about their own fields of discipline as well as about a diverse range of issues. The Master of Liberal Arts will offer concentrations in the following areas: Criminal Justice, English and Literature, History, Mass Communications, and Music.

This program is designed to encourage and foster:

1. interdisciplinary skills
2. intellectual habits
3. analytical and critical thinking
4. effective writing and verbal communication
5. broad-based decision making

Course Requirements

Core Liberal Arts Courses (6 hours)	Credits
ILA 500 Introduction to Liberal Arts	3 hrs.
ILA 501 Research Methods in Liberal Arts	3 hrs.
Area of Concentration plus Electives (18 hours)	18 hrs.
Interdisciplinary Electives (6 hours)	6 hrs.
Capstone Project (3 hours)	3 hrs.
TOTAL	33

CONCENTRATION AREA: MLA CRIMINAL JUSTICE

GRADUATE FACULTY

Dickson Idusuyi, Ph.D., Department Chairperson and Professor of History

Alfred Galtney, J.D., Adjunct of Criminal Justice

Alexander Martin, J.D., Adjunct of Criminal Justice

Alaba Olundare, Ph.D., Adjunct

Program Description

The Master of Liberal Arts Criminal Justice program objective is to provide student learners with the tools and training necessary to produce literary scholarship of professional quality and to participate in the ongoing academic discussions of issues in the fields of Criminal Justice.

The primary objectives of this concentration area are to:

1. Provide a level of instruction for potential learners that will enable them to produce self-directed persons who can make healthy life choices;
2. Provide student learners with a deeper level of Criminal Justice skills and understanding;
3. To provide student learners with an increased knowledge and skill in Criminal Justice.

Admission Requirements

1. A minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 for regular admission and 2.5 for conditional admission at the undergraduate level.
2. A score on the GRE within the last five years sent directly to the Office of Graduate Studies.
3. Two letters of recommendation sent directly to the Office of Graduate Studies.

Degree Requirements

1. To qualify for a Master of Liberal Arts degree with a Concentration in Criminal Justice the student must complete the 33 hours of coursework, maintain a 3.00 GPA or above and complete a capstone project.

Course Requirements

Core Liberal Arts Courses (6 hours)

		Credits
ILA 500	Introduction to Liberal Arts	3 hrs.
ILA 501	Research in the Liberal Arts	3 hrs.

Area of Concentration (18 hours)

		Credits
CJ 501	Advanced Constitutional Law and Criminal Justice	3 hrs.
CJ 502	Advanced Criminal Investigation	3 hrs.
CJ 505	Advanced Corrections	3 hrs.
CJ 506	Advanced Criminal Law	3 hrs.

CJ 507	Advanced Budgeting & Financial Management	3 hrs.
CJ 510	Advanced Criminal Justice System	3 hrs.
CJ 511	Advanced Judicial Process and Policy Making	3 hrs.

Interdisciplinary Electives (6 hours)

		Credits
GT 501	Advanced Constitutional Law	3 hrs.
GT 503	Advanced Public Administration Analysis	3 hrs.
GT 506	Advanced Public Policy	3 hrs.

Capstone (3 hours)

ILA 599	Capstone Project	3 hrs.
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Total		33 hrs.
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Course Descriptions: Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts (ILA)**ILA 500 – INTRODUCTION TO LIBERAL ARTS**

(3 Credits)

The Liberal Arts are academic disciplines which study the human condition. This course introduces students to the academic disciplines that promote a sense of humanity. During this quarter, we will study music, art, oral communications, literature, and philosophy by critically thinking about moral values, myths, aesthetics, and liberty; all of this within historical frameworks. It is designed to reawaken our sense of wonder and curiosity about the meaning of life. It shows how the various arts and sciences intersect, influence and are influenced by cultural and historical circumstances.

ILA 501 – RESEARCH IN THE LIBERAL ARTS

(3 Credits)

The purpose of this course is to provide an introduction to empirical research and a variety of research approaches common to the field liberal arts. Upon completing the course, participants will be able to locate, understand, evaluate, and interpret qualitative as well as quantitative educational research and use these skills to identify possible Thesis or Project topics.

ILA 599 – CAPSTONE PROJECT

(3 Credits)

Students will complete a variety of projects and written assignments designed to encourage self-analysis of career and intellectual interests in the student's chosen career field based on the concentration area that was selected by the learner.

Course Descriptions: Criminal Justice (CJ)**CJ 501 – ADVANCED CONSTITUTIONAL LAW AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE****3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This course examines the criminal justice system in the context of the United States Constitution. Given that the United States Constitution determines the processes and definitions of Justice in our society, this course examine the history and origins of legal doctrine as it relates to the practices of today's criminal justice system as well as its actors.

CJ 502 – ADVANCED CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

An extensive examination of the investigation process to include: historical origins of criminal investigation, the investigative method, note taking and reporting, crime scene focus, interviewing, the sources of information, special investigation, investigation in court, and the future of criminal investigations.

CJ 505 – ADVANCED CORRECTIONS**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This course provides an in-depth analysis and understanding of the measures used as means of “correcting” offenders (jail, prison, probation, and parole) without confinement. This course also discusses the history of corrections in America, the various opinions on punishment and rehabilitation, and the current trends in community control and juvenile intervention. The course also provides an overview of the correctional philosophies, practices, and procedures.

CJ 506 – ADVANCED CRIMINAL LAW**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This course introduces the student to the social, political, and psychological perspectives of criminal law. It offers an analysis of factors necessary to establish proof of a crime and the limits of the law.

CJ 507 – ADVANCED BUDGETING AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This course is intended to provide Criminal Justice graduates an overview of public agency budgeting and financial management. Public agency budgets are the means by which public resources are allocated and, as such, are central to the role of government. The course will provide an overview of the budget process, including the players and the strategies they employ, as well as provide students with the practical skills involved in understanding, analyzing and preparing budgets. More so, the goal of this course is to develop a foundation of financial management concepts. This will enable the student to understand how corporations make important investment and financing decisions, and how they establish working capital policies.

CJ 510 – ADVANCED CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

An intense survey course designed to provide a general theoretical understanding of the criminal justice system, the source of crime and society’s reaction to crime. Students will be able to explain the interdependent operations of the major components of the criminal justice system and the political, legal, and ethical environments in which they operate.

CJ 511 – ADVANCED JUDICIAL PROCESS AND POLICY MAKING

(3 Credits)

This course is an advanced study of the organizational structure and workloads of the federal and state judicial systems. Emphasis is placed on the nature of crime and on the various procedures prior to a criminal trial: the arrest, the appearance before a magistrate, the grand jury process, the arraignment, and the possibility of plea bargain. We will also explore the policy impact made by federal and state courts and analyze the process by which judicial rulings are implemented and some are not.

CONCENTRATION AREA: MLA ENGLISH/LITERATURE

GRADUATE FACULTY

Cynthia S. Scurria, Ph.D., Department Chairperson, Associate Professor of English
Cecile D. Bunch, Ph.D., Professor of English
J. Janice Coleman, Ph.D., Professor of English
Lillie Jones, Ph.D., Professor of English
Peter Malik, Ph.D., Professor of English
Anne-Marie Obilade, Ph.D., Associate Professor of English
Allison S. Olivier, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of English
Murray Shugars, Ph.D., Professor of English

Program Description

The Master of Liberal Arts English Literature program objective is to provide student learners with the tools and training necessary to produce literary scholarship of professional quality and to participate in the ongoing academic discussions of issues in the fields of English and Literature.

Students who successfully complete this concentration area will be able to:

1. closely and critically analyze literary texts and credible, relevant criticism of a wide variety of literature written by authors of various nationalities, genders, races, and cultures, and representing various genres and literary historical periods;
2. demonstrate an understanding of the key figures and texts in literary theory and illustrate how differing critical/theoretical approaches to literary texts can yield varying (and often equally valid) interpretations;
3. develop and support critical arguments appropriate to the discipline and express these arguments in clear, insightful, academic prose; and
4. complete graduate level research and writing in the discipline.

Admission Requirements

1. A minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 at the undergraduate level.
2. GRE test results from the general test taken within the last five years and sent directly to the Office of Graduate Studies, with a score of 146 or better on the verbal test and a score of 3 or better on the written test.
3. Two letters of recommendation sent directly to the Office of Graduate Studies.
4. A personal statement of no more than 750 words explaining your qualifications for this concentration area and your career goals after completing the degree.

Degree Requirements

1. To qualify for a Master of Liberal Arts degree with a Concentration in English and Literature the student must complete the 33 hours of coursework, maintain a 3.00 GPA or above and complete a capstone project.

Course Requirements

Core Liberal Arts Courses (6 hours)

		Credits
ILA 500	Introduction to Liberal Arts	3 hrs.
ILA 501	Research in the Liberal Arts	3 hrs.

Area of Concentration (18 hours)

		Credits
EN 504	Literary Theory	3 hrs.
EN 511	Seminar in English Literature	3 hrs.
EN 512	Seminar in American Literature	3 hrs.
EN 530	Literary Genres	3 hrs.
EN 552	Research Methods in Literary Studies	3 hrs.
EN 561	Special Topics in Literature	3 hrs.

Interdisciplinary Courses (6 hours)

		Credits
CO 540	Theory of Mass Communication	3 hrs.
HI 501	Historiography	3 hrs.
MU 508	Seminar in Music History and Literature	3 hrs.

Capstone (3 hours)

		Credits
ILA 599	Capstone Project	3 hrs.
Total		33 hrs.

Descriptions: English and Literature (EN)

EN 504 – LITERARY THEORY **3-0-3**
 (3 Credits)
 A study of literary theory and its relevance to literature.

EN 511 – SEMINAR IN ENGLISH LITERATURE **3-0-3**
 (3 Credits)
 The intensive study of a selected genre, theme, or author in English literature, with close collaboration between instructor and students in defining the area of study. Pre-requisite: graduate standing or permission of department chairperson.

EN 512 – SEMINAR IN AMERICAN LITERATURE **3-0-3**
 (3 Credits)
 The intensive study of a selected literary historical period or author in American literature.

EN 530 – LITERARY GENRES **3-0-3**
 (3 Credits)
 An exploration of one or more literary genres.

EN 552 – RESEARCH METHODS IN LITERARY STUDIES 3-0-3

(3 Credits)

A study of the specialized tools of literary research (bibliographies, indexes, online sources, etc.). Students will also learn how to analyze secondary sources and incorporate their findings into their own writing in order to develop the skills necessary to producing original literary criticism.

EN 561 – SPECIAL TOPICS IN LITERATURE 3-0-3

(3 Credits)

A seminar course focusing on an area of literature specified by the faculty and ranging across historical periods, nationalities, and genres.

Liberal Arts (ILA)**ILA 500 – INTRODUCTION TO LIBERAL ARTS 3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

The Liberal Arts are academic disciplines which study the human condition. This course introduces students to the academic disciplines that promote a sense of humanity. During this quarter, we will study music, art, oral communications, literature, and philosophy by critically thinking about moral values, myths, aesthetics, and liberty; all of this within historical frameworks. It is designed to reawaken our sense of wonder and curiosity about the meaning of life. It shows how the various arts and sciences intersect, influence and are influenced by cultural and historical circumstances.

ILA 501 – RESEARCH IN THE LIBERAL ARTS 3-0-3

(3 Credits)

The purpose of this course is to provide an introduction to empirical research and a variety of research approaches common to the field liberal arts. Upon completing the course, participants will be able to locate, understand, evaluate, and interpret qualitative as well as quantitative educational research and use these skills to identify possible Thesis or Project topics.

ILA 599 – CAPSTONE PROJECT 3-0-3

(3 Credits)

Students will complete a variety of projects and written assignments designed to encourage self-analysis of career and intellectual interests in the student's chosen career field based on the concentration area that was selected by the learner.

CONCENTRATION AREA: MLA HISTORY

GRADUATE FACULTY

Dickson Idusuyi, Ph.D., Department Chairperson and Professor of History

Yulonda Sano, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of History

Sheren Sanders, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of History

Program Description

The Master of Liberal Arts History program objective is to provide student learners with the tools and training necessary to produce literary scholarship of professional quality and to participate in the ongoing academic discussions of issues in the fields of History.

The primary objectives of this concentration area are to:

1. Provide a level of instruction for potential learner that will enable them to produce self-directed persons who are capable of making healthy life choices;
2. Provide student learners with a deeper level of history skills and understanding;
3. To provide student learners with an increased knowledge and skill in the area of History.

Admission Requirements

1. A minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 for regular admission and 2.5 for conditional admission at the undergraduate level.
2. A score on the GRE within the last five years sent directly to the Office of Graduate Studies.
3. Three letters of recommendation sent directly to the Office of Graduate Studies.

Degree Requirements

1. To qualify for a Master of Liberal Arts degree with a Concentration in History the student must complete the 33 hours of coursework, maintain a 3.00 GPA or above and complete a capstone project.

Course Requirements

Core Liberal Arts Courses (6 hours)

		Credits
ILA 500	Introduction to Liberal Arts	3 hrs.
ILA 501	Research in the Liberal Arts	3 hrs.

Area of Concentration (18 hours)

		Credits
HI 501	Historiography	3 hrs.
HI 502	Global World Studies	3 hrs.
HI 503	Colonial American History	3 hrs.
HI 504	History of the Middle East	3 hrs.
HI 505	African American Internationalism	3 hrs.
HI 506	African American Historiograph	3 hrs.
HI 507	History or the African Diaspora	3 hrs.
	Total	18 hrs.

Interdisciplinary Electives – (6 credit hours)

		Credits
GT 501	Advanced Constitutional Law	3 hrs.
GT 504	Advanced International Relations Studies	3 hrs.
GT 505	Advanced International Law	3 hrs.

Capstone (3 credit hours)

		Credits
ILA 599	Capstone Project	3 hrs.
	TOTAL	33 hrs.

Course Description: History (HI)

HI 501 – HISTORIOGRAPHY

3-0-3

(3 Credits)

This course provides students with an introduction to historiography: the history and science of writing history. As the discipline of history is vast and complex, we will concentrate on a selection of important contributions to the field, exploring seminal works and theories as well as debates with which every modern historian must be familiar. In addition, this course will introduce students to the profession of history, covering topics from genres of historical works to participating in conferences to professional expectations and codes of conduct. Finally, this course will reinforce the requirements of the History MLA program and begin preparation for the thesis.

HI 502 – GLOBAL WORLD STUDIES

3-0-3

(3 Credits)

This course will take the form of a set of inquiries into the emergence of this global world, with a focus on the study of the historical dynamics at work. We will bring a dual focus to the history we study: the development of key political, social, economic, cultural, and religious traditions on the one hand, and the encounters which took place between groups, societies, and worldviews on the other.

HI 503 – COLONIAL AMERICAN HISTORY **3-0-3**
(3 Credits)

This course examines the interactions among Indians, Africans, and Europeans in the centuries after they first encountered each other on the North American continent.

HI 504 – HISTORY OF THE MIDDLE EAST **3-0-3**
(3 Credits)

This course will examine some of the major developments in the history of the modern Middle East, from the late 18th century, through the breakup of the Ottoman Empire and the formation of modern nation states, to the present.

HI 505 – AFRICAN AMERICAN INTERNATIONALISM **3-0-3**
(3 Credits)

The role of this course will be that of providing students with an opportunity to enhance their understanding of diversity and multiculturalism in general and, even more specifically, in of the cultural perspective of African Americans. This course will examine several issues, topics, and themes that are central to the historical experiences of African Americans.

HI 506 – AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORIOGRAPHY **3-0-3**
(3 Credits)

The role of this course will be that of providing students with an opportunity to enhance their understanding of diversity and multiculturalism in general and, even more specifically, in of the cultural perspective of African Americans. This course will examine several issues, topics, and themes that are central to the historical experiences of African Americans.

HI 507 – HISTORY OF THE AFRICAN DIASPORA **3-0-3**
(3 Credits)

This course will survey Africa's multifaceted wisdom, beginning with the civilization of ancient Nubia [Egypt and the Sudan], the Black Kingdoms of the Nile, moving on to examine the many ideas and practices associated with Ethiopia, Nigeria, as well as Mali, Benin, Kenya, Senegal, Tanzania, and Ghana.

Liberal Arts (ILA)**ILA 500 – INTRODUCTION TO LIBERAL ARTS** **3-0-3**
(3 Credits)

The Liberal Arts are academic disciplines which study the human condition. This course introduces students to the academic disciplines that promote a sense of humanity. During this quarter, we will study music, art, oral communications, literature, and philosophy by critically thinking about moral values, myths, aesthetics, and liberty; all of this within historical frameworks. It is designed to reawaken our sense of wonder and curiosity about the meaning of life. It shows how the various arts and sciences intersect, influence and are influenced by cultural and historical circumstances.

ILA 501 – RESEARCH IN THE LIBERAL ARTS **3-0-3**
(3 Credits)

The purpose of this course is to provide an introduction to empirical research and a variety of research approaches common to the field liberal arts. Upon completing the course, participants will be able to locate, understand, evaluate, and interpret qualitative as well as quantitative educational research and use these skills to identify possible Thesis or Project topics.

ILA 599 – CAPSTONE PROJECT **3-0-3**
(3 Credits)

Students will complete a variety of projects and written assignments designed to encourage self-analysis of career and intellectual interests in the student's chosen career field based on the concentration area that was selected by the learner.

CONCENTRATION AREA: MLA MASS COMMUNICATION

GRADUATE FACULTY

Eric Dogini, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Mass Communication

Toni Terrett, J.D., Assistant Professor of Mass Communication

Jerry Domatob, Ph.D., Professor of Mass Communication

Program Description

The Master of Liberal Arts Mass Communications program objective is to provide student learners with the tools and training necessary to produce literary scholarship of professional quality and to participate in the ongoing academic discussions of issues in the fields of Mass Communications.

The primary objectives of this concentration area are to:

1. Provide a level of instruction that will produce self-directed persons who will become lifelong learners who can contribute to the ongoing study of Mass Communications;
2. Provide student learners with a deeper level of Mass Communications skills and understanding;
3. To provide student learners with an increased knowledge and skill in the area of Mass Communications.

Admission Requirements

1. A minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 for regular admission and 2.5 for conditional admission at the undergraduate level.
2. A score on the GRE within the last five years sent directly to the Office of Graduate Studies.
3. Three letters of recommendation sent directly to the Office of Graduate Studies.

Degree Requirements

1. To qualify for a Master of Liberal Arts degree with a Concentration in Mass Communications the student must complete the 33 hours of coursework, maintain a 3.00 GPA or above and complete a capstone project.

Course Requirements

Core Liberal Arts Courses (6 hours)

		Credits
ILA 500	Introduction to Liberal Arts	3 hrs.
ILA 501	Research in the Liberal Arts	3 hrs.

Area of Concentration (18 hours)

		Credits
CO 521	Mass Communication Law and Policy	3 hrs.
CO 525	Current Issues and Trends in Mass Media	3 hrs.
CO 540	Theory of Mass Communication	3 hrs.
CO 550	Communication Research Methods	3 hrs.
CO 560	Social Media: Objectives, Strategies and Tactics	3 hrs.
CO 591	Communication and Public Opinion	3 hrs.

Interdisciplinary Courses (6 hours)

		Credits
GT 501	Advanced Constitutional Law	
HI 501	Historiography	3 hrs.
HI 502	Global World Studies	3 hrs.
HI 503	Colonial American History	3 hrs.
HI 506	Afro-American History	3 hrs.
HI 507	African Diaspora	3 hrs.
MU 508	Seminar in Music History and Literature	3 hrs.
MU 511	World Music	3 hrs.

Capstone (3 hours)

		Credits
ILA 599	Capstone Project	3 hrs.

Total**33 hrs.****Descriptions: Mass Communications (CO)****CO 500 – THEORY OF MASS COMMUNICATIONS****3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

Examine and discuss basic theories related to the processes and effects of mass communication. Explore relevant theories that advance scientific knowledge base in Mass Communication from the social sciences literature and highlight the influence of the social sciences on the theoretical foundations in communication.

CO 501 – COMMUNICATIONS RESEARCH METHODS**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

Examines specific scientific methods used in the social sciences as they inform communication theory and practice. Discuss research methods in communication that introduces students to the basic concepts and methods of scientific inquiry with emphasis on developing and narrowing a research topic, data collection methods, and analysis. Provides a framework for evaluating communication research. Review various research methods for investigating mass communication process and effects, and in addition learn how to develop research proposals.

CO 502 – COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC OPINION**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

Theories and assumptions surrounding public opinion formation and change; measurement and reporting of public opinion trends; public reactions to polling, news information and marketing communications; analysis of public opinion data. Students will gain knowledge of public opinion's complex relationship to interpersonal and mass communication processes as well as its major theories, trends, methods, findings and debates.

CO 503 – MASS COMMUNICATIONS LAW AND POLICY **3-0-3**
(3 Credits)

Advanced study of the legal privileges and responsibilities of the traditional *mass* media and the Internet under the First Amendment. Emphasis on how domestic and international principles regarding speech, press and information shape professional activity and creative endeavors.

CO 504 – CURRENT ISSUES AND TRENDS IN MASS MEDIA **3-0-3**
(3 Credits)

This course focuses on contemporary issues and trends in the mass media. Against the backdrop of history, case studies, content and discourse analysis, the class highlights current social, political, economic and cultural challenges and trends in the media. It proposes policy options. Among the topics that will be covered are the current state of the news industry, the ethical guidelines that journalists are supposed to follow, the blurring of lines between news and entertainment, and the news media's role in making people famous or infamous.

CO 505 – SOCIAL MEDIA: OBJECTIVES, STRATEGIES AND TACTICS **3-0-3**
(3 Credits)

This course will tackle these questions from a historical, ethical, ecological, political, economic and cultural perspective. This course will introduce students to a broad overview of social media topics through a combination of theoretical grounding, practical application, and, especially, strategic thinking.

Liberal Arts (ILA)

ILA 500 – INTRODUCTION TO LIBERAL ARTS **3-0-3**
(3 Credits)

The Liberal Arts are academic disciplines which study the human condition. This course introduces students to the academic disciplines that promote a sense of humanity. During this quarter, we will study music, art, oral communications, literature, and philosophy by critically thinking about moral values, myths, aesthetics, and liberty; all of this within historical frameworks. It is designed to reawaken our sense of wonder and curiosity about the meaning of life. It shows how the various arts and sciences intersect, influence and are influenced by cultural and historical circumstances.

ILA 501 – RESEARCH IN THE LIBERAL ARTS **3-0-3**
(3 Credits)

The purpose of this course is to provide an introduction to empirical research and a variety of research approaches common to the field liberal arts. Upon completing the course, participants will be able to locate, understand, evaluate, and interpret qualitative as well as quantitative educational research and use these skills to identify possible Thesis or Project topics.

ILA 599 – CAPSTONE PROJECT **3-0-3**
(3 Credits)

Students will complete a variety of projects and written assignments designed to encourage self-analysis of career and intellectual interests in the student's chosen career field based on the concentration area that was selected by the learner.

CONCENTRATION AREA: MLA MUSIC

GRADUATE FACULTY

David Goldblatt, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Music

Byron Johnson, D.M.A., Associate Professor of Music

David Miller, D.A., Professor of Music

Renardo R. Murray, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Music and MLA Program Coordinator

Program Description

The Master of Liberal Arts (MLA) music concentration aims to combine the study of performance, pedagogy, music theory, music history, and scholarly research and writing.

The primary objectives of this concentration area are to:

1. Provide a level of instruction for potential musicians that will enable them to produce self-directed persons who are capable of making healthy life choices;
2. Provide student learners with a deeper level of musical skill and understanding;
3. To provide student learners with an increased knowledge and skill in the pedagogy of music teaching, and performance.

Admission Requirements

1. A minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 for regular admission and 2.5 for conditional admission at the undergraduate level.
2. A score on the GRE within the last five years sent directly to the Office of Graduate Studies.
3. Three letters of recommendation sent directly to the Office of Graduate Studies.

Degree Requirements

1. To qualify for a Master of Liberal Arts degree with a Concentration in Music the student must complete the 33 hours of coursework, maintain a 3.00 GPA or above and complete a capstone project.

Course Requirements

Core Liberal Arts Courses (6 hours)

		Credits
LA 500	Introduction to Liberal Arts	3 hrs.
LA 501	Research in the Liberal Arts	3 hrs.

Area of Concentration (18 hours)

		Credits
MU 500	History and Philosophy of Music Education	3 hrs.
MU 501	Methods of Teaching Music in the Secondary School	3 hrs.
MU 502	Survey of Research in Music Education	3 hrs.
MU 503	Administration of the School Music Program	3 hrs.
MU 504	Contemporary Issues Music Education	3 hrs.
MU 505	Seminar in Music Theory	3 hrs.
MU 506	Seminar in Music Theory	3 hrs.
MU 507	Selected Topics in Music Theory	3 hrs.
MU 508	Seminar in Music History and Literature	3 hrs.
MU 509	Selected Topics in Music History and Literature	3 hrs.
MU 510	Music Pedagogy and Techniques	3 hrs.
MU 511	World Music	3 hrs.

Interdisciplinary Courses (6 hours)

		Credits
CJ 501	Adv. Constitutional Law & Crim	3 hrs.
CJ 502	Adv. Criminal Investigation	3 hrs.
CJ 505	Adv. Corrections	3 hrs.
CJ 506	Adv. Criminal Law	3 hrs.
CJ 507	Adv. Budg. Analysis/Public Fin	3 hrs.
CJ 510	Adv. Criminal Justice System	3 hrs.
CJ 511	Adv. Justice process & Policy	3 hrs.
HI 503	Colonial American History	3 hrs.
HI 505	African American International	3 hrs.

Capstone (3 hours)

		Credits	Course
ILA 599	Capstone Project	3 hrs.	
Total		33 hrs.	

Descriptions: Music (MU)

MU 505 – SEMINAR IN MUSIC THEORY

3-0-3

(3 Credits)

This course will cover one or more of the following areas of music theory: Pedagogy of Music Theory, Analytical Techniques and/or Orchestration and Arranging. The specific topic or topics will be chosen through collaboration between student and instructor and is designed to broaden knowledge and develop further skills in selected areas of music theory.

MU 507 – SELECTED TOPICS IN MUSIC THEORY 3-0-3
(3 Credits)

A survey of techniques of analysis of style and structure of music from all periods of music history. Analytical concepts in learning, teaching, and performing music literature.

MU 508 – SEMINAR IN MUSIC HISTORY AND LITERATURE 3-0-3
(3 Credits)

This course examines the forms, styles, literature and composers from the Middle Ages to the Modern Period.

MU 509 – SELECTED TOPICS IN MUSIC HISTORY AND LITERATURE 3-0-3
(3 Credits)

Topics may be selected from the following: Sonata History; Opera History; 19th Century Art Song; Cantata History; Symphony History; Brahms; Mozart; Bach; Beethoven; Debussy, Ravel; and Jazz History.

MU 510 – MUSIC PEDAGOGY AND TECHNIQUES 3-0-3
(3 Credits)

Specific and intensive research in each student's major instrument or voice, covering: (1) history overview, (2) texts, methods and periodicals; (3) orchestral studies, (4) solo and ensemble techniques and literature, and (5) listening and to performances.

MU 511 – WORLD MUSIC 3-0-3
(3 Credits)

An intense and comprehensive survey of concepts, problems and methods of research in non-Western and folk music.

Liberal Arts (ILA)

ILA 500 – INTRODUCTION TO LIBERAL ARTS 3-0-3
(3 Credits)

The Liberal Arts are academic disciplines which study the human condition. This course introduces students to the academic disciplines that promote a sense of humanity. During this quarter, we will study music, art, oral communications, literature, and philosophy by critically thinking about moral values, myths, aesthetics, and liberty; all of this within historical frameworks. It is designed to reawaken our sense of wonder and curiosity about the meaning of life. It shows how the various arts and sciences intersect, influence and are influenced by cultural and historical circumstances.

ILA 501 – RESEARCH IN THE LIBERAL ARTS 3-0-3
(3 Credits)

The purpose of this course is to provide an introduction to empirical research and a variety of research approaches common to the field liberal arts. Upon completing the course, participants will be able to locate, understand, evaluate, and interpret qualitative as well as quantitative educational research and use these skills to identify possible Thesis or Project topics.

ILA 599 – CAPSTONE PROJECT 3-0-3
(3 Credits)

Students will complete a variety of projects and written assignments designed to encourage self-analysis of career and intellectual interests in the student's chosen career field based on the concentration area that was selected by the learner.

CONCENTRATION AREA: MLA POLITICAL SCIENCE

Course Requirements

Core Liberal Arts Courses (6 hours)

		Credits
ILA 500	Introduction to Liberal Arts	3 hrs.
ILA 501	Research in the Liberal Arts	3 hrs.

Area of Concentration (18 hours)

		Credits
GT 501	Advanced Constitutional Law	3 hrs.
GT 502	Advanced Judicial Process and Policy	3 hrs.
GT 503	Advanced Public Administration Analysis	3 hrs.
GT 504	Advanced International Relations Studies	3 hrs.
GT 505	Advanced International Law	3 hrs.
GT 506	Advanced Public Policy	3 hrs.

Interdisciplinary Electives – (6 hours)

CJ 505	Advanced Corrections	3 hrs.
CJ 507	Advanced Budgeting & Financial Management	3 hrs.
HI 505	Advanced African American Internationalism	3 hrs.

Capstone – (3 hours)

ILA 599	Capstone Project	3 hrs.
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	Total	33 hrs.
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Political Science Course Descriptions (GT)

GT 501 – ADVANCED CONSTITUTIONAL LAW **3-0-3**
(3 Credits)

Advanced Constitutional Law provides a deeper systematic discussion to some landmark constitutional civil liberties cases relevant to American legal system and process. This course is designed to sharpen the student's knowledge and skills concerning American constitutional law and civil liberties.

GT 502 – ADVANCED JUDICIAL PROCESS AND POLICY **3-0-3**
(3 Credits)

Advanced Judicial Process and Policy: This course is an advanced study of the organizational structure and workloads of the federal and state judicial systems. Emphasis is placed on the nature of crime and on the various procedures prior to a criminal trial: the arrest, the appearance before a magistrate, the grand jury process, the arraignment, and the possibility of plea bargain. We will also explore the policy impact made by federal and state courts and analyze the process by which judicial rulings are implemented and some are not.

GT 503 – ADVANCED PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION ANALYSIS**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This is an advanced study that explores public administration as a major component in public policy making in America. This course will familiarize students with the roles and functions of public agencies in governance and our daily lives. This course will deal with current issues and cases in order to explore the theoretical and practical roles of governmental agencies. Moreover, this course will explore the increasing role of non-profit organizations and the trend toward privatization in terms of their effects on the delivery of governmental services. In specific, this course will pay attention to the duties, responsibilities and challenges that face individual administrators, particularly in the public sectors/agencies. This course also introduces students to the concepts and case studies of public administration and the theories of bureaucracy. It may help and prepare students with the desire to pursue a doctoral program in the upper-level courses such as Public Organizations, and Public Policy Analysis.

GT 504 – ADVANCED INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS STUDIES**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This course provides an introduction to the international relations and the major problems confronting the peoples and nations of the world. In addition, the course will focus on the major factors which influence the formation of foreign policy and the nature of international organizations.

GT 505 – ADVANCED INTERNATIONAL LAW**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

Advance International Law Research, provides an introduction to the basic foundations and scope of international law. This course is designed to give the student a solid foundation in the manner in which international law is created, interpreted, and enforced. Further, the inter-relationship of international law with respective national laws are explored. Several chapters are devoted to discrete subject matter areas, such as human rights, environment, international crimes, and the laws of war.

GT 506 – ADVANCED PUBLIC POLICY**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This advanced course in public policy is designed to provide students with concrete tools for not only understanding public policy in general, but for analyzing *specific* public policies. It focuses on *what* policies governments pursue, *why* governments pursue the policies they do, and what the *consequences* of these policies are. Very contemporary in perspective, it introduces eight analytical models currently used by political scientists to describe and explain political life and then, using these various analytical models—singly and in combination—explores specific public policies in a variety of key domestic policy areas. This course is also designed to enhance graduate's students understanding of Public Policy as an integral part of the role of governmental in both private public sectors, i., what government do, why they do what they do, who get what, why, and how.

Liberal Arts (ILA)**ILA 500 – INTRODUCTION TO LIBERAL ARTS****3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

The Liberal Arts are academic disciplines which study the human condition. This course introduces students to the academic disciplines that promote a sense of humanity. During this quarter, we will study music, art, oral communications, literature, and philosophy by critically thinking about moral values, myths, aesthetics, and liberty; all of this within historical frameworks. It is designed to reawaken our sense of wonder and curiosity about the meaning of life. It shows how the various arts and sciences intersect, influence and are influenced by cultural and historical circumstances.

ILA 501 – RESEARCH METHODS IN LIBERAL ARTS**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

The purpose of this course is to provide an introduction to empirical research and a variety of research approaches common to the field liberal arts. Upon completing the course, participants will be able to locate, understand, evaluate, and interpret qualitative as well as quantitative educational research and use these skills to identify possible Thesis or Project topics.

ILA 599 – CAPSTONE PROJECT**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

Students will complete a variety of projects and written assignments designed to encourage self-analysis of career and intellectual interests in the student's chosen career field based on the concentration area that was selected by the learner.

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS AND COMPUTER SCIENCE

Ping Zhang, Ph.D., Interim Department Chairperson
Math and Science Building, 1st Floor
1000 ASU Drive #30
Phone: 601-877-6430 FAX: 601-877-6631

Graduate Faculty

Thir Dangal, PhD, Assistant Professor of Mathematics
Saedar Haque, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Mathematics
Qingwen Hu, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Mathematics
Ramesh Maddali, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Mathematics
Taipan Tiwari, PhD, Professor of Mathematics
Lixin Yu, PhD, Professor of Computer and Information Science
Ping Zhang, Chairperson and Associate Professor of Computer Science

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN COMPUTER AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

Program Description

This program is designed to meet the needs of two groups of students: those who have completed an undergraduate degree in Computer Sciences, and those with degrees in related fields who want to develop their knowledge and skill in computer science. Upon successful completion of a M.S. Degree program in Computer Science at Alcorn State University, students will demonstrate competence in the following core areas:

1. Programming skills in high level languages and ability to build software systems
2. Ability to conduct independent research and writing of technical reports and papers for publications
3. Good oral and written communication skills
4. Ability to work in teams as productive members and as leaders

The program includes focus in specialty areas in the following:

Artificial Intelligence
Cyber Security
Database Management
Programming Languages

Admission Requirements:

Meet all admission requirement set by the University.

Graduation Requirements:

1.	Master degree candidates must complete a minimum 33 credit hours including at least 15 credit hours of required courses
2.	<p>If the candidates' undergraduate major is not Computer Science or the following courses are not listed in their undergraduate transcripts, the candidates are required to take following courses to meet graduation requirements:</p> <p>2.1) if Discrete Mathematics course is not listed in the candidate's undergraduate transcript, the candidates are required to enroll one Discrete Mathematics course.</p> <p>2.2) if C++ or Java and Object Oriented Programming (OOP) courses are not listed in the candidate's undergraduate transcript, the candidates are required to take OOP and Data Structure course.</p>
3.	Master degree candidates must complete either thesis (6 credit hours) or a research project (3 credit hours) or internship (3 credit hours).

Course Requirements (Thesis Plan)

Required Courses (18 Hours)		Credits
CS 521	Theory of Computation	3 hrs.
CS 523	Programming Languages	3 hrs.
CS 525	Operating Systems	3 hrs.
CS 527	Design and Analysis of Algorithms	3 hrs.
CS 590	Thesis*	6 hrs.
Elective Courses (15 Hours)		Credits
CS 529	Information Retrieval System I	3 hrs.
CS 531	Artificial Intelligence	3 hrs.
CS 533	Database Management Systems	3 hrs.
CS 535	Computer Architecture	3 hrs.
CS 537	Computer Graphics	3 hrs.
CS 539	Compiler Construction	3 hrs.
CS 540	Implementation of Adv. Algorithms	3 hrs.
CS 541	Software Engineering	3 hrs.
CS 543	Scientific Computation	3 hrs.
CS 545	Network and Telecom I	3 hrs.
CS 546	Network and Telecom II	3 hrs.
CS 547	Algorithms for Parallel Computers	3 hrs.
CS 553	Information Retrieval System II	3 hrs.
CS 555	Object-Oriented Programming and Data Structure	3 hrs.
CS 557	Information Indexing and Analysis	3 hrs.
CS 558	Fundamentals in Cybersecurity	3 hrs.
CS 559	Data Mining and Machine Learning in Cybersecurity	3 hrs.
CS 560	Special Topics I in Computer Science	3 hrs.
CS 561	Special Topic II in Computer Science	3 hrs.
CS 565	Software Development Theory	3 hrs.

TOTAL **33 hrs.**

Course Requirements (Non-Thesis Plan)

Required Courses (15 Hours)	Credits
CS 521 Theory of Computation	3 hrs.
CS 523 Programming Languages	3 hrs.
CS 525 Operating Systems	3 hrs.
CS 527 Design and Analysis of Algorithms	3 hrs.
CS 580 Research Project *	3 hrs.
Elective Courses (18 Hours)	Credits
CS 529 Information Retrieval System I	3 hrs.
CS 531 Artificial Intelligence	3 hrs.
CS 533 Database Management Systems	3 hrs.
CS 535 Computer Architecture	3 hrs.
CS 537 Computer Graphics	3 hrs.
CS 539 Compiler Construction	3 hrs.
CS 540 Implementation of Adv. Algorithms	3 hrs.
CS 541 Software Engineering	3 hrs.
CS 543 Scientific Computation	3 hrs.
CS 545 Network and Telecom I	3 hrs.
CS 546 Network and Telecom II	3 hrs.
CS 547 Algorithms for Parallel Computers	3 hrs.
CS 553 Information Retrieval System II	3 hrs.
CS 555 Object-Oriented Programming and Data Structure	3 hrs.
CS 557 Information Indexing and Analysis	3 hrs.
CS 559 Data Mining and Machine Learning in Cybersecurity	3 hrs.
CS 560 Special Topics I in Computer Science	3 hrs.
CS 561 Special Topic II in Computer Science	3 hrs.
CS 565 Software Development Theory	3 hrs.

TOTAL **33 hrs.**

Course Requirements (Internship Plan)

Required Courses (15 Hours)	Credits
CS 521 Theory of Computation	3 hrs.
CS 523 Programming Languages	3 hrs.
CS 525 Operating Systems	3 hrs.
CS 527 Design and Analysis of Algorithms	3 hrs.
CS 581 Internship*	3 hrs.
Elective Courses (18 Hours)	Credits
CS 529 Information Retrieval System I	3 hrs.
CS 531 Artificial Intelligence	3 hrs.
CS 533 Database Management Systems	3 hrs.
CS 535 Computer Architecture	3 hrs.
CS 537 Computer Graphics	3 hrs.

CS 539	Compiler Construction	3 hrs.
CS 540	Implementation of Adv. Algorithms	3 hrs.
CS 541	Software Engineering	3 hrs.
CS 543	Scientific Computation	3 hrs.
CS 545	Network and Telecom I	3 hrs.
CS 546	Network and Telecom II	3 hrs.
CS 547	Algorithms for Parallel Computers	3 hrs.
CS 553	Information Retrieval System II	3 hrs.
CS 555	Object-Oriented Programming and Data Structure	3 hrs.
CS 557	Information Indexing and Analysis	3 hrs.
CS 559	Data Mining and Machine Learning in Cybersecurity	3 hrs.
CS 560	Special Topics I in Computer Science	3 hrs.
CS 561	Special Topic II in Computer Science	3 hrs.
CS 565	Software Development Theory	3 hrs.
TOTAL		33 hrs.

Computer Science Course Descriptions (CS)

CS 521 – THEORY OF COMPUTATION

3-0-3

(3 Credits)

Introducing fundamental ideas, models, and languages that permeate computer science. Describing certain restricted models of computation. Studying general computer models (Finite Automata, Regular Languages and Regular Grammars, Context-Free Languages, Simplification of Context-Free Grammars and Normal Forms, Pushdown Automata, Turing Machine) and their applications.

Pre-requisite: None.

CS 523 – PROGRAMMING LANGUAGES

3-0-3

(3 Credits)

This course surveys the concepts, features, and history of a variety of programming languages. Main topics include data and procedural abstraction, programming paradigms, and formal semantics. Popular programming languages are studied and compared feature by feature. Scholarly research is required in this course.

Prerequisite: CS 321 or equivalent.

CS 525 – OPERATING SYSTEMS

3-0-3

(3 Credits)

This course examines the important problems in operating system design and implementation. The operating system provides an established, convenient, and efficient interface between user programs and the bare hardware of the computer on which they run. The operating system is responsible for sharing resources (e.g., disks, networks, and processors), providing common services needed by many different programs (e.g., file service, the ability to start or stop processes, and access to the printer), and protecting individual programs from interfering with one another. Particular emphasis will be given to three major OS subsystems: process management (processes, threads, CPU scheduling, synchronization, and deadlock), memory management (segmentation, paging, swapping), and file systems; and on operating system support for distributed systems.

Pre-requisite: CS 321 or equivalent.

CS 527 – DESIGN AND ANALYSIS OF ALGORITHMS

3-0-3

(3 Credits)

Techniques of designing and analyzing algorithms. Divide-and-conquer methods, greedy algorithms, dynamic programming, backtracking, branch-and-bound techniques, amortized analysis, Computational Complexity Classes, NP-hard and NP-complete problems, and heuristics. Cook's Theorem.

Pre-requisite: CS 321, MA 304.

CS 529 – INFORMATION RETRIEVAL SYSTEM I**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This course introduces the theories and algorithms of advanced information retrieval systems. The course provides an overall picture of the information retrieval system as well as detailed implementation of the subsystems. Topics include automatic indexing, query formulation, output ranking, and the design and evaluation of information retrieval systems.

Prerequisites: CS321 or equivalent.

CS 531 – ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

Definition of heuristic versus algorithmic methods. Special purpose programming languages; knowledge representation; automated inference; expert systems; machine learning; and neural computation.

Pre-requisite: CS 321 or equivalent.

CS 533 – DATABASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

Relational and other data models, data independence, relational algebra and calculus, SQL, normal forms and normalization, semantic modeling and ER diagrams.

Pre-requisite: None.

CS 535 – COMPUTER ARCHITECTURE**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This course is designed to introduce students the basics of computer architecture and organization. It will cover the following aspects: number representations, digital logic (Boolean algebra, the gates of digital logic circuits, combinational circuit), computer systems and functions, cache memory, internal memory, external memory, input/output modules and interrupt, system buses. If time is permitted, processor structure, RISC and parallel processing will also be discussed.

Pre-requisite: None.

CS 537 – COMPUTER GRAPHICS**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

Assuming no background in computer graphics, this graduate-level course presents basic principles for the design, use, and understanding of computer graphics systems and applications. Updated throughout for the latest developments and technologies, this course combines the principles and major techniques in computer graphics with state-of-the-art examples that relate to things students see every day on the Internet and in computer-generated movies. Practical, accessible, and integrated in approach, it carefully presents each concept, explains the underlying mathematics, shows how to translate the math into program code, and displays the result.

Pre-requisite: None.

CS 539 – COMPILER CONSTRUCTION**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

Formal description of languages, lexical analysis, syntax analysis, syntax-directed translation, run-time system management, code generation, code optimization, compiler-building tools.

Pre-requisite: CS 525.

CS 540 – IMPLEMENTATION OF ADVANCED ALGORITHMS**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This is a course on more complex data structures, and algorithm design and analysis. Topics include: asymptotic complexity analysis; standard algorithm design techniques; graph algorithms; sorting algorithms; and other "classic" algorithms that serve as examples of design techniques.

Pre-requisite: None.

CS 541 – SOFTWARE ENGINEERING**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

Concept of software and software engineering, software engineering modeling, requirements, architectural design, user interface design, software quality management, software programming, software testing strategies, software verification and validation, the trend of the future of software engineering.

Pre-requisite: None.

CS 543 – SCIENTIFIC COMPUTATION

3-0-3

(3 Credits)

Study of numerical algorithms, Mathematical models, their implementations in C++, MATLAB, implementation on parallel machines, application of these methods in Science and Engineering problems.

Pre-requisite: CS 321 or equivalent, good Mathematics background.

CS 545 – NETWORK AND TELECOM I

3-0-3

(3 Credits)

This course introduces a broad overview of computer networking and the Internet (terminology and concepts), conceptual and implementation aspects of network applications, relationship between the transport and network layers, controlling the transmission rate of transport layer entities, causes and consequences of congestion, as well as commonly used congestion-control techniques, TCP's approach to congestion control, and exactly how the network layer implements the host-to-host communication service.

Prerequisite: MA 181 and CS 480 or any programming course or special permission from the instructor.

CS 546 – NETWORK AND TELECOM II

3-0-3

(3 Credits)

This course introduces exactly how the network layer implements the host-to-host communication service, explore several important link-layer concepts, dive deeper into error detection and correction (a topic touched on briefly in CS 440 or CS 545), mobile users, wireless links, networks, and their relationship to the larger (typically wired) networks to which they connect. How multimedia applications, multimedia application can be classified as streaming stored audio/video, conversational voice/video-over-IP, or streaming live audio/video.

Pre-requisite: CS 440 or CS 545.

CS 547 – ALGORITHMS FOR PARALLEL COMPUTERS

3-0-3

(3 Credits)

Advanced computer architectures, parallel and distributed computing, parallel algorithms and their implementation, scientific problems which need high performance computation. Pre-requisite: CS 527 or Permission of Instructor.

CS 553 – INFORMATION RETRIEVAL SYSTEM II

3-0-3

(3 Credits)

Development of a sample information retrieval system. Practice design and development of a complete system. Topics include indexing, database, file processing, and user interface design. Pre-requisite: CS 321 or equivalent.

CS 555 – OBJECT-ORIENTED PROGRAMMING AND DATA STRUCTURE

3-0-3

(3 Credits)

This course focuses on the object oriented programming and data structure. It is geared toward non-CS majors going into computer and information science graduate program. The course will cover key concepts of data structures, data manipulation, algorithms and efficiency. Topics include: data structures (arrays, lists, stacks, queues, trees, and graphs), classes, interfaces, inheritance and polymorphism. Software projects will be implemented in this course to enhance students' hands-on programming skills and problem-solving abilities.

Pre-requisite: None.

CS 560 – SPECIAL TOPICS IN COMPUTER SCIENCE

3-0-3

(3 Credits)

A course for CS major graduate students to investigate a computer science topic that is not included in the curriculum. The course is under the supervision of a faculty member.

Pre-requisite: None.

CS 561 – SPECIAL TOPICS II IN COMPUTER SCIENCE **3-0-3**
(3 Credits)

This course focuses on academic reading/writing, project and/or thesis composition.

Pre-requisite: None.

CS 580 – RESEARCH PROJECT **3-0-3**
(3 Credits)

Individual investigation of a project related to the computer science discipline. The course is under the supervision of a faculty member.

Not for students who are taking or have taken CS 581 or CS 590.

CS 581 – INTERNSHIP **3-0-3**
(3 Credits)

Individual investigation of a project related to the computer science discipline. Students must take training positions (co-operative/curricular practical training/ field practice) in an agency, which provide students with working experience in computer science under supervision of the faculty and agencies.

Not for students who are taking or have taken CS 580 or CS 590.

CS 590 – THESIS **3-0-3**
(6 Credits)

Directed research on a selected topic with the consent of the graduate adviser. The course is under the supervision of a faculty member.

Not for students who are taking CS 580 or CS 581.

ENDORSEMENT AREA: MATHEMATICS EDUCATION

Program Description

The Master of Science in Education degree in Secondary Education (with an endorsement in mathematics) is interdisciplinary. It is designed for mathematics teachers in elementary, junior and senior high schools, and junior colleges. Specifically, the department strives to:

1. strengthen the attributes of a good teacher;
2. develop skill in oral and written communication of mathematics;
3. Establish an intellectual environment in which teaching and learning flourish together.

Course Requirements

Core Education Courses (12 hours)		Credits
ED 512	Foundations of American Research	3 hrs.
ED 514	Methods of Educational Research	3 hrs.
ED 533	Curriculum (Methods) Development	3 hrs.
PH 513	Advanced Educational Psychology	3 hrs.

Required Courses (18 hours)	Credits
MA 501 Introduction to Analysis	3 hrs.
MA 502 Logic, Sets and Found. of Math	3 hrs.
MA 503 Abstract Algebra I	3 hrs.
MA 504 Axiomatic Geometry	3 hrs.
MA 515 General Topology	3 hrs.
MA 585 Methods of Teaching Mathematics	3 hrs.
Electives (at least one course in algebra) (3-6 hours)	Credits
MA 511 Introduction to Analysis II	3 hrs.
MA 512 Complex Variables	3 hrs.
MA 513 Abstract Algebra II	3 hrs.
MA 514 Synthetic Projective Geometry	3 hrs.
MA 516 Group Theory	3 hrs.
MA 560 Modern Topics in Mathematics	1-3 hrs.
TOTAL	33 hrs.

Mathematics Course Descriptions (MA)

MA 501 – INTRODUCTION TO ANALYSIS I

3-0-3

(3 Credits)

Point set theory, sequences, continuity, uniform continuity, and properties of continuous functions, limits. Riemann integration.

MA 502 – LOGIC, SETS, AND FOUNDATIONS OF MATHEMATICS

3-0-3

(3 Credits)

This course serves as an introduction to the foundations of mathematics and includes study of functions, relations, partially ordered sets the axiom of choice, finite and infinite sets.

MA 503 – ABSTRACT ALGEBRA I

3-0-3

(3 Credits)

Fundamental Theorems of homomorphism and isomorphism for group, class equation, Sylow Theorems, Structure of finite abelian groups.

MA 504 – AXIOMATIC GEOMETRY

3-0-3

(3 Credits)

A rigorous introduction to the axiomatic structure of Euclidean and non-Euclidean geometry.

MA 511 – INTRODUCTION TO ANALYSIS II

3-0-3

(3 Credits)

Taylor's Theorem, improper integrals, infinite series, uniform convergence, directional derivatives, partial derivatives.

MA 512 – COMPLEX VARIABLES

3-0-3

(3 Credits)

Rigorous introduction to the theory of complex variables.

MA 513 – ABSTRACT ALGEBRA II

3-0-3

(3 Credits)

Rings, ideals, integral domains. Quotient Rings, prime and maximal Ideals, Fundamental Theorem of Homomorphism and Isomorphism. Quotient field, field, finite field, division ring. Field extensions: finite, infinite and algebraic.

MA 514 – SYNTHETIC PROJECTIVE GEOMETRY **3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

Elementary treatment, without the use of coordinates, of fundamental propositions of projective geometry.

MA 515 – GENERAL TOPOLOGY **3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

Set theory, metric spaces, topological spaces, limits, continuity, connectedness, compactness, and convergence.

MA 516 – LINEAR ALGEBRA **3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

Linear transformation of vector spaces. Inner product space, normed linear space, Gram-Schmidt orthogonalization process, diagonalization.

MA 560 – MODERN TOPICS IN MATHEMATICS **3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

A study of modern topics taken from the literature and current research.

MA 561 – DISCRETE MATHEMATICS FOR SECONDARY TEACHERS **3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

Discrete mathematics is the total in science of mathematics connections, provides a setting for problem solving with real world applications, capitalizing on technological setting, and fosters critical thinking and mathematical reasoning.

MA 570 – THESIS **3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This course will require the student to initiate and carry to completion a research project under the supervision of a faculty member.

MA 585 – MODERN METHODS OF TEACHING **3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

A methods course taught by faculty from the various areas of endorsement in secondary education.

DEPARTMENT OF FINE ARTS

Renardo Murray, Ph.D., Interim Department Chair
Fine Arts Building, 1st Floor
1000 ASU Drive #29
Phone: 601-877-6261 FAX: 601-877-6262

Graduate Faculty

Byron Johnson, D.M.Ed., Associate Professor of Music
Donzell Lee, Ph.D., Interim President and Professor of Music
Everson Martin, M.M., Assistant Professor of Music
David Miller, D.A., Professor of Music
Renardo Murray, Ph.D., Interim Chair, Director of Bands and Associate Professor of Music

ENDORSEMENT AREA: Music Education

Program Description

The Master's degree at Alcorn State University is designed to meet all criteria set forth by the State Department of Education. The Department of Fine Arts offers a contemporary curriculum that embraces the ever-changing world of music in the public and private sector. This degree consists of 33 hours of course requirements and leads to AA licensure in music education. This degree is designed to allow students to explore issues, design curriculum and learn new strategies and techniques that will enable them to become more effective music educators, through the application of theory and new research to their educational practice. It also gives the practitioner a means to use creativity in the latest content and approaches to music to reach and teach students. Music teachers in both public and parochial settings can expand their musical expertise as a teacher continue their professional work as they gain advanced knowledge and skills to move their students to higher levels of achievement.

Specific objectives of this endorsement are to:

1. Provide advanced knowledge and theory for students in music;
2. Explore, develop, and disseminate techniques and methods of teaching and research in music education subject area;
3. Encourage within students a sharpened sense of awareness of current and future developments in music education;
4. To prepare students to serve as a resource for schools and other community organization as it applies to music education.

Admission Requirements

The Music Graduate Committee evaluates a candidate for admission based on several criteria. A candidate may be required to take specific prerequisite undergraduate music courses before full admission into the program can be granted.

1. A candidate is expected to have a musical background-- previous participation in choir and/or band or other performance activity
2. Basic keyboard proficiency
3. Basic knowledge of music theory

Curriculum

The graduate program for the Master of Science in Secondary Education requires completion of 33 semester credit hours of course work which includes 12 semester graduate hours of Core Courses; 21 semester graduate hours in the content.

Course Requirements

Core Education Courses (12 hours)		Credits
ED 512	Foundations of American Research	3 hrs.
ED 514	Methods of Educational Research	3 hrs.
ED 533	Curriculum (Methods) Development	3 hrs.
PH 513	Advanced Educational Psychology	3 hrs.
Required Courses* (21 hours)		Credits
MU 500	History and Philosophy of Music Education	3 hrs.
MU 501	Methods of Teaching Music in the Secondary School	3 hrs.
MU 502	Survey of Research in Music Education	3 hrs.
MU 503	Administration of the School Music Program	3 hrs.
MU 504	Contemporary Issues in Music Education	3 hrs.
MU 505	Seminar in Music Theory	3 hrs.
MU 506	Seminar in Music Education	3 hrs.
MU 507	Selected Topics in Music Theory	3 hrs.
MU 508	Seminar in Music History and Lit.	3 hrs.
MU 509	Selected Topics in Music History & Literature	3 hrs.
MU 510	Music Pedagogy and Techniques	3 hrs.
MU 511	World Music	3 hrs.
TOTAL		33 hrs.

Music Course Descriptions (MU)

MU 500 – HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF MUSIC EDUCATION **3-0-3** (3 Credits)

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the ideas, people, and events that inform the history and philosophy of music education. The course will acquaint students with tools of philosophical and historical inquiry appropriate for their ongoing engagement with music education as reflective practitioners.

MU 501 – METHODS OF TEACHING MUSIC IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS **3-0-3** (3 Credits)

This course is an intense and comprehensive study of instructional materials for the secondary general music teacher. Topics include developing curricula, scheduling, motivation, and issues associated with teaching music in the secondary schools.

MU 502 – RESEARCH IN MUSIC EDUCATION **3-0-3** (3 Credits)

This course serves as an introduction to graduate level research in music education concentrating on content as well as on methodological, stylistic, and philosophical issues that arise when writing about music within a music education setting. The course covers basic statistical concepts, library research techniques, standard reference tools and electronic resources.

MU 503 – ADMINISTRATION OF THE SCHOOL MUSIC PROGRAM**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This course is designed to prepare music educators for supervisory and administrative positions in school music programs. The course covers strategies in communication, classroom management, current trends, teaching and learning styles, and teacher assessment and evaluation.

MU 504 – CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN MUSIC EDUCATION**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This course examines current trends and issues in music education. Particular attention will be given to curricular issues and other issues arising from state and national assessments and developments.

MU 505 – SEMINAR IN MUSIC THEORY**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This course will cover one or more of the following areas of music theory: Pedagogy of Music Theory, Analytical Techniques and/or Orchestration and Arranging. The specific topic or topics will be chosen through collaboration between student and instructor and is designed to broaden knowledge and develop further skills in selected areas of music theory.

MU 506 – SEMINAR IN MUSIC EDUCATION**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

Topics for this course will be chosen from the following: Band/Choral Conducting, Instrumental/Choral/Keyboard Methods and Materials, Marching Band Techniques, Advanced Studies in Music History, and/or Instrumental/Vocal/Keyboard Applied Pedagogy. The specific topic or topics will be chosen through collaboration between the student and instructor. The course is designed to broaden knowledge and develop further skills in selected areas of music education

MU 507 – SELECTED TOPICS IN MUSIC THEORY**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

A survey of techniques of analysis of style and structure of music from all periods of music history. Analytical concepts in learning, teaching, and performing music literature.

MU 508 – SEMINAR IN MUSIC HISTORY AND LITERATURE**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This course examines the forms, styles, literature and composers from the Middle Ages to the Modern Period.

MU 509 – SELECTED TOPICS IN MUSIC HISTORY AND LITERATURE**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

Topics may be selected' from the following: Sonata History; Opera History; 19th Century Art Song; Cantata History; Symphony History; Brahms; Mozart; Bach; Beethoven; Debussy, Ravel; and Jazz History.

MU 510 – MUSIC PEDAGOGY AND TECHNIQUES**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

Specific and intensive research in each student's major instrument or voice, covering: (1) history overview, (2) texts, methods and periodicals; (3) orchestral studies, (4) solo and ensemble techniques and literature, and (5) listening and to performances.

MU 511 – WORLD MUSIC**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

An intense and comprehensive survey of concepts, problems and methods of research in non-Western and folk music.

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

Dickson Idusuyi, Ph.D., Department Chairperson
Harmon Hall
1000 ASU Drive #60
Phone: 601-877-6411 FAX: 601-877-3989

Graduate Faculty

Dorothy Idleburg, Ph.D., Professor and Director of Social Work Program
Dickson Idusuyi, Ph.D., Chairperson, Department of Social Sciences and Professor of Political Science
Vitalis Ihearnacho, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Political Science

ENDORSEMENT AREA: SOCIAL SCIENCE EDUCATION

Program Description

The Master of Science in Education degree with an endorsement in social science is an interdisciplinary degree program designed especially for social studies teachers in junior and senior high schools and community colleges. More specific objectives of this endorsement are to:

1. Provide advanced knowledge and theory for students in the social sciences and allied fields;
2. Explore, develop, and disseminate techniques and methods of teaching and research in the social and behavioral areas of concern;
3. Encourage within students a sharpened sense of awareness of current and future developments in a modernized global society;
4. Stimulate students to become better prepared to provide professional services and leadership to their respective communities as well as the greater society;
5. Serve as a resource center for local schools and other community organizations.

Course Requirements

Education Core Courses (12 hours)	Credits
ED 512 Foundations of American Research	3 hrs.
ED 514 Methods of Educational Research	3 hrs.
ED 533 Curriculum (Methods) Development	3 hrs.
PH 513 Advanced Educational Psychology	3 hrs.
Required Courses (15 hours)	Credits
EC 501 Advanced Microeconomics	3 hrs.
GT 501 Blacks and the American Political System	3 hrs.
HI 506 African and Afro-American History	3 hrs.
SS 585 Methods of Teaching Social Sciences	3 hrs.
SY 502 Comparative Family Systems	3 hrs.

Electives (6 hours)		Credits
EC 502	Advanced Macroeconomics	3 hrs.
EC 504	Seminar on Comparative Economic Systems	3 hrs.
EC 530	Economic Security & Social Welfare	3 hrs.
GT 504	Government and Politics in Modern Africa	3 hrs.
GT 506	Race & International Politics	3 hrs.
HI 501	History of American Constitutional Law I	3 hrs.
HI 502	History of American Constitutional Law II	3 hrs.
SS 517	Social Science Symposia	2-4 hrs.
SY 516	Social Foundation of Personality	3 hrs.
TOTAL		33 hrs.

Sociology Course Descriptions (SY)

SS 517 – SOCIAL SCIENCE SYMPOSIA **3-0-3**
(3 Credits)

SS 585 – METHODS OF TEACHING SOCIAL SCIENCES **3-0-3**
(Credits)

SY 502 – COMPARATIVE FAMILY SYSTEMS **3-0-3**
(3 Credits)

This course is designed to acquaint the students with the cross-cultural patterns of family life; the importance and significance of the family and the social interaction involved at various social levels.

SY 504 – ADVANCED CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY **3-0-3**
(3 Credits)

An analysis and study of the contemporary anthropological theories of culture; a comparison of economic, political, religious, and kinship structure of various societies of the world.

SY 516 – SOCIAL FOUNDATION OF PERSONALITY **3-0-3**
(3 Credits)

The impact of social and cultural factors on the growth and development of personality; with emphasis on social status, norms, roles, and social interaction as discussed in various theories of personality development.

SY 567 – RACIAL AND CULTURAL MINORITIES **3-0-3**
(3 Credits)

This course will examine and explore race and ethnic relations in American society. It will delve into the historical and cultural heritage of the diverse ethnic groups found in America and around the world. Particular attention will focus on the present day sociological, economic, religious, and political issues and problems that evolve racial relationships across the U.S. Particular attention will be given to recent immigrants and resulting immigration policies and legislation. A deep examination will be conducted that looks at conflicts and issues that arise between ethnic minorities because of competition for resources and differential treatment by the prevailing dominant group.

Economics Course Descriptions (EC)

EC 501 – ADVANCED MICROECONOMICS **3-0-3**
(3 Credits)

Intensive study of economics principles and theories underlying consumer demand, production theory and the behavior of firms.

EC 502 – ADVANCED MACROECONOMICS**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

Intensive study of determinants of national income and employment. The consumption spending theories, business investment theories, government spending, taxing and monetary policies, and their role in determining the level of economic activity and growth.

Political Science (GT)**GT 501 – BLACKS IN THE AMERICAN POLITICAL SYSTEM****3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

A review and analysis of the role and position of Blacks in American politics from earliest times to the present. Special attention will be given to the “Civil Rights Era.”

GT 518 – COMPARATIVE POLITICS**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

A systemic examination of the similarities and differences of political experiences by a wide variety of political systems in the modern world with emphasis on historical and social impacts on political settings, political developments and changes, structure and performance of political systems, citizen participation, and public policy and its impacts.

GT 525 – PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

Advanced study in leadership, communication, planning, policy analysis, and program evaluation; directed research in selected substantive policy areas.

- Notes -

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS



"The superior man is modest in his speech, but excels in his actions."

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

GRADUATE BUSINESS PROGRAMS

Donna Williams, Ph.D., Dean
1000 ASU Drive
Box 90
Lorman, MS 39096
601-877-6450 FAX 601-877-2326

GRADUATE FACULTY

John Igwebuike, Ph.D., Professor of Business
Donatus Okhomina, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Business
Benedict Udemgba, Ph.D., Chair and Professor of Business
Donna Williams, Ph.D., Dean and Associate Professor of Business

Maintaining the quality of the MBA program, all classes are delivered by qualified graduate faculty. To qualify as graduate faculty, a faculty member must meet the minimum criteria expected in a master's level program as deemed appropriate by the School of Business and School of Graduate Studies in accordance with the expectations of maintaining accreditation.

MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Program Description

The School of Business of Alcorn State University offers the Master of Business Administration (MBA).

The MBA Program is designed to prepare students for leadership roles in today's competitive global business environment. The program provides the opportunity to obtain advanced training in business administration, contributing to the advancement of knowledge, and, in keeping with the overall mission of Alcorn State University, assists in the preparation of global leaders who will be equipped to play an important role in the future development of the state, nation and global economies.

Students who are seeking the MBA degree must hold a bachelor's degree or its equivalent from an accredited institution. Admission is open to individuals with a baccalaureate degree in any discipline including agricultural sciences, education, engineering, healthcare, arts, sciences, culinary and hospitality, and other fields, as well as business. The MBA program is designed for both part-time and full-time students. Students may be admitted to the MBA program and may begin course work at the beginning of any term-fall, spring, or summer.

Program Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will be able to analyze and develop strategies give the current business environment with a global mindset.
2. Students will be able to develop and implement appropriate managerial techniques for diverse business situations.
3. Students will be able to assess a firm's activities from ethical and socially responsible perspectives.

ALCORN SCHOOL OF BUSINESS MISSION STATEMENT

Alcorn School of Business strives to prepare graduates who will be well-rounded future leaders of high character who will be competitive in the global marketplace of 21st Century.

ALCORN SCHOOL OF BUSINESS MBA PROGRAM MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Alcorn State University MBA Program is to advance the knowledge and practice of accounting, finance, marketing, and management and to foster the intellectual and economic vitality of the community through reaching, research, and outreach.

ACCREDITATION

The Master of Business Administration Program including all of its concentrations are accredited by the:

Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP)
11520 West 119th St.
Overland Park, KS 66213
913.339.9356

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Admission to the MBA Program is open to all students who have completed a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university. Students seeking admissions to this track of the MBA Program must have:

1. A bachelor's degree or equivalent from an accredited college or university.
2. A minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.20 (on 4.0 scale) for all undergraduate work.
3. Applicant has at least 5 years of work experience. Years of experience should be in a managerial, supervisory, or professional capacity in a business environment.
4. Applicants who do not have an undergraduate business degree must complete business pre-requisites and will be admitted on a conditional basis until pre-requiites are successfully completed with a 3.00 GPA per course.

5. Applicants must provide a recent resume and a letter of reference preferably from a supervisor detailing their work experience in a managerial, supervisory or professional capacity in a business environment. This letter is to narrate the applicant's role as a manager or supervisor, or a business professional, specifically highlighting:
 - Time spent in managerial, supervisory or professional capacity
 - Discussion of job responsibilities of the applicant
6. The GRE and GMAT testing requirement has been cancelled due to COVID-19 for 2021-2022 academic year, but may be added back to admissions requirements at the end of the crisis.

International Students:

- International students may apply and undertake the resident option of the MBA – General Business concentration.
- International students are not eligible to enroll in the MBA – 100% online concentrations. According to U.S. immigration regulations, F-1 and M-1 students cannot pursue online degrees. International students in other visa categories (i.e. H-4, L2 etc.) are exempt from this restriction.
- International students may be asked to submit other documents and health records during or after the admission process.

Conditional Admission:

Applicants may be admitted conditionally to Graduate Studies under the following conditions:

- If an applicant does not meet the minimum GPA requirement of 3.20, the applicant may take MBA prerequisite courses to improve his or her GPA.

Prerequisite/Foundation Courses Requirement:

- **General Business concentration:** A candidate for this concentration, ideally, is someone who aspires to an upper-level managerial role in today's business environment. The prerequisite core courses are designed to prepare students from a variety of non-business undergraduate backgrounds, the functional area knowledge of business disciplines. The MBA Admissions Committee may exempt a student without equivalent prior business courses from some or all of the required prerequisite courses if the Committee finds that the student has satisfactorily completed equivalent, related coursework in another discipline at a regionally accredited college or university.

Graduate English Writing Proficiency:

- With the exceptions noted below, all students admitted to the MBA Program must satisfy an English Writing Proficiency requirement. This requirement should be met prior to or during the first semester of coursework. Currently the following applicants are exempt from this requirement:
 - Applicants who hold a doctorate degree from an accredited university.
 - Applicants who have already met the Writing Proficiency at Alcorn State University, such as while enrolled in another graduate program at Alcorn State University.

Transfer Credits:

- A student is allowed to transfer a maximum of six (6) semester hours of graduate credit in which grades of “B” or better are earned, and were earned at a regionally accredited university in courses equivalent to Alcorn MBA Program core or elective courses. Such transfers must be approved by the MBA Admissions Committee and the Graduate Studies Office. Official transcripts of transfer credits must be on file at the University prior to consideration of the transfer credits for approval.

HOW TO APPLY**Step 1: Graduate School Application:**

Applicant must use the electronic admission applications system to apply to the Graduate School, to apply for readmission, or to change the applicant’s current degree program.

Step 2: Pay Application Fees:

The applicant must pay an application fee of \$10.00 U.S. (money order). This fee applies to out-of-state (non-Mississippi) applicants only. The application fees must be sent to:

Office of Graduate Studies
Alcorn State University
1000 ASU Drive #689
Lorman, MS 39096-7500

Step 3: Submit Transcripts:

The applicant must request that his or her official transcripts from all colleges and/or universities be sent directly to:

Office of Graduate Studies
Alcorn State University
1000 ASU Drive #689
Lorman, MS 39096-7500

Step 4: Submit Supplemental Materials:

Submit the following supplemental materials to the office of Graduate Studies:

- Official transcripts from all schools attended. Main transcript must show a bachelor’s degree has been attained;
- Current Resume;
- Two Letters of Recommendation (Supervisory, Managerial, and Professional);
Two recommendations are required and should be submitted electronically by the referring person to graduatestudies@alcorn.edu or mailed through the United States Postal Service, or hand-delivered in a sealed envelope to the Alcorn Office of Graduate Studies above. Access the suggested guidelines for writing a letter of recommendation. Applicants should use the link below to access the recommendation form format: http://www.alcorn.edu/data/files/gallery/ContentGallery/Recommendation_Letter1.pdf.
- Statement of Purpose essay;
- Work experience gained;
- Immunization Record (must document 2 doses of MMR-Measles, Mumps, and Rubella)

The supplemental materials can also be emailed to graduatestudies@alcorn.edu or mailed directly to:

Office of Graduate Studies
Alcorn State University
1000 ASU Drive #689
Lorman, MS 39096-7500

Letters of recommendation must be mailed or emailed by the reference to Graduate Studies. The letter is not to be mailed or emailed by the applicant and must not come from the applicant's email address. Relatives are allowed to write a letter of recommendation for the applicant.

Step 5: Additional Documents required by International Students:

- Provide evidence of an acceptable score on TOEFL or IELTS achieved by the applicant as required by Graduate Studies.
- Provide Documentation of Financial Support. This amount changes yearly based on University assessed fees for Tuition. For the exact amount, please contact the Office of Graduate Studies.
- All transcripts from international colleges and universities are to be accompanied by verification that the degree is equivalent to a B.S., B.A. or M.S. degree from a college or university in the United States. Applicants may select any National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES) member to provide this service. (See NACES web site, www.naces.org for a list of NACES members.). International students successfully admitted to the MBA Program at Alcorn State University generally should have their transcripts verified via: WES: <http://www.wes.org/> or ERES <http://www.eres.com/>. Credential evaluations must include a course-by-course evaluation at the undergraduate or graduate level. This is the only acceptable reporting format.
- Tuberculosis Screening. After arrival in the United States students must be screened for a chest X-Ray and blood test. The results must be submitted to the Office of Graduate Studies to clear this requirement.

Note: The U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service requires certification that ALL standards for admission have been met before the I-20 form is issued. International students are required to complete their admissions procedures at least 30 days prior to the term in which they expect to enter. Refer to details on I-20 and other guidelines ~~on~~ for International Students available [online](#).

Note:

- Once an application packet is complete, the Graduate Studies Office will send an email to the applicant indicating all application materials have been received.
- The Admission decision process normally takes 3 business days from the time all materials are received at the Office of Graduate Studies.

Checking status of application:

- To check status of an application, contact:

Office of Graduate Studies
Alcorn State University
1000 ASU Drive #689
Lorman, MS 39096-7500
Telephone: 601.877.6122
Fax: 601.877.6995
graduatestudies@alcorn.edu

COMPLIANCE WITH ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Students in the MBA Program must comply with both the academic standards specific to the MBA Program and the general academic standards of Alcorn Office of Graduate Studies. Compliance relates to all aspects of the academic standards including the progression, retention, and graduation requirements. Students in the MBA Program must maintain a 3.0 GPA in the Required Core and Elective Courses.

For program completion, students must not accumulate more than six semester hours (2 graduate courses) of credit below a grade of B (3.0). A student cannot graduate with more than two Cs and must retake courses if grades below a C are earned,

Should a student fail to maintain a 3.0 GPA in any semester, the student will be placed on an academic probation. If a 3.0 GPA is not obtained in the subsequent semester of course work, the student will be terminated from continued enrollment from the program.

Any student who has been terminated from Graduate School because of failing to meet the above academic standards may submit an appeal to the Office of Graduate Studies as part of due process. An Appeals Committee will determine if the appeal is approved or denied. The student should submit to the Appeals Committee a detailed explanation for the poor academic record and a statement of reasons why the student should be allowed to continue enrollment. If the appeal is granted, the student must repeat the course(s) for which he or she was disqualified.

REQUIREMENTS TO GRADUATE

- MBA – General Business: Students must complete pre-requisites (if required), graduate or professional core and elective courses with at least a 3.0 GPA. Students must not have more than two grades of “C” or below to complete the program.

MAJOR FIELD EXAM

- The Office of Graduate Studies requires each graduate to take an exit exam prior to graduation. To meet the exit exam requirement, the MBA Program administers a major field exam to MBA students, as a measure of the exit evaluation, in conjunction with students satisfactorily completing MG 690, the capstone course for the program. The course is an intensive review of a wide range of business topics representative of the business core. Students who successfully complete MG 690 with a grade of “B” or better, and fulfill all other requirements of the graduate program, meet all graduation and department requirements in order to exit the Alcorn State University MBA program.
- Important Note: While the exam provides the MBA Program with a means of meeting the University’s graduation requirements, the major purpose of the exit exam is to assist the Graduate Business Program in the assessment and accreditation of the MBA Program, comparative to other universities.

THE MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION DEGREE CURRICULUM

MBA - General Business

PREQUISITES CORE

(24 Semester Hours)

The required Prerequisite CORE courses are designed to attract students from a variety of undergraduate backgrounds, not just business. These courses serve as a foundation of knowledge of business content for students who do not have a background in business. Note that all or part of the Prerequisite CORE courses may be exempt for a student with prior equivalent course work at the undergraduate or graduate level if satisfactorily completed at a regionally accredited college or university, or through other means as approved by the MBA Admissions Committee.

AC	580	Survey of Accounting	3 Hours
BA	520	Survey of Economics	3 Hours
BA	540	Survey of Legal Environment and Ethics	3 Hours
FI	530	Survey of Finance	3 Hours
MG	510	Survey of Business Statistics	3 Hours
MG	541	Survey of Management	3 Hours
MG	542	Survey of Management Information Systems	3 Hours
MK	550	Survey of Marketing	3 Hours

Course Descriptions for Prerequisites CORE Business Administration (BA)

AC 580 – SURVEY OF ACCOUNTING

3-0-3

(3 Credits)

To provide the student with the basic financial accounting skills, knowledge, and abilities that will enable him/her to effectively use general purpose financial statements prepared in conformity with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles as a fundamental element in the student's business management decision making process. Emphasis is on understanding the meaning and value of the balance sheet, income statement, and statement of cash flows.

BA 520 – SURVEY OF ECONOMICS

3-0-3

(3 Credits)

To provide students with a general understanding and comprehensive knowledge of the basic macroeconomic and microeconomic topics. Students are introduced to national income account and measurements, income determination, banking systems, and monetary and fiscal policies as well as supply and demand, elasticity, market price determination, market structure, and the theory of maximum profit.

BA 540 – SURVEY OF LEGAL ENVIRONMENT AND ETHICS

3-0-3

(3 Credits)

Introduces the legal environment and provides a study of the interaction between the business community and the legal environment through a systematic analysis, including cases, of the procedural and substantive rules of law with special emphasis placed on the jurisprudence governing commercial law, criminal law, agency law, torts, and property. Business ethics are also considered.

FI 530 – SURVEY OF FINANCE

3-0-3

(3 Credits)

Introduces students to basic concepts of finance. Topics such as ratio analysis, risk and return, time-value of money, stocks and bonds valuation, cost of capital, cash flow estimation, capital budgeting, capital structure, dividend policy, financial forecasting, and hybrid financing are covered in this course.

MG 510 – SURVEY OF BUSINESS STATISTICS **3-0-3**
(3 Credits)

Introduces students to basic statistical techniques & common application methods. Will cover the principles of data organization and processing- normal probability, and hypothesis testing methods.

MG 541 – SURVEY OF MANAGEMENT **3-0-3**
(3 Credits)

Course familiarizes students with current management concepts and practices as they apply to today's business world and examines the manager's role within the organization and the current business environment.

MG 542 – SURVEY OF MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS **3-0-3**
(3 Credits)

To provide the student with the appropriate level of knowledge, skills, and abilities required to apply business computer information systems to the process of solving complex, multidimensional business management problems.

MG 560 – SURVEY OF OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT **3-0-3**
(3 Credits)

An introduction to various components of the production and operations functions in both manufacturing and service organizations. Operations management is viewed as a system, as an organizational function, and as a decision-making support system.

MK 550 – SURVEY OF MARKETING **3-0-3**
(3 Credits)

To introduce marketing and marketing strategy designed to provide instruction in the basic elements of marketing including: principles and operations, macro-marketing, societal marketing, marketing ethics, the marketing concept and orientation, marketing environments, marketing strategy, the elements of the marketing mix, segmentation, target marketing and international issues.

THE MBA DEGREE PROGRAM – GENERAL BUSINESS CURRICULUM

The MBA Degree Program – General Business consists of a total of twelve (12) courses (36 semester hours) above the prerequisites core to build a foundation of knowledge of business. Seven (7) are required courses, and five (5) are electives.

GRADUATE OR PROFESSIONAL REQUIRED CORE: (21 Semester Hours)

The seven (7) required graduate and capstone core substantially extend and apply knowledge developed in the foundation core.

AC	680	Managerial Accounting Analysis	3 Hours
BA	620	Managerial Economics Analysis	3 Hours
FI	630	Financial Analysis and Management	3 Hours
MG	640	Organizational Behavior and Development	3 Hours
MG	644	Production/Operations Analysis	3 Hours
MK	650	Marketing Analysis	3 Hours

REQUIRED CAPSTONE COURSE: (to be taken in the last semester of the program)

MG 690 Business Policy and Strategy 3 Hours

GRADUATE OR PROFESSIONAL ELECTIVES: (15 Semester Hours)

Students may decide to focus in a particular academic area by selecting electives from one particular area of interest. (Note: No more than 9 elective hours can be taken in any one academic area.) Elective courses will be offered based on available faculty resources.

AC	682	Accounting Seminar	3 Hours
AC	685	Tax Planning for Management Decisions	3 Hours
AC	688	Financial Statement Analysis	3 Hours
AC	689	Special Topics in Accounting	3 Hours
BA	648	Business Research Methods	3 Hours
FI	632	Financial Institutions	3 Hours
FI	634	Financial Investment Analysis and Policy	3 Hours
FI	636	International Finance	3 Hours
FI	639	Special Topics in Finance	3 Hours
MG	641	Human Resource Management	3 Hours
MG	644	Production/Operations Analysis	3 Hours
MG	646	International Management	3 Hours
MG	649	Special Topics in Management	3 Hours
MK	654	Consumer Behavior	3 Hours
MK	656	International Marketing	3 Hours
MK	658	Marketing Seminar	3 Hours
MK	659	Special Topics in Marketing	3 Hours

Course Descriptions for Business Administration (BA)

AC 680 – MANAGERIAL ACCOUNTING ANALYSIS

3-0-3

(3 Credits)

This course provides students with the opportunity to understand that managerial accounting is a cross-functional discipline providing accounting information useful to all management areas. A second objective is to acquaint students with the basic thought that managerial accounting information is necessary for all types of business (manufacturing, services, retail, wholesale, and not-for-profits, regardless of size), and includes both domestic and global organizations.

BA 620 – MANAGERIAL ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

3-0-3

(3 Credits)

An application of microeconomics analysis to the business decision-making process. Emphasis is on the theory of consumer behavior, the production and cost decisions of the individual firm, and the influence of monopolistic elements on the formulation of executive business decisions.

FI 630 – FINANCIAL ANALYSIS AND MANAGEMENT

3-0-3

(3 Credits)

This course relates to the financial management of business enterprises with emphasis on asset management and financing. The valuation of enterprises and financial assets are discussed along with financial markets. Students will be exposed to fundamental theories in financial management and financial markets, application of these theories in business practice, and limitations and difficulties of financial theories in solving real-world problems. The course is designed to develop skills found in competent financial managers.

MG 640 – ORGANIZATIONAL BEHAVIOR AND DEVELOPMENT **3-0-3**
(3 Credits)

This course examines behavioral concepts, techniques, and applications for managing employees in all types of organizations, issues of organizational structure, job qualifications, job satisfaction and commitment, teams and teamwork, and leadership are addressed.

MG 644 – PRODUCTION/OPERATIONS ANALYSIS **3-0-3**
(3 Credits)

This course is designed to teach the student production/operations management tools including operations in a global market, designing production systems, planning for operations, and controlling the production process.

MG 690 – BUSINESS POLICY AND STRATEGY (CAPSTONE COURSE) **3-0-3**
(3 Credits)

Focuses on top management perspectives, integrated thinking and complex problem solving. This course should be taken after all core courses have been completed and toward the end of the MBA program. Prerequisite: This is a capstone course and is to be taken in the last semester of studies or with departmental approval.

MK 650 – MARKETING ANALYSIS **3-0-3**
(3 Credits)

Focuses on the strategic decisions necessary to match organizational resources and objectives with marketing opportunities. Emphasis is on the managerial approach to product development and diversification, pricing, communication through advertising and selling, and distribution decisions. Planning, research, and organizational aspects of marketing decision-making are stressed. Prerequisite: MK 550 or dept. waiver

Electives – General Business

AC 682 – ACCOUNTING SEMINAR **3-0-3**
(3 Credits)

Designed primarily for accounting undergraduates seeking to meet the 150-hour requirement for taking the CPA exam. Current selected accounting topics are covered with extensive student involvement.

AC 685 – TAX PLANNING FOR MANAGEMENT DECISIONS **3-0-3**
(3 Credits)

Provides students with a conceptual overview of the basic tax structure encountered by business organizations. Students who are managers or potential managers gain competency in recognizing business transactions that may have tax consequences. The emphasis is on the Federal Income Tax, but business firms also face multi-jurisdictional tax issues. This course includes a research component to allow students to further develop written and oral communication skills. Pre-requisite: AC 680 or consent of Instructor.

AC 688 – FINANCIAL STATEMENT ANALYSIS **3-0-3**
(3 Credits)

Examines the components of financial statements from a user's perspective with emphasis on assessment of the impact of accounting choices on investment and lending decisions. Recommended pre-requisites: AC 580 and Intermediate Accounting.

AC 689 – SPECIAL TOPICS IN ACCOUNTING **3-0-3**
(3 Credits)

Examines current advanced topics of interest in professional accounting. Topics selected are not covered elsewhere in the MBA curriculum.

BA 648 – BUSINESS RESEARCH METHODS**3-0-3**

(Credits)

A study of a variety of research methods applicable to all business disciplines with an emphasis on developing skills in acquiring data and interpreting and utilizing data as information to guide managerial decision making. Emphasis is given to internal and external secondary data resources and appropriate uses of observation, survey, experimental, and quasi-experimental designs to address business issues.

Pre-requisites: MK 550, MG 541.

FI 632 – FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

Presents concepts and techniques related to the management of financial institutions such as banks, credit unions, etc. Topics include bank services, organization of the banking industry, analysis of bank financial statements, asset-liability management, hedging against interest rate fluctuations, raising funds, deposit creation, the Federal Reserve System, and laws and regulations governing the industry. Pre-requisite: FI 530 or equivalent.

FI 634 – FINANCIAL INVESTMENT ANALYSIS AND POLICY**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

The objectives of this course are to provide students with an understanding of investment environments in the U.S. and international securities markets; knowledge of valuations of various investment instruments, including stocks, bonds, options, and futures; empirical behavior of security prices and the efficient market hypothesis; asset pricing theory; and analytical skills for portfolio management. Pre-requisite: FI 530 or equivalent.

FI 636 – INTERNATIONAL FINANCE**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

Provides students with a basic understanding of international financial markets, banking, and financial decision-making in a global environment, as well as an understanding of contemporary events and market trends in finance, business, and multinational corporations.

Pre-requisite: FI 530 or equivalent.

FI 637 – FUTURES, OPTIONS, AND OTHER DERIVATIVE SECURITIES**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This course deals with Futures, Options, Swaps, and other derivative securities. Student in this course will overview the structure of the derivative markets. Topics covered include principles and pricing of futures and forwards, writing and pricing options markets, swaps, and other interest rate agreements. Hedging risk using derivative securities, especially futures and options, is also covered.

Pre-requisite: FI 630 or consent of instructor

FI 638 – BANK MANAGEMENT**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This course covers current issues related to management of a commercial bank. Specific topics covered include bank performance and evaluation, managing non-interest income and expenses, asset-liability management using GAP analysis and derivatives, liquidity positions and bank capital management, evaluation of commercial and consumer loans, and management of investment portfolios.

Pre-requisite: FI 530 or equivalent.

FI 639 – SPECIAL TOPICS IN FINANCING**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

Examines current advanced topics of interest in finance. Topics selected are not covered elsewhere in the MBA curriculum. Prerequisites: None.

MG 610 – QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This course provides a feeling for the variety and power of quantitative and management science/operation research tools and enables students to recognize on-the-job situations in which quantitative techniques can be applied to successfully remedy problem situations. The topics covered include probability concepts, inventory decisions, linear programming, transportation problems, and project planning with PERT, decision analysis, waiting lines, and simulation.

Prerequisite: MG 560 or departmental waiver.

MG 646 – INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This course addresses the international dimensions of business including the importance of a global perspective, challenges of multinational companies, differences in political economies, foreign exchange markets, the international monetary system, cultural variations, regional economic integration, foreign direct investment, and strategies for entering foreign markets. Pre-requisites: MG 541 or MG 640.

MG 648 – STAFFING ORGANIZATIONS**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This course examines a comprehensive staffing model that focuses on how to achieve a successful person/job and person/organization match. Components of the Staffing Model include external influences (economic conditions, labor markets, unions, laws, and regulations), staffing support systems (staffing strategy and planning, job analysis, measurement), major staffing activities, (recruitment, selection, employment), and staffing system management. Selected readings and exercises are used to guide the student through the process of understanding organizational staffing.

Pre-requisites: MG 541 or MG 640.

MG 649 – SPECIAL TOPICS IN MANAGEMENT**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

Examines current advanced topics of interest in management. Topics selected are not covered elsewhere in the MBA curriculum. Prerequisites: None.

MG 690 – BUSINESS POLICY AND STRATEGY**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

Capstone course. Focuses on top management perspectives, integrated thinking, and complex problem solving. This course should be taken after all core courses have been completed and toward the end of the MBA program.

MG 692 – ENTREPRENEURSHIP**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

A course studying the concepts and techniques of entrepreneurship and new business ventures. Issues include: Evaluating Opportunity, Developing the Concept, Assessing and Acquiring Resources, Acquiring a Going Concern, Managing the Growing Business, and Harvesting the Mature Business. The course uses cases and projects to demonstrate the concepts and techniques.

Pre-requisite: MG 541 or equivalent.

MK 654 – CONSUMER BEHAVIOR**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This course provides students with the knowledge and skills necessary to perform consumer analyses that can be used for understanding markets and developing effective marketing strategies. The instruction applies the author's "Wheel of Consumer Analysis," which is a tool to help the reader understand how consumer affect and cognition, consumer behavior, consumer environment, and marketing strategy interact in marketing. "The course explores the Wheel Model to provide a better basis for analyzing and understanding consumer behavior and can be used to guide the development of effective marketing strategies."

Pre-requisite: MK 650.

MK 656 – INTERNATIONAL MARKETING**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

Focuses on the impact of the social, economic, political/legal, and technological environmental forces on businesses in international markets. Students learn the importance of culture and broaden their view of markets and competition in global markets. To capitalize on the globalization of markets, students must learn to market products and services with an international perspective. Pre-requisites: MK 550, FI 530, AC 580 or equivalent.

MK 658 – MARKETING SEMINAR**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This course offers discussions of current issues in Business relevant to students studying at the master's level.

Topics will be chosen from new and current marketing trends or concepts. Specific topics are to be selected by the instructor and may vary each semester. Pre-requisite: MK 650

MK 659 – SPECIAL TOPICS IN MARKETING**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This course is a survey of critical issues relating to a topic of significant concern to business firms at the time the course is offered. The course will involve extensive readings from the business and academic press to provide students with meaningful background and understanding of the issue being addressed. Students will be required to develop an extensive term project relating to recommendations for addressing the issue in real world business situations. Pre-requisites: None.

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION AND PSYCHOLOGY



"I am what I am today because of the choices I made yesterday."

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION AND PSYCHOLOGY

Malinda Butler, Ph.D., Acting Dean
Walter Washington Administration Building, Suite 409
601-877- 6141 FAX 601-877-6319

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND PSYCHOLOGY

TBA, Ph.D., Department Chair
 Walter Washington Administration Building, 2nd Floor
 1000 ASU Drive #216
 Phone: (601) 877-6200 FAX: 601 877-3867

GRADUATE FACULTY

Ivan Banks, Ed.D., Dean and Professor of Education
 Malinda Butler, Ph.D., Acting Dean and Associate Professor of Education
 LaShundia Carson, Ed.D., Director, Master of Arts in Teaching Program and Associate Professor of Education
 Somonia Lynn Etheridge, Ph.D./JD, Visiting Assistant Professor of Counseling
 Felicia McGowan, Ed.D., Assistant Professor of Education
 April Owens Miley, Psy.D., Assistant Professor of Psychology
 Gerald Peoples, Ph.D., Professor of School Counseling
 Tabitha Smith, Ed.D., Assistant Professor of Education
 LaShawn Thompson, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Education
 Helen Wyatt, Ed.D., Associate Professor of Education

EDUCATION SPECIALIST IN ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

Degree	Requirement for Admission
Education Specialist in Elementary Education	AA Educator License

Program Description

The Department of Education and Psychology offers the Education Specialist Degree. In this program of study, candidates analyze current issues, educational trends, theories, policies, and practices affecting rural and urban schools and communities. Candidates in this program of study will be able to apply their research findings in practical situations through means of assignments and field experiences. Upon completion of the program the graduate will demonstrate an acute awareness of their field of study, as shown by their proven ability to apply principles and concepts to real life situations.

Admission Requirements:

To be considered for admission to the specialist degree program, the applicant must:

1. Have a master's degree in elementary education or related field;
2. Have a grade point average of at least 3.20 on a scale where an "A" equals 4.0;
3. Hold a valid teacher's AA license in elementary or secondary education (**teaching fields only**) or related field.

*Note: If a person is admitted with a secondary teacher's license, they will be endorsed in 4-8 only. If the Mississippi State Department of Education changes the licensure structure, the School of Education and Psychology must adhere to the changes. This program is not intended for individuals who have only an endorsement in Guidance Education who do not work in schools.

The Specialist Degree requires:

- Admission to the program;
- Submission of an approved program of study;
- Successfully completing a specialist written examination; and
- Writing an acceptable thesis and defending it orally.

Expected Outcomes

Upon completion of the specialist program, graduates should be able to demonstrate competency in the following areas:

1. Exceptional effectiveness in instructional techniques;
2. Exceptional knowledge of specialized subject matter;
3. Leadership in skills in curriculum development;
4. Knowledge of research techniques;
5. Knowledge of technology skills;
6. Classroom Management skills; and
7. Involvement in system-wide in service programs.

The Traditional Specialist Program is designed for students that would like to take courses at a slower rate. The courses in this program will be offered during the entire sixteen-week schedule. The maximum number of courses that a student can take during the fall or spring semester is nine. During the summer a student can potentially complete a maximum of twelve hours.

Course Requirements – Traditional Program

Required Core Courses (12 Hours)		Credits
ED 627+	Evaluation and Measurement	3 hrs.
ED 629+	Research Design and Statistics	3 hrs.
ED 695	Advanced Seminar in Elem. Education	3 hrs.
PH 614	Learning Theories	3 hrs.
Required Courses (27 Hours)		Credits
ED 600	Advanced Studies in Multicultural Education	3 hrs.
ED 602*	Introduction to Research Methods	3 hrs.
ED 619	Basic Skills in Reading	3 hrs.
ED 621	Classroom Management	3 hrs.
ED 632	Advanced Studies in Teaching Methods	3 hrs.

ED 633	Advanced Seminar in Curriculum and Pedagogy	
ED 637	Advanced Media Technology	3 hrs.
ED 698**	Thesis I	3 hrs.
ED 699**	Thesis II	3 hrs.
PH 604	Psychological Statistics/Technology	3 hrs.
PH 690	Psychological Foundations of Education	3 hrs.
TOTAL		39 hrs.

**Restricted: Students must take these 6 credit hours at the end of their program of study.

+Prerequisites: Courses must be taken before ED 698 and ED 699

*Course must be taken during the first semester of enrolling in the Education Specialist Program.

The Accelerated Specialist Program is designed for students that would like to take courses at a more advanced pace utilizing a prescribed chronological order. The courses in this program will be offered in eight week increments. The maximum number of courses that a student can take during the fall or spring semester is twelve (six hours the first eight weeks and six hours the second eight weeks). During the summer a student can potentially complete a maximum of twelve hours plus hours related to the completion of their special project or thesis.

Course Requirements – Accelerated Program

Required Core Courses (12 Hours)		Credits
ED 627+	Evaluation and Measurement	3 hrs.
ED 629+	Research Design and Statistics	3 hrs.
ED 695	Advanced Seminar in Elem. Education	3 hrs.
PH 614	Learning Theories	3 hrs.
Required Courses (27 Hours)		Credits
ED 602*	Introduction to Research Methods	3 hrs.
ED 619	Basic Skills in Reading	3 hrs.
ED 621	Classroom Management	3 hrs.
ED 632	Advanced Studies in Teaching Methods	3 hrs.
ED 637	Advanced Media Technology	3 hrs.
ED 698*	Thesis I	
ED 699*	Thesis II	6 hrs.
PH 604	Psychological Statistics/Technology	3 hrs.
PH 690	Psychological Foundations of Education	3 hrs.
TOTAL		39 hrs.

**Restricted: Students must take these 6 credit hours at the end of their program of study.

+Prerequisites: Courses must be taken before ED 698 and ED 699.

*Course must be taken during the first semester of enrolling in the Education Specialist Program.

Education Specialist Course Descriptions (ED)

ED 600 – ADVANCED STUDIES IN MULTICULTURAL EDUCATION

3-0-3

(3 Credits)

Examines research as well as the dynamics of culture diversities. Discusses beliefs and attitudes commonly held in different cultures.

ED 602 INTRODUCTION TO RESEARCH METHODS

3-0-3

(3 Credits)

This course is an advance level educational research course where students in the Educational Specialist program will be expected to gain requisite knowledge to conduct and complete an action research project. Students will be expected to investigate issues related to K-12 education and utilize the appropriate research methods to provide information on ways to advance educational practices. The course will allow students to evaluate their profession and conduct action research. Action research will give the students hands-on experience with conducting research and the opportunity to investigate issues that they may encounter as practitioners. At the conclusion of the course, students will have practical experience to design and implement an action research project.

ED 619 – ADVANCED SKILLS IN READING

3-0-3

(3 Credits)

This course is designed as in-depth of major reading skills. The major thrust is geared to research activities, and strategies essential in the teaching of these basic skills.

ED 621 – MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES IN THE CLASSROOM

3-0-3

(3 Credits)

This course examines current research on behavior and existing techniques of managing the classroom.

ED 627 – EVALUATION AND MEASUREMENT

3-0-3

(3 Credits)

Focuses on current research of specific principles and practices relative to evaluative procedures. Emphasizes in depth analyses of standardized tests and case studies.

ED 629 – RESEARCH DESIGN AND STATISTICS

3-0-3

(3 Credits)

An advanced research course designed to assist students in writing and evaluating their thesis. This course focuses on research design and advanced statistics.

Pre-requisite: ED 514.

ED 632 – ADVANCED STUDIES METHODS-MATERIALS FOR TEACHING IN THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

3-0-3

(3 Credits)

Examines research on current procedures of teaching. Investigates strategies, materials, activities, and theory of teaching in the elementary schools.

ED 633 – ADVANCED SEMINAR IN CURRICULUM AND PEDAGOGY

3-0-3

(3 Credits)

This Capstone Seminar is designed to foster an intensive cross-discipline analysis of research with regards to integrated curriculum development and assessment. Emphasis is placed on illustrations of critical professional reflection and the integration of theoretical and experiential knowledge. The basic context/format of the course is learning through discourse. As such, candidates are expected to participate in the manufacture of knowledge by engaging in cooperative learning exercises, large and small group discussion, student leading discussions, peer teaching, and problem-based learning. Said synchronous and asynchronous activities will be achieved via the Online Management System.

ED 637 – ADVANCED MEDIA TECHNOLOGY/COMPUTER APPLICATION**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

Studies selection, utilization, production and evaluation of audio visual materials and equipment. Stresses computer literacy.

ED 695 – ADVANCED SEMINAR IN ELEMENTARY EDUCATION**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

Surveys problems encountered by students and teachers in elementary education. Emphasizes current research and discussion of innovations and topics of interest in education.

ED 698 – THESIS I**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This course is designed to introduce students to the research prospectus and thesis/Dissertation writing process with the focus on both the rhetorical framework and grammatical patterns germane to these tasks as well as the purpose of the research project. This course includes, but is not limited to: Producing literature reviews, annotated bibliographies with the concentration on conventions of style and format of specific academic discipline; synthesizing and relating verbal and nonverbal materials; analyzing research data; and drawing conclusions. The intent of the course is to provide training for the development of self-editing, proofreading skills, and individualized assistance to students with the drafting phase of documents.

ED 699 – THESIS II**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

Requires students enrolled in the Elementary Education Specialist Program to develop, design, and carry to completion a thesis or special research project. Pre-requisite: ED 629 and ED 627.

Psychology (Education Specialist Courses) (PH)**PH 604 – EDUCATIONAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL STATISTICS****3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This course focuses on analysis and interpretation of statistical data encountered on psychology and education using selected statistical techniques.

PH 614 – LEARNING THEORIES**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This advanced course helps students acquire information and knowledge concerning the major traits, dynamics, and learning. Emphasis is placed on understanding theories of personality development and learning as they relate to behavior in various domains, including social learning and cognition as they influence attachment, dependency, aggression, sex typing, moral development, and general social competence.

PH 690 – PSYCHOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS OF EDUCATION**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This course examines the application of psychological concepts, principles and theories in dealing with educational problems as relate to the basic tenants of psychological theories and major contributors to the fields of education and psychology.

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN EDUCATION DEGREE IN ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

Program Description

The Master's degree at Alcorn State University is designed to meet all criteria set forth by the State Department of Education. This degree consists of 33 hours of course requirements and leads to the AA licensure. The department offers endorsements in the following areas: Early Childhood Education, Elementary Education and Reading. The Educational programs are structured to utilize the educational experiences of the students in the program. Degrees are designed to allow students to explore issues, design curriculum and learn new strategies and techniques that will enable them to become more effective educators, through the application of theory and new research to their educational practice.

Upon completion of the courses, the student will be able to:

- Apply the central concepts, tools of inquiry, structures, contemporary theories, and paradigms in education that develop a classroom climate to enhance the social, emotional, physical and psychological aspects of students;
- Create and deliver lesson segments that reflect theory and practice;
- Demonstrate effective interpersonal communication skills of speaking, listening, reading, and writing when interacting with pupils, parents, teachers, and other school personnel;
- Design performance-based assessments and implement assessment, instruction, evaluation, and intervention plans;
- Use media and technology as tools for professional development and to promote student learning;
- Model professionalism and high ethical standards in the classroom, and develop appropriate strategies for self-evaluation as a means of assessing one's own professionalism and teaching effectiveness.

Program Admission Requirements:

All students desiring to enter the Master of Science in Education Program in Elementary Education at Alcorn State University should first seek admission to Graduate School. Official transcripts and documentation of a Standard Mississippi teacher's license in a teaching area should be forwarded with the admission application. The Early Childhood option is only applicable to educators holding certification in K-3 or K-6 endorsement areas.

*Note: If a person is admitted with a secondary teacher's license, they will be endorsed in 4-8 only. If the Mississippi State Department of Education changes the licensure structure, the School of Education and Psychology must adhere to the changes. This program is not intended for special school personnel that have an endorsement in Guidance Education without a teaching endorsement.

The Mississippi State Board of Education approved the implementation of the Foundations of Reading Test in accordance with the Mississippi Code Ann. 37-3-2, *effective July 1, 2016*, for licensure candidates completing traditional and alternate routes, and supplemental endorsements programs in elementary education. A teacher candidate in Mississippi must earn a passing score of 229 on this rigorous test of scientifically research-based reading instruction and intervention and data-based decision-making principles as approved by the State Board of Education. The purpose of test is to ensure that each licensed educator has the subject matter knowledge essential for entry-level teaching in the field. This licensure requirement also supports the critical role of the classroom teacher in ensuring that the students exit third grade reading on grade level.

The test measures proficiency in and depth of understanding of the subject of reading, reflects scientifically based reading research, conforms to the recommendations of the National Reading Panel, and is in alignment with Mississippi's 2014 College- and Career-Readiness Standards.

ENDORSEMENT AREA: EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Course Requirements

Core Education Courses (12 hours)		Credits
ED 512	Foundations of American Education.	3 hrs.
ED 514	Methods of Educational Research	3 hrs.
ED 533	Curriculum Development	3 hrs.
PH 513	Advanced Educational Psychology	3 hrs.
Required Endorsement Field Courses (15 hours)		Credits
ED 538	Reading and Language Arts Experiences in ECE	3 hrs.
ED 539	Mathematics Concepts and Experiences in ECE	3 hrs.
ED 541	Behavior Factors and Experiences in ECE	3 hrs.
ED 543	Theory and Historical Development in ECE	3 hrs.
ED 545	Seminar in ECE	3 hrs.
Approved Electives (6 hours)		Credits
ED 535	Models of Teaching in ECE	3 hrs.
ED 536	Assessing the Young Child	3 hrs.
ED 542	Practicum in ECE	3 hrs.
ED 546	Director of Early Learning Centers	3 hrs.
ED 548	Child Welfare	3 hrs.
ED 549	Parenting in a Pluralistic Society	3 hrs.
ED 550	Thesis in ECE	3 hrs.
TOTAL		33 hrs.

ENDORSEMENT AREA: ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

Program Description

The Elementary Education Program is offered on an accelerated level as well as the traditional 16 weeks' class completion schedule. The accelerated program offers classes online on an eight weeks' rotation. Students selecting the accelerated program must complete the courses in the sequence of availability.

Course Requirements

Core Education Courses (12 hours)		Credits
ED 512	Foundations of American Education	3 hrs.
ED 514	Methods of Educational Research	3 hrs.
ED 533	Curriculum Development	3 hrs.
PH 513	Advanced Educational Psychology	3 hrs.

Required Endorsement Field Courses (15 hours)		Credits
ED 516	Current Trends in Elementary Social Studies Instruction	3 hrs.
ED 524	Problems of Teaching Arithmetic	3 hrs.
ED 525	Recent Methods and Materials for Teaching Elementary Reading	3 hrs.
ED 526	Prob. and Trends in Elementary School Science	3 hrs.
ED 595	Seminar in Elementary Education	3 hrs.
Approved Electives (6 hours)		Credits
EA 577	Systematic Teacher Evaluation	3 hrs.
ED 510	Creative and Mental Growth	3 hrs.
ED 527	Evaluation & Measurement in Schools	3 hrs.
ED 530	Thesis	6 hrs.
ED 575	Metrics for Elementary Teachers	3 hrs.
ED 576	Art for Elementary Education	3 hrs.
PH 514	Theories of Learning and Personality Development	3 hrs.
TOTAL		33 hrs.

ENDORSEMENT AREA: READING

Course Requirements

Core Education Courses (12 hours)		Credits
ED 512	Foundations of American Education.	3 hrs.
ED 514	Methods of Educational Research	3 hrs.
ED 533	Curriculum Development	3 hrs.
PH 513	Advanced Educational Psychology	3 hrs.
Required Endorsement Field Courses (15 hours)		Credits
ED 501	Research in Reading	3 hrs.
ED 507	Diagnostic Procedures in Reading	3 hrs.
ED 519	Basic Skills in Reading	3 hrs.
ED 525	Recent Methods/Materials Elem. Reading	3 hrs.
ED 598	Recent Methods/Materials Secondary. Reading	3 hrs.
PH 588	Psychology of Reading	3 hrs.
Approved Electives (6 hours)		Credits
ED 503	Clinical Procedures in Reading	3 hrs.
ED 504	Seminar in Reading	3 hrs.
ED 529	Supervision of the School Reading Program	3 hrs.
ED 538	Reading & Lang. Arts Exp. in ECE	3 hrs.
ED 582	Issues, Trends & Innovations in Reading	3 hrs.
TOTAL		33 hrs.

Education Course Descriptions (ED)**ED 501 – RESEARCH IN READING****3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This course focuses on research in the area of reading and how this research has and continues to make contributions to the overall instructional process in the area of reading.

ED 503 – CLINICAL PROCEDURES IN READING**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

Identification, diagnosis, and remediation of reading difficulties.

Pre-requisite: ED 317, teaching experience, and consent of instructor.

ED 504 – SEMINAR IN READING**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

Emphasis on current innovations and problems; special attention to research in the field.

ED 507 – DIAGNOSTIC PROCEDURES IN READING**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

Tests, inventories and clinical procedures in appraising reading difficulties.

ED 510 – CREATIVE AND MENTAL GROWTH**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

Research in the development of habits of creative thinking and its relationship to mental growth, involving art, music, drama, creative writing, and other behavior patterns.

ED 512 – FOUNDATIONS OF EDUCATION**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

A study of the sociological, historical, and philosophical background of education in America.

ED 514 – METHODS OF EDUCATION RESEARCH**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

Study of the several approaches to the formulation of research problems, data analysis and hypothesis testing; appraisal and evaluation of published research; techniques of surveying research literature; preparation of short research papers. Development of research proposal is a course requirement.

ED 515 – MODERN METHODS OF TEACHING**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

A methods course taught by faculty from the various areas of endorsement in secondary education.

ED 516 – CURRENT TRENDS IN ELEMENTARY SOCIAL STUDIES INSTRUCTION**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

Considers ways in which the materials from the social sciences can be most effectively integrated in the social studies programs of junior and senior high schools. Analyzes problems of both subject matter and methods and appraises them in the light of actual classroom and community needs and of research findings.

ED 517 – COMMUNICATIONS WORKSHOP**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

Development of personal skills in reading and related communicative arts; emphasis on selection of materials and the guidance of activities appropriate to individualized instruction.

- ED 519 – BASIC SKILLS IN READING** 3-0-3
(3 Credits)
Introduction to reading, history, overview of the fields, and basic instructional procedures. (May not be used as part of the undergraduate area of concentration.)
- ED 521 – MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES FOR THE CLASSROOM** 3-0-3
(3 Credits)
This course focuses on preparing students to implement educational techniques and programs which have merit in the special and regular classrooms. Behavior modification techniques and other effective means of managing the classroom are emphasized.
- ED 523 – MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES FOR THE CLASSROOM** 3-0-3
(3 Credits)
Addresses the identification of weakness through diagnostic means and implementing remediation techniques through the process prescriptive teaching.
- ED 524 – PROBLEMS IN TEACHING ARITHMETIC** 3-0-3
(3 Credits)
Presents recent developments in content and methodology for elementary school mathematics. Reviews research in mathematics education and stresses the application of psychological knowledge to curriculum development and classroom practice.
- ED 525 – RECENT METHODS AND MATERIALS FOR TEACHING ELEMENTARY READING** 3-0-3
(3 Credits)
Emphasis is given to materials; approaches for helping students use reading skills in ever-increasingly difficult circumstances. Particular attention is given to the relationship between reading efficiency and successful achievement in content area.
- ED 526 – PROBLEMS AND TRENDS IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SCIENCE** 3-0-3
(3 Credits)
Examines the historical background of current developments in elementary science curriculum. Investigates: integration of K-12 programs, problems of methodology, philosophy, materials, and evaluation in the teaching and supervision of science. Allows each student to study a particular problem in depth.
- ED 527 – EVALUATION AND MEASUREMENT IN SCHOOLS** 3-0-3
(3 Credits)
An introduction to specific principles and practices relative to group evaluative procedures with emphasis upon the developmental, diagnostic and projective techniques, case study, and standardized testing procedures within the elementary education range.
- ED 529 – SUPERVISION OF THE SCHOOL READING PROGRAM** 3-0-3
(3 Credits)
Organization and supervision of the reading program in grades K-12. Emphasis on meeting needs of in-service teachers. Interpretation and use of school-wide data.
- ED 530 – THESIS** 3-0-3
(3 Credits)
- ED 531 – METHODS AND MATERIALS IN ADULT EDUCATION** 3-0-3
(3 Credits)
A survey and analysis of various techniques, methods, and devices for teaching adults.

ED 532 – PRINCIPLES OF ADULT EDUCATION**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This course exposes students to the philosophy of adult education and learning theories affecting the adult learner. Factors related to learning ability, motivation and achievement of the adult learner will be explored. Students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the basic laws and principles of learning, especially as these laws and principles relate to the adult learner.

ED 533 – CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT**3-0-3**

(3 Credit Hours)

A systematic study of the history, theory and practice of public school curriculum development.

ED 534 – INTERCULTURAL SENSITIVITY**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This course provides a study of the cultural background of different groups of children, implications for learning and teaching, as well as beliefs and attitudes commonly held by teachers.

ED 535 – MODELS OF TEACHING IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This course is designed to focus on the major models in Early Childhood Education that have been identified by noted authorities as effective. Comparing and contrasting the models will take place.

ED 536 – ASSESSING THE YOUNG CHILD**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This course focuses on the identifying means of screening diagnosing, and determining effective evaluative procedures for the young child. Diagnostic instruments, materials, methods of teaching will be viewed for effectiveness.

ED 538 – READING AND LANGUAGE ARTS EXPERIENCE IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This course focuses on reading readiness skills and language development essential for nursery-kindergarten children. Special attention will be given to procedures and provision of activities to promote and insure maximum growth in these areas of emphasis.

ED 539 – MATHEMATICS CONCEPTS AND EXPERIENCES IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This course is designed to focus on mathematical skills essential for nursery-kindergarten children. Special emphasis will be given to providing the basic concepts in mathematics in order to insure continuous growth in the area.

ED 541 – BEHAVIOR FACTORS AND EXPERIENCES IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This course emphasizes general influences on the child and his world and the understanding and changing of behavior to promote a more productive learning environment for all early childhood levels. Special attention will be given to factors contributing to behavior and suggestions for solving behavioral problems.

ED 542 – PRACTICUM IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This course emphasizes involvement in practical experience in an early childhood setting whereas responsibility includes teaching the content areas under the supervision of a master teacher and university supervisor.

ED 543 – THEORY AND HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION **3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This course emphasizes growth and development for conception through age six and in the childbearing stage. Basic needs, common recurring pediatric health problems, and common recurring health problems of the maternal cycle are stressed.

ED 545 – SEMINAR IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION **3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This course is designed to explore the many issues, trends, and innovations that have taken and are taking place in education. Emphasis is placed on problems encountered by both the teacher and student. Reading, research, and discussions will take place focusing on all special emphasis areas.

ED 546 – DIRECTOR OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION **3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This course is an internship-type setting with selected directors of early learning centers. Special emphasis will be placed on administrative practices and procedures necessary for effective leadership.

ED 548 – CHILD WELFARE **3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This course concerns the evaluation and current developments in programs for meeting the needs of children. These developments may include substitute parental care, adoptions, child labor laws, juvenile courts, provisions for unmarried parents, the handicapped child, and the exceptional child.

ED 549 – PARENTING IN A PLURALISTIC SOCIETY **3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This course focuses on the involvement of parents, the pluralistic nature of American Communities, current status or research on parenting, and the powerful influences made by the home and school in a child's total development. Special attention is given to community values, dignity inherent in cultural customs, tolerance in cultural diversity, and other policy issues dealing with American society.

ED 550 – THESIS IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION **3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This course requires the designing and implementation of a research project under the direct supervision of university staff members. The research will focus on a phase of early childhood education.

ED 571 – ORGANIZATION, PRINCIPLES, AND PROCEDURES FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION **3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

Educational principles and curricular matters relevant to preschool and primary levels of the school program are examined. Attention will be given to model program in the field of Early Childhood Education.

ED 575 – METRICS FOR ELEMENTARY TEACHERS **3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

An overview of the metric system with emphasis on the historic background of measurement. Particular attention will be given to techniques of teaching distance, capacity, and weight to elementary students.

ED 576 – ART FOR ELEMENTARY TEACHERS **3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This course is designed for prospective teachers in the elementary school. Emphasis will be placed on the creative approach to both fine arts and applied arts. Media such as paper, wood, clay, raffia, yarn and other materials are used.

ED 580 – METHODS AND MATERIALS FOR THE GIFTED 3-0-3
(3 Credits)

An introduction to teaching techniques and procedures, instructional materials and methodology related to implementation and utilization of contemporary and innovative materials for the gifted.

ED 582 – ISSUES, TRENDS, AND INNOVATIONS IN READING 3-0-3
(3 Credits)

Emphasis is placed on issues, trends, and innovations in reading, successes and failures, and how the knowledge of this contributes to reading success in the instructional setting.

ED 583 – EDUCATIONAL INTERNSHIP I 3-0-3
(3 Credits)

A total immersion one-year supervised experience in a school setting. Prospective teachers learn to apply the most current research and best practice about effective teaching and learning in the living laboratory of the classroom. Pre-requisite: A three-year (non-renewable) special license issued by the Mississippi State Department of Education.

ED 584 – EDUCATIONAL INTERNSHIP II 3-0-3
(3 Credits)

Continuation of Educational Internship I. Interns will apply current research and best practices in teaching.

ED 595 – SEMINAR IN ELEMENTARY EDUCATION 3-0-3
(3 Credits)

This course allows students to survey problems typically encountered by teachers and students studying to become Master Teachers in Elementary Education, and consists of reading, research and discussion in the individual student's interest.

ED 598 – METHODS AND MATERIALS OF READING IN THE SECONDARY SCHOOL 3-0-3
(3 Credits)

Organization of reading instruction in secondary schools.

Educational Administration Course Descriptions (EA)

EA 577 – SYSTEMATIC TEACHER EVALUATION 3-0-3
(3 Credits)

A course designed to train observers in using the Mississippi Teacher Assessment Instruments. Participants will be trained to use Teacher Plans and Materials Instrument (TPM), Position Skills (PS), and Interpersonal Skills (IS) instruments.

Psychology Course Descriptions (PH)

PH 502 – COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH MANAGEMENT 3-0-3
(3 Credits)

This course is a comprehensive study of the knowledge and skills necessary to function effectively, professionally, and ethically in providing appropriate counseling services in a wide variety of mental health environments. It will also assist the counselor to refine the necessary competencies for effective leadership as a mental health manager.

PH 504 – EDUCATIONAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL STATISTICS**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

Introduces concepts and methods used for quantitative investigation. Enables students to perform and interpret the statistical work ordinarily encountered in studies in psychology and education. Topics include descriptive statistics, bi-variate analysis and selected non-parametric techniques.

PH 513 – ADVANCED EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This course involves the analysis of psychological theories, principles, and procedures relevant to classroom learning. Special attention will be given to learning theories, testing and evaluation, personality development, and teaching effectiveness.

PH 514 – THEORIES OF LEARNING AND PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

A study of the nature of contrasting psychologies of learning. This is further designed to discuss and examine problems, research, and solutions through a variety of schools of thought.

PH 523 – ADVANCED CHILD PSYCHOLOGY**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This course is designed to examine the advanced aspects of physical, social, emotional, mental and value development of the child from infancy up to pre-adolescent period.

PH 525 – PSYCHOLOGY OF EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This course offering investigates those constituent disciplines that compose the field Special Education. The causes and incidences of the various exceptionalities within children are investigated in depth. As a graduate course, this course will require mature study, visitation with exceptional children, and surveying legal issues related to exceptional children.

PH 533 – TEST CONSTRUCTION**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

Students will specify or select materials and procedures for assessing learner progress on the objectives. Students will plan assessment procedures or materials appropriate for the objectives and the learners.

PH 535 – IDENTIFICATION, DIAGNOSIS, AND EVALUATION OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

A review of psycho-educational processes and techniques used in screening and identifying learning disabilities. The ability to use current principles, procedures, techniques and instrumentation in assessing learning and behavioral patterns of students with disabilities.

PH 544 – PSYCHOLOGY OF LEARNING AS APPLIED TO TEACHING**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

Examination of learning processes in both humans and cognition to the classroom situation.

PH 550 – INDIVIDUAL MENTAL TESTING**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

A practice in the assessment of intellectual functioning with emphasis on the administration, scoring, and interpretation of individual tests of intelligence.

PH 560 – ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

An examination of the symptoms, origins, and treatments of mental disorders, mental retardation, and substance abuse disorders.

PH 579 – PSYCHOLOGY OF THE GIFTED**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

Emphasis is placed on identifying the characteristics, identification, techniques, and evaluation of the gifted.

PH 588 – PSYCHOLOGY OF READING INSTRUCTION**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

The reading process with emphasis on perception and its physiological and psychological correlates.

MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING (MAT)**GRADUATE FACULTY**

Tabitha Smith, Ed.D., Director, Master of Arts in Teaching Program and Assistant Professor of Education

Program Description

The Master of Arts in Teaching Program is designed for students who have obtained a bachelor's degree in a field other than education and who are not eligible for teacher licensure. The M.A.T program is designed to meet teacher licensure requirements at the graduate level in the state of Mississippi. The Mississippi Department of Education requires unlicensed degree holders who are interested in the teaching field to enroll in the MAT program or other alternate route programs. A qualified candidate must pass CASE and Praxis II, enroll and complete ED 521 and ED 527 classes, then apply for a three-year Provisional Class A license. After completing teaching internships ED 583 and ED 584 the candidate may apply for a Class A standard license (5 years). If a candidate completes the MAT program, he/she can then apply for a Class AA standard license.

Upon completion of this program, the candidates will have the ability to demonstrate the following learning outcomes:

1. To understand the central concepts, tools of inquiry, and structures of the discipline he or she teaches and can create learning experiences that make these aspects of subject matter meaningful for students.
2. To understand how children learn, develop, and to provide learning opportunities that support a child's intellectual, social, and personal development.
3. To understand and use a variety of instructional strategies to encourage student development of critical thinking, problem solving, and performance skills.
4. To plan instruction based upon knowledge of subject matter, students, the community, and curriculum goals.
5. To understand and use formal and informal assessment strategies to evaluate and ensure the continuous intellectual, social, and physical development of the learner.
6. To use knowledge of effective verbal, nonverbal, and media communication techniques to foster active inquiry, collaboration, and supportive interaction in the classroom.
7. To use educational technology as an instructional and management tool.
8. To collaborate with colleagues, parents/guardians, and other members of the community to support student learning and well-being and demonstrate knowledge of the role of the school in the community.
9. To understand how students differ in their approaches to learning and create instructional opportunities that are adapted to diverse learners.

Program Admission Requirements

Students who wish to be admitted to the M.A.T. program should first seek admission to Graduate School. Official transcripts and documentation of all required test scores should be forwarded with the admission application. Program requirements are subject to change; therefore, applicants should meet with their advisor or department chairperson to review requirements.

Master of Arts in Teaching: Elementary Education 116, 117 and 120 Elementary Education (4-6 Grades) – All educators completing an approved program for elementary education must achieve a passing score of 229 on the Foundations of Reading assessment to obtain an endorsement in elementary education. Twenty-one (21) ACT equivalent or achieve the nationally recommended passing score on the Praxis CORE (Core Academic Skills for Educators) and recommended passing score on the Praxis Subject Assessment. In addition to the test scores, students' undergraduate transcript must reflect a minimum of 2.75 GPA to be eligible for consideration for admission.

Master of Arts in Teaching: Secondary Education Grades) – All educators completing an approved program for secondary education licensure must achieve a passing score of Twenty-one (21) ACT equivalent or achieve the nationally recommended passing score on the Praxis CORE (Core Academic Skills for Educators) and recommended passing score on the Praxis Subject Assessment. In addition to the test scores, students' undergraduate transcript must reflect a minimum of 2.75 GPA to be eligible for consideration for admission.

MAT ENDORSEMENT AREA: ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

Course Requirements

Pre-Teaching Required Courses (6 hours)		Credits
ED 521	Management Techniques for the Classroom	3 hrs.
ED 527	Evaluation and Measurement Schools	3 hrs.
Required Courses During First Year of Teaching (6 hours)		Credits
ED 583	MAT Internship I	3 hrs.
ED 584	MAT Internship II	3 hrs.
Core Courses for AA Licensure (12 hours)		Credits
CS 513	Computer Application in Instructions	3 hrs.
ED 514	Methods of Educational Research	3 hrs.
ED 519	Basic Skills in Reading	3 hrs.
PH 525	Psychology of Exceptional Children	3 hrs.
Elementary Track (9 hours)		Credits
ED 524	Problems in Teaching Arithmetic	3 hrs.
ED 525	Recent Meth & Mtls for Teaching Elementary Reading	3 hrs.
ED 595	Seminar in Elementary Education	3 hrs.
TOTAL		33 hrs.

MAT ENDORSEMENT AREA: ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (ONLINE)**Course Requirements**

Pre-Teaching Required Courses (6 hours)		Credits
ED 521	Management Techniques for the Classroom	3 hrs.
ED 527	Evaluation and Measurement Schools	3 hrs.
Courses Required During First Year of Teaching (6 hours)		Credits
ED 583	MAT Internship I	3 hrs.
ED 584	MAT Internship II	3 hrs.
Core Courses for AA Licensure (12 hours)		Credits
CS 513	Computer Application in Instructions	3 hrs.
ED 514	Methods of Educational Research	3 hrs.
ED 519	Basic Skills in Reading	3 hrs.
PH 525	Psychology of Exceptional Children	3 hrs.
Elementary Track (9 hours)		Credits
ED 524	Problems in Teaching Arithmetic	3 hrs.
ED 525	Recent Meth & Mtls for Teaching Elementary Reading	3 hrs.
ED 595	Seminar in Elementary Education	3 hrs.
TOTAL		33 hrs.

MAT ENDORSEMENT AREA: SECONDARY EDUCATION**Course Requirements**

Pre-Teaching Courses (6 hours)		Credits
ED 521	Management Techniques for the Classroom	3 hrs.
ED 527	Evaluation and Measurement in Schools	3 hrs.
Courses Required During First Year of Teaching (6 hours)		Credits
ED 583	MAT Internship I	3 hrs.
ED 584	MAT Internship II	3 hrs.
Core Courses for AA Licensure (12 hours)		Credits
PH 525	Psychology of Exceptional Children	3 hrs.
CS 513	Computer Application in Instructions	3 hrs.
ED 598	Methods and Materials of Reading in Secondary School	3 hrs.
ED 514	Methods of Educational Research	3 hrs.
Secondary Track (9 hours)		Credits
	Modern Methods of Teaching (3 hours in area)	3 hrs.
ED 533	Curriculum Development	3 hrs.
	Any specialized content area courses (3 hrs.)	3 hrs.
TOTAL		33 hrs.

MAT ENDORSEMENT AREA: SECONDARY EDUCATION (ONLINE)**Course Requirements**

Pre-Teaching Courses (6 hours)		Credits
ED 521	Management Techniques for the Classroom	3 hrs.
ED 527	Evaluation and Measurement in Schools	3 hrs.
Courses Required During First Year of Teaching (6 hours)		Credits
ED 583	MAT Internship I	3 hrs.
ED 584	MAT Internship II	3 hrs.

Core Courses for AA Licensure (12 hours)		Credits
PH 525	Psychology of Exceptional Children	3 hrs.
CS 513	Computer Application in Instructions	3 hrs.
ED 598	Methods and Materials of Reading in Secondary School	3 hrs.
ED 514	Methods of Educational Research	3 hrs.
Secondary Track (9 hours)		Credits
	Modern Methods of Teaching (3 hours in area)	3 hrs.
ED 533	Curriculum Development	3 hrs.
	Any specialized content area courses (3 hrs.)	3 hrs.
TOTAL		33 hrs.

EDUCATION COURSE DESCRIPTIONS (ED)

ED 514 – METHODS OF EDUCATION RESEARCH

3-0-3

(3 Credits)

Study of the several approaches to the formulation of research problems, data analysis and hypothesis testing; appraisal and evaluation of published research; techniques of surveying research literature; preparation of short research papers. Development of research proposal is a course requirement.

ED 519 – BASIC SKILLS IN READING

3-0-3

(3 Credits)

Introduction to reading, history, overview of the fields, and basic instructional procedures. (May not be used as part of the undergraduate area of concentration.)

ED 521 – MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES FOR THE CLASSROOM

3-0-3

(3 Credits)

This course focuses on preparing students to implement educational techniques and programs which have merit in the special and regular classrooms. Behavior modification techniques and other effective means of managing the classroom are emphasized.

ED 524 – PROBLEMS IN TEACHING ARITHMETIC

3-0-3

(3 Credits)

Presents recent developments in content and methodology for elementary school mathematics. Reviews research in mathematics education and stresses the application of psychological knowledge to curriculum development and classroom practice.

ED 525 – RECENT METHODS AND MATERIALS FOR TEACHING ELEMENTARY READING

3-0-3

(3 Credits)

Emphasis is given to materials, approaches for helping students use reading skills in ever-increasingly difficult circumstances. Particular attention is given to the relationship between reading efficiency and successful achievement in content area.

ED 527 – EVALUATION AND MEASUREMENT IN SCHOOLS

3-0-3

(3 Credits)

An introduction to specific principles and practices relative to group evaluative procedures with emphasis upon the developmental, diagnostic and projective techniques, case study, and standardized testing procedures within the elementary education range.

ED 533 – CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT **3-0-3**
(3 Credits)

A systematic study of the history, theory and practice of public school curriculum development.

ED 583 – EDUCATIONAL INTERNSHIP I **3-0-3**
(3 Credits)

Part one of a total immersion one-year supervised experience in a school setting. Prospective teachers learn to apply the most current research and best practice about effective teaching and learning in the living laboratory of the classroom. Pre-requisite: A three-year (non-renewable) special license issued by the Mississippi State Department of Education.

ED 584 – EDUCATIONAL INTERNSHIP II **3-0-3**
(3 Credits)

Part two of a total immersion one-year supervised experience in a school setting. Prospective teachers learn to apply the most current research and best practice about effective teaching and learning in the living laboratory of the classroom. Pre-requisite: A three-year (non-renewable) special license issued by the Mississippi State Department of Education.

ED 595 – SEMINAR IN ELEMENTARY EDUCATION **3-0-3**
(3 Credits)

This course allows students to survey problems typically encountered by teachers and students studying to become Master Teachers in Elementary Education, and consists of reading, research and discussion in the individual student's interest.

ED 598 – METHODS AND MATERIALS OF READING IN THE SECONDARY SCHOOL **3-0-3**
(3 Credits)

Organization of reading instruction in secondary schools.

Psychology Course Description (PH)

PH 598 – PSYCHOLOGY OF EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN **3-0-3**
(3 Credits)

This course offering investigates those constituent disciplines that compose the field of Special Education. The causes and incidences of the various exceptionalities within children are investigated in depth. As a graduate course, this course will require mature study, visitation with exceptional children, and surveying legal issues related to exceptional children.

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN EDUCATION DEGREE IN SECONDARY EDUCATION

Program Description

The graduate program for the Secondary Education Masters offers endorsements in eleven areas for the practicing licensed educator. Graduates are prepared for advanced preparation to serve as teachers in various educational capacities.

Upon completion of the courses, the student will be able to:

1. Apply the central concepts, tools of inquiry, structures, contemporary theories, and paradigms in education that develop a classroom climate to enhance the social, emotional, physical and psychological aspects of students;
2. Create and deliver lesson segments that reflect theory and practice;
3. Demonstrate effective interpersonal communication skills of speaking, listening, reading, and writing when interacting with pupils, parents, teachers, and other school personnel
4. Design performance-based assessments and implement assessment, instruction, evaluation, and intervention plans;
5. Use media and technology as tools for professional development and to promote student learning; and
6. Model professionalism and high ethical standards in the classroom, and develop appropriate strategies for self-evaluation as a means of assessing one's own professionalism and teaching effectiveness.

Course Requirements

Core Education Courses (12 hours)	Credits
ED 512 Foundations of American Education.	3 hrs.
ED 514 Methods of Educational Research	3 hrs.
ED 533 Curriculum (Methods) Development	3 hrs.
PH 513 Advanced Educational Psychology	3 hrs.
Field of Endorsement plus Electives (21 hours)	21 hrs.
TOTAL	33 hrs.

ENDORSEMENT AREA: SCHOOL COUNSELING

GRADUATE FACULTY

Somonia Lynn Etheridge, Ph.D./JD, Visiting Assistant Professor of Counseling
Gerald Peoples, Ph.D., Professor of School Counseling

Program Description

The curriculum in School Counseling is designed to prepare students for employment as counselors in the educational arena and the mental health field. This degree consists of 51 hours of required coursework. Completion of this curriculum will qualify students for the class AA certificate in the state of Mississippi and permit them to sit for the required PRAXIS exam in school counseling and guidance.

The primary objectives of this endorsement area are to:

1. Provide a level of instruction for potential counselors that will enable them to produce self-directed persons who are capable of making healthy life choices;
2. Provide a level of instruction for potential counselors to develop competencies in the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Program's (CACREP) eight common core knowledge areas: Professional Identity, Social and Cultural Diversity, Human Growth and Development, Career Development, Helping Relationships, Group Work, Assessment, and Research and Program Evaluation;
3. Foster and nurture in potential counselors a personal commitment to high standards of education, competent levels of verbal and written communication skills, and a dedication to service;
4. Foster and nurture in potential counselors the ability and desire to think critically, read broadly, and pursue education and growth continually;
5. Teach and foster knowledge of and quest for the highest ethical standards, increasing levels of multicultural competency, and ongoing critical self-awareness and personal growth;
6. Foster in potential counselors a quest for knowledge, intellectual curiosity, and sustainable self-efficacy.

Admission Requirements

1. Completion of a bachelor's degree with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 for unconditional admission and 2.5 for conditional admission as recorded on the official transcript of a regionally accredited college or university.
2. Three letters of recommendation sent directly to the Office of Graduate Studies.

SPECIAL NOTE. While programs with endorsements in School Counseling and Clinical Mental Health Counseling have very similar coursework, students who complete the MS degree at Alcorn State University with an endorsement in School Counseling *will not* be able to complete a second master's degree in Mental Health Counseling. These students may enroll in additional courses leading to endorsement in Clinical Mental Health Counseling but cannot be admitted into the MS degree program leading to a second master's degree with endorsement in Clinical Mental Health Counseling.

Degree Requirements

1. To qualify for a Master of Science in Education degree with an Endorsement in School counseling the student must complete the 51 hours of coursework, maintain a 3.00 GPA or above and obtain a passing score on the Praxis II in the area of School Guidance and Counseling.
2. To qualify for a Master of Science in Education degree with an Endorsement in Clinical Mental Health Counseling the student must complete the 60 hours of coursework, maintain a 3.00 GPA or above and obtain a passing score on the Counselor Preparation Comprehensive Examination.

Course Requirements

Core Education Courses (6 hours)

		Credits
CED 514	Methods of Educational Research & Statistics (LPC/NCC/NCE)	3 hrs.
ED 533	Curriculum Development	3 hrs.
PH 504	Psychological Statistics	3 hrs.

Required Courses (42 hours)

		Credits
CM 502		
CM 508	Introduction to Counseling** (LPC/NCC/NCE)	3 hrs.
CM 510	Counseling & Psychological Theory** (LPC/NCC/NCE)	3 hrs.
CM 511	Counseling Techniques**	3 hrs.
CM 512	Career Development (LPC/NCC/NCE)	
CM 513	Group Procedures (LPC/NCC/NCE)	3 hrs.
CM 515	Organization, Administration & Consultation in School Counseling	3 hrs.
CM 516	Psychological Assessment Techniques in Counseling (LPC/NCC/NCE)	3 hrs.
CM 519A	School Counseling Practicum (Spring Only)	3 hrs.
CM 520A	School Counseling Internship I (Fall Only)	3 hrs.
CM 521A	School Counseling Internship II (Spring Only)	3 hrs.
CM 524	Legal, Ethical, Professional Issues in Counseling** (LPC/NCC/NCE)	3 hrs.
CM 525	Psychological Aspects of Human Growth & Development (LPC/NCC/NCE)	3 hrs.
CM 540	Multicultural Counseling & Psychology** (LPC/NCC/NCE)	3 hrs.
	Total	51 hrs.

**Denotes Qualifying courses that must be successfully completed prior to Enrollment in Practicum and Internship.

Optional Electives (only for specialization or other counseling credentials)

		Credits
CM 530	Psycho-Diagnostics in Counseling (LPC/NCC/NCE)	3 hrs.
CM 532	Marriage and Family Counseling (LPC/NCC/NCE)	3 hrs.
CM 533	Human Sexuality Issues in Counseling	3 hrs.
CM 534	Addiction-Focused Counseling	3 hrs.
CM 535	Advanced Abnormal Psychology	3 hrs.
CM 536	Grief & Loss Issues in Counseling	3 hrs.
CM 537	Spirituality in Counseling	3 hrs.
CM 538	Special Issues in Counseling & Psychology	3 hrs.
PH 513	Advanced Educational Psychology	3 hrs.

ENDORSEMENT AREA: CLINICAL MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING**GRADUATE FACULTY**

S. Lynn Etheridge, Ph.D./J.D., Visiting Assistant Professor of Counseling

Program Description

The curriculum in Clinical Mental Health Counseling is designed to prepare students for employment as counselors in the mental health field. This degree consists of 60 hours of required coursework. Completion of this curriculum will qualify students for the class AA certificate in the state of Mississippi and permit them to sit for the required PRAXIS exam in school counseling and guidance. The primary objectives of this endorsement area are to:

1. Provide a level of instruction for potential counselors that will enable them to produce self-directed persons who are capable of making healthy life choices;
2. Provide a level of instruction for potential counselors to develop competencies in the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Program's (CACREP) eight common core knowledge areas: Professional Identity, Social and Cultural Diversity, Human Growth and Development, Career Development, Helping Relationships, Group Work, Assessment, and Research and Program Evaluation;
3. Foster and nurture in potential counselors a personal commitment to high standards of education, competent levels of verbal and written communication skills, and a dedication to service;
4. Foster and nurture in potential counselors the ability and desire to think critically, read broadly, and pursue education and growth continually;
5. To foster in the field of mental health a quest for the highest ethical standards, increasing levels of multicultural competency, and ongoing critical self-awareness and personal growth;
6. Foster in potential counselors a quest for knowledge, intellectual curiosity, and sustainable self-efficacy.

SPECIAL NOTE. While MS degree programs with endorsements in School Counseling and Clinical Mental Health Counseling have very similar coursework, students who complete the MS degree at Alcorn State University with an endorsement in School Counseling or Guidance Education **will not** be able to complete a second master's degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling. These students may enroll in additional courses leading to endorsement in Clinical Mental Health Counseling but cannot be admitted into the MS degree program leading to a second master's degree with endorsement in Clinical Mental Health Counseling.

Admission Requirements

1. Completion of a bachelor's degree with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 for unconditional admission and 2.5 for conditional admission as recorded on the official transcript of a regionally accredited college or university.
2. Two letters of recommendation sent directly to the Office of Graduate Studies.

Degree Requirements

1. To qualify for a Master of Science in Education degree with an Endorsement in Clinical Mental Health Counseling the student must complete the 60 hours of coursework, maintain a 3.00 GPA or above and obtain a passing score on the Counselor Preparation Comprehensive Examination.

Course Requirements

Core Education Courses (6 hours)

		Credits
ED 514	Methods of Educational Research & Statistics	3 hrs.
PH 504	Psychological Statistics	3 hrs.

Required Courses (48 hours)

		Credits
CM 508	Introduction to Counseling** (LPC/NCC/NCE)	3 hrs.
CM 510	Counseling and Psychological Theory** (LPC,CACREP)	3 hrs.
CM 511	Counseling Techniques** (LPC/CACREP)	3 hrs.
CM 512	Career Development (LPC/NCC/NCE)	3 hrs.
CM 513	Group Procedures** (LPC/NCC/NCE) [Spring only]	3 hrs.
CM 515	Organization, Administration & Consultation	3 hrs.
CM 516	Psychological Assessment Techniques in Counseling (LPC/NCC/NCE)	3 hrs.
CM 518	Crisis Intervention	3 hrs.
CM 519B	Clinical Mental Health Practicum (Spring Only)	3 hrs.
CM 520B	Clinical Mental Health Internship I (Fall Only)	3 hrs.
CM 521B	Clinical Mental Health Internship II (Spring Only)	3 hrs.
CM 524	Legal, Ethical & Professional Issues in Counseling** (LPC)	3 hrs.
CM 525	Human Growth and Development** (LPC/CACREP)	3 hrs.
CM 530	Psycho-Diagnostics in Counseling (LPC/NCC/NCE)	3 hrs.
CM 532	Marriage and Family Counseling (LPC)	3 hrs.
CM 534	Addiction Focused Counseling	3 hrs.
CM 540	Multicultural Counseling & Psychology** (LPC/NCC/NCE)	3 hrs.
	Total	60 hrs.

Electives (6 Hours)		Credits
CM 515	Organization Administration and Consultation in Counseling	3 hrs.
CM 535	Advanced Abnormal Psychology	3 hrs.
CM 536	Grief & Loss Issues in Counseling	3 hrs.
CM 537	Spirituality in Counseling	3 hrs.
CM 538	Special Issues in Counseling & Psychology	3 hrs.
PH 513	Advanced Educational Psychology	3 hrs.

*Applicants must have earned a "C" or better on the two required prerequisites listed on the program of study.

**Denotes Qualifying courses that must be successfully completed prior to enrollment in Practicum and Internship.

Course Descriptions (CM)

CM 508 – INTRODUCTION TO COUNSELING** **3-0-3**
(3 Credits)

Prerequisite or corequisite to every other counseling course

Historical and theoretical coverage as well as present day practices and trends of the guidance movement will be considered. Particular attention will be given to the role and responsibilities of various school personnel in the school setting.

CM 510 – COUNSELING & PSYCHOLOGICAL THEORY** **3-0-3**
(3 Credits)

Students will engage in the study of the basic theoretical approaches to counseling as well as their practical applications.

CM 511 – COUNSELING TECHNIQUES** **3-0-3**
(3 Credits)

Students are taught basic counseling skill development and the counseling conceptualization process. Attention given to establishing therapeutic relationships and prioritizing client problems/issues. Students will be expected to demonstrate proficiency in basic counseling competencies.

CM 512 – CAREER DEVELOPMENT **3-0-3**
(3 Credits)

This course will explore career development theories and their application to counseling. Implementation of educational, occupational, social informational, and placement services within counseling will be addressed.

CM 513 – GROUP PROCEDURES **3-0-3**
(3 Credits)

The course includes a study of the basic theories of group counseling and the clinical practice of applying those theories.

CM 514 – METHODS OF EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH & STATISTICS **3-0-3**
(3 Credits)

The course includes a study of the several approaches to the formulation of research problems, data analysis and hypothesis testing, appraisal and evaluation of published research, techniques of surveying research literature, and preparation of short research papers. Emphasis is placed on reading basic research methodologies and critical analysis of published research in the social and behavioral sciences.

CM 515 – ORGANIZATION, ADMINISTRATION, & CONSULTATION IN SCHOOL COUNSELING **3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This course is designed to familiarize the student with the current theories and practice of consultation in mental health and educational settings.

CM 516 – PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT TECHNIQUES IN COUNSELING **3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

Students are instructed on the techniques of studying the individual through formal and informal methods of evaluation. Individual and group measures will be considered as they are administered, analyzed, interpreted and reported. A comprehensive study will be made of all aspects of measurement to include moral, legal and ethical considerations.

CM 518 – CRISIS INTERVENTION **3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

Students are taught techniques for the application of counseling in crisis situations.

CM 519A – SCHOOL COUNSELING PRACTICUM **3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

Prerequisite: Qualifying courses must be successfully completed prior to enrollment in this course or faculty approval

Students will engage in limited supervised, practical clinical and administrative counseling experiences in selected and approved community or educational settings. Student/professional liability insurance is required prior to enrollment.

CM 519B – CLINICAL MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING PRACTICUM **3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

Prerequisite: Qualifying courses must be successfully completed prior to enrollment in this course or faculty approval

Students will engage in limited supervised, practical clinical and administrative counseling experiences in selected and approved community or educational settings. Student/professional liability insurance is required prior to enrollment.

CM 520A – SCHOOL COUNSELING INTERNSHIP I **3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

Prerequisite: Qualifying courses must be successfully completed prior to enrollment in this course or faculty approval

Advanced students will engage in supervised, practical clinical and administrative counseling experiences for one academic year in selected and approved community or educational settings. Professional liability insurance is required prior to enrollment.

CM 520B – CLINICAL MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING INTERNSHIP I **3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

Prerequisite: Qualifying courses must be successfully completed prior to enrollment in this course or faculty approval

Advanced students will engage in supervised, practical clinical and administrative counseling experiences for one academic year in selected and approved community or educational settings. Professional liability insurance is required prior to enrollment.

- CM 521A – SCHOOL COUNSELING INTERNSHIP II** **3-0-3**
(3 Credits)
Prerequisite: Qualifying courses must be successfully completed prior to enrollment in this course or faculty approval
Advanced students will engage in supervised, practical clinical and administrative counseling experiences for one academic year in selected and approved community or educational settings. Professional liability insurance is required prior to enrollment.
- CM 521b – SCHOOL COUNSELING INTERNSHIP II** **3-0-3**
(3 Credits)
Prerequisite: Qualifying courses must be successfully completed prior to enrollment in this course or faculty approval
Advanced students will engage in supervised, practical clinical and administrative counseling experiences for one academic year in selected and approved community or educational settings. Professional liability insurance is required prior to enrollment.
- CM 524 – LEGAL, ETHICAL & PROFESSIONAL ISSUES IN COUNSELING**** **3-0-3**
(3 Credits)
Current ethical and legal guidelines and professional issues relevant to training, research, and practice in counseling are covered.
- CM 525 - HUMAN GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT**** **3-0-3**
(3 Credits)
Focus is on familiarizing students with the physical, emotional, and social growth of humans, with special emphasis given to development across the life span.
- CM 530 – PSYCHO-DIAGNOSTICS IN COUNSELING** **3-0-3**
(3 Credits)
This course will introduce students to various facets of diagnosis within assessment process and the structure of the current Diagnostic Statistical Manual (DSM) and its use in counseling.
- CM 532 – MARRIAGE AND FAMILY COUNSELING** **3-0-3**
(3 Credits)
This course provides an overview of the historical roots of family counseling and the major theoretical orientations. A brief overview of the role of research, multiculturalism, and ethics in family counseling is explored.
- CM 533 – HUMAN SEXUALITY ISSUES IN COUNSELING** **3-0-3**
(3 Credits)
This course will address the topic of human sexuality with attention given to this issue from both an individual perspective and within a relationship.
- CM 534 – ADDICTION-FOCUSED COUNSELING** **3-0-3**
(3 Credits)
This course surveys the complex field of addictions, including addiction to legal and illegal substances, sex, food, and gambling. It provides an overview of the fundamental concepts of addiction, the cultural factors (i.e. historical, geographic, economic, socio-cultural, genetic, values, lifestyles) impacting addictions, the cultural aspects (i.e. personal, public health, family, social, economic) impacted by addictions, assessment and treatment approaches from an individual and systemic perspective for addiction disorders.

CM 535 – ADVANCED ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY **3-0-3**
(3 Credits)

This course is designed to examine the advanced aspects of research and theory dealing with the etiology, symptomatology, and treatment of abnormalities of behavior.

CM 536 – GRIEF & LOSS ISSUES IN COUNSELING **3-0-3**
(3 Credits)

Students will focus on the study of grief and the techniques of grief and bereavement counseling, including a study of grief as it relates to various types of losses.

CM 537 – SPIRITUALITY IN COUNSELING **3-0-3**
(3 Credits)

This course is an exploration of current theory and knowledge about the intersection of human spirituality and mental health issues and the development of clinical skills in working with spiritual and religious issues in counseling.

CM 538 – SPECIAL ISSUES IN COUNSELING & PSYCHOLOGY **3-0-3**
(3 Credits)

Research and applied analysis of special topics related to counseling.

CM 540 – MULTICULTURAL COUNSELING & PSYCHOLOGY **3-0-3**
(3 Credits)

This course is designed to provide an introduction to and an overview of the challenges and processes of guidance and counseling in our culturally diverse society. Culturally relevant models of theory and practice will be explored.

PSYCHOLOGY (PH)

PH 513 – ADVANCED EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY **3-0-3**
(3 Credits)

This course involves the analysis of psychological theories, principles, and procedures relevant to classroom learning. Special attention will be given to learning theories, testing and evaluation, personality development, and teaching effectiveness.

**** Denotes Qualifying courses that must be successfully completed prior to enrollment in Practicum and Internship.**

CERTIFICATE IN CLINICAL MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING

Program Description

The certificate in Clinical Mental Health Counseling is designed to meet the requirements for licensure as a Licensed Professional Counselor for those students who have completed an accredited master's degree in other areas of counseling, typically School Counseling and Guidance Education, and who seek licensure as a Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselor. The knowledge, skills, and dispositions that comprise the Certificate in Clinical Mental Health Counseling prepare individuals to serve populations for whom expertise from mental health preparation would be most appropriate.

Certificate Outcomes

- To enhance skills to further obtaining licensure as a Licensed Professional Counselor
- To facilitate the skills necessary to enhance professional expertise
- Serve as a gateway to licensure
- Extend student's pursuit of life-long learning

Admission Requirements

1. Complete online application www.alcorn.edu/academics/graduate-studies (Apply Online).
2. Hold accredited master's degree in a counseling related field
3. Official transcripts from all schools attended and/or agency evaluation of foreign degree.
3. A grade point average (GPA) in a master's degree with an overall GPA of 3.0 or better.

Certificate Requirements

1. The requirements of this certificate program include the courses that fulfill the expectations for Clinical Mental Health Counselors beyond those required for completion of coursework in the master's in Guidance and/or School Counseling degree.
2. To qualify for the licensed professional certificate in Clinical Mental Health Counseling the student must complete 12 hours of additional coursework.
3. Earn at least a 3.0 Cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) in coursework.

Certificate Awarded

CLINICAL MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING

Course Requirements

Required Courses (12 hours)

		Credits
CM 509	Introduction to Clinical Mental Health	3 hrs.
CM 520B	Clinical Mental Health Internship I or	3 hrs.
CM 520B	Clinical Mental Health Internship II	3 hrs.
CM 530	Psychodiagnostics in Counseling	3 hrs.
CM 532	Marriage and Family Counseling	3 hrs.

Course Descriptions (CM)

CM 509 – INTRODUCTION TO CLINICAL MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING 3-0-3
(3 Credits)

Historical and theoretical coverage as well as present day practices and trends of mental health counseling will be considered. Particular attention will be given to the role and responsibilities of various roles for counselors in the field.

CM 520 – CLINICAL MENTAL HEALTH INTERNSHIP 3-0-3
(3 Credits)

The course enrolled depends on which semester the student's schedule allows. The student's transcript will be examined to determine that all pre-requisites have been taken. The student will engage I supervised, practical clinical and administrative counseling experiences for one semester in selected and approved clinical mental health agency settings. Professional liability insurance is required prior to admission.

CM 520B – CLINICAL MENTAL HEALTH INTERNSHIP I 3-0-3
(3 Credits)

The course enrolled depends on which semester the student's schedule allows. The student's transcript will be examined to determine that all pre-requisites have been taken. The student will engage I supervised, practical clinical and administrative counseling experiences for one semester in selected and approved clinical mental health agency settings. Professional liability insurance is required prior to admission.

CM 521B – CLINICAL MENTAL HEALTH INTERNSHIP II 3-0-3
(3 Credits)

The course enrolled depends on which semester the student's schedule allows. The student's transcript will be examined to determine that all pre-requisites have been taken. The student will engage in advanced supervised, practical clinical and administrative counseling experiences for one semester in selected and approved clinical mental health agency settings. Professional liability insurance is required prior to admission.

CM 530 – PSYCHO-DIAGNOSTICS IN COUNSELING 3-0-3
(3 Credits)

This course introduces students to various facets of diagnoses within assessment process and the structure of the current Diagnostic Statistical Manual (DSM) and its use in counseling.

CM 532 MARRIAGE AND FAMILY COUNSELING 3-0-3
(3 Credits)

This course provides an overview of the historical roots of family counseling and the major theoretical orientations. A brief overview of the role of research, multiculturalism, and ethics in family counseling is explored.

ENDORSEMENT AREA: SPECIAL EDUCATION

Program Description

The Master of Science in Education degree in special education is designed to enhance the teaching skills of K-12 Mild/Moderate Special Education teachers, or for teachers who have mild/moderate students within their non-special education classroom. This degree consists of 36 hours of course work. Candidates seeking endorsements in intellectual disabilities or learning disabilities can meet with an advisor to develop a prescribed program of study. Completion of this curriculum in special education will enable a student to meet the educational requirements for a Class AA Special Education Certificate in the State of Mississippi.

The objectives of the endorsement in Educationally Disabled are:

1. to identify important legal and policy issues in special education;
2. demonstrate knowledge of the research processes within the field of special education;
3. demonstrate knowledge of specific characteristics of individuals with mild disabilities;
4. implement scientifically based interventions for students with disabilities in a variety of settings.

To receive a Master of Science in Education Degree with an endorsement in special education a person must meet the following requirements:

1. hold or qualify to hold a Class "A" Teacher Certificate;
2. at least two years of teaching experience;
3. complete a planned program of study that includes;
 - a. 12 hours of core courses
 - b. 21 hours area of endorsement
 - c. 3 hours of elective course

AREA OF SPECIALIZATION: EDUCATIONALLY DISABLED

Course Requirements

Core Education Courses (12 hours)		Credits
ED 512	Foundation of American Research	3 hrs.
ED 514	Methods of Educational Research	3 hrs.
ED 533	Curriculum Development	3 hrs.
PH 513	Advanced Educational Psychology	3 hrs.
Required Courses (21 hours)		Credits
SE 535	Introduction to Intellectual Disabilities	3 hrs.
SE 536	Introduction to Learning Disabilities	3 hrs.
SE 540	Methods/Mat for Mental Retardation	3 hrs.
SE 541	Methods/Mat for Learning Disabilities	3 hrs.
SE 545	Individualized Instruct/Students with Disabilities	3 hrs.
SE 553	Counseling Children with Disabilities and Their Parents	3 hrs.
PH 525	Psychology of Exceptional Children	3 hrs.

Elective (3 hours)		Credits
SE 537	Introduction to Students/ Emotional Disturbances	3 hrs.
SE 542	Methods and Materials/Emotional Disturbances	3 hrs.
SE 551	Administration & Supervision/ Sped Education	3 hrs.
TOTAL		36 hrs.

*See Catalog for Policy on Residence and Transfer Credits

AREA OF SPECIALIZATION: EDUCATIONALLY DISABLED (ONLINE)

Course Requirements

Core Education Courses (12 hours)		Credits
ED 512	Foundation of American Research	3 hrs.
ED 514	Methods of Educational Research	3 hrs.
ED 533	Curriculum Development	3 hrs.
PH 513	Advanced Educational Psychology	3 hrs.

Required Courses (21 hours)		Credits
SE 535	Introduction to Intellectual Disabilities	3 hrs.
SE 536	Introduction to Learning Disabilities	3 hrs.
SE 540	Methods/Mat for Mental Retardation	3 hrs.
SE 541	Methods/Mat for Learning Disabilities	3 hrs.
SE 545	Individualized Instruct/Students with Disabilities	3 hrs.
SE 553	Counseling Children with Disabilities and Their Parents	3 hrs.
PH 525	Psychology of Exceptional Children	3 hrs.

Elective (3 hours)		Credits
SE 537	Introduction to Students/ Emotional Disturbances	3 hrs.
SE 542	Methods and Materials/Emotional Disturbances	3 hrs.
SE 551	Administration & Supervision/ Sped Education	3 hrs.
TOTAL		36 hrs.

*See Catalog for Policy on Residence and Transfer Credits

SPECIAL EDUCATION COURSE DESCRIPTIONS (SE)**SE 535 – INTRODUCTION TO INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES****3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This course is concerned with the nature of intelligence; causes of intellectual disabilities, characteristics, and identification of individuals with intellectual disabilities.

SE 536 – INTRODUCTION TO LEARNING DISABILITIES**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This course emphasizes psychological diagnostic testing of children with learning disabilities and a concise study of the disorders of visual and auditory perception, language & motor coordination. Relationship between diagnostic findings and re-mediating the child's disabilities are stressed.

SE 537 – INTRODUCTION TO THE EMOTIONALLY DISTURBED**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

Considers various theoretical aspects of emotional disturbances in children and means of inducing change. Emphasizes practical problems in school and social situations.

SE 538 – PERCEPTUAL AND PSYCHO-MOTOR LEARNING**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This course is concerned with the development and remediation of sensory-motor, perceptual and cognitive skills of individuals with disabilities.

SE 540 – METHODS AND MATERIALS FOR TEACHING CHILDREN WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This course emphasizes effective specialized teaching techniques and programs for the individuals with intellectual disabilities. Major units of instruction are formulated for curriculum innovation and programs in academic skills, motor development and occupational readiness.

SE 541 – METHODS AND MATERIALS FOR CHILDREN WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This course emphasizes effective specialized teaching techniques and procedures for teaching individuals with learning disabilities.

SE 542 – METHODS AND MATERIALS FOR CHILDREN WITH BEHAVIORAL AND EMOTION DISORDERS**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This course emphasizes procedures, organization and techniques, methods, materials, and behavioral strategies used in education of individuals with emotional disorders.

SE 545 – INDIVIDUALIZED INSTRUCTION FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

Clinical-perspective teaching and management models in classroom settings with individualization of methods and materials; reinforcement theory; behavior management programs and techniques applied to problems of individuals with disabilities.

SE 548 – PRE-VOCATIONAL, VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES **3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

Career awareness and information, curriculum, program administration, services and legal aspects for vocational education and training for exceptional children; occupational information, counseling, work evaluation and adjustment principles.

SE 551 – ADMINISTRATION AND SUPERVISION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION **3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

Considers the evaluation of special types of education, state and local agencies involved in administration and supervision of special education, methods of commitment to institutions, and the training of teachers and related topics.

SE 553 – COUNSELING CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES AND THEIR PARENTS **3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

Children with disabilities manifest serious emotional and psychological problems in addition to expected academic, social and behavior problems. This course emphasizes effective methods in helping parents understand and meet the unique needs of their children.

SE 559 – LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND LANGUAGE DISORDER **3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This course is designed for students concerned with the development of language and/or language disorders resulting from aphasia, hearing loss, emotional disturbance, mental retardation and cerebral palsy.

SE 580 – INTERNSHIP AND DIRECTED STUDY IN STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES **3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

Allows the student to practice in the field of skills which he has been trained. The staff member under whose direction the work is to be done will coordinate the arrangements with the field supervisor who will furnish a report on the student's work.

SE 590 – INDIVIDUAL STUDY IN STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: THESIS **3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

Requires the student to initiate and carry to completion a research project under the supervision of a staff member. Student may enroll in the course to satisfy six hours of elective credit.

SE 591 – ASSESSMENT: ELEMENTARY DISABILITIES **3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This course is a graduate course emphasizing identification, diagnostic instruments, and methods and materials, for teaching mild to moderate individuals with disabilities at the secondary level.

SE 592 – ASSESSMENT: SECONDARY DISABILITIES **3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This course is a graduate course emphasizing identification, diagnostic instruments, and materials, methods for teaching mild to moderate individuals with disabilities at the secondary level.

SE 593 – ASSESSMENT: PRE-SCHOOL DISABILITIES **3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This is a graduate course emphasizing screening, identification, diagnostic instruments, and materials and methodology for teaching students with mild to moderate disabilities at the pre-school level.

CERTIFICATION AREA: GIFTED EDUCATION

Program Description

The Certification Program in Gifted Education is a new addition to the Department of Education and Psychology's Programs in Special Education. This is a 15- hour Certification Program which has been designed to enable the licensed education professional to obtain skills and training in Gifted Education in order to become highly qualified to teach gifted learners in a P-12 setting. All classes will be offered online. Students who have taken PH 525 may be able to complete this program in a single summer. More specific outcomes of this endorsement address major standards teachers will be able to demonstrate competency.

Student will be able to:

1. Recognize a high-ability student who needs more depth and complexity in instruction or who may need a referral for further assessment and service;
2. Design appropriate learning and performance modifications for individuals with gifts and talents that enhance creativity, acceleration, depth and complexity in academic subject matter and specialized domains;
3. Coordinate gifted and talented programs and services for PreK-Grade 12;
4. Be familiar with the theory, research, curriculum strategies, and educational practices necessary to develop and sustain high quality classroom-based opportunities for advanced student learning and
5. Select, adapt, and use a repertoire of evidence-based instructional strategies to advance the learning of gifted and talented students.

Course Requirements

Core Education Courses (12 hours)		Credits
ED 580	Methods and Materials for the Gifted	3 hrs.
PH 525*	Psychology of Exceptional Children	3 hrs.
PH 579	Psychology of the Gifted	3 hrs.
SE 551	Administration and Supervision of Special Education	3 hrs.
SE 582	Curriculum and Program Development for Gifted Learners	3 hrs.
TOTAL		15 hrs.

*This course should be taken first

Gifted Education Course Descriptions

ED 580 – METHODS AND MATERIALS FOR THE GIFTED **3-0-3**
(3 Credits)

An introduction to teaching techniques and procedures, instructional materials and methodology related to implementation and utilization of contemporary and innovative materials for the gifted.

PH 525 – PSYCHOLOGY OF EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN **3-0-3**
(3 Credits)

This course offering investigates those constituent disciplines that compose the field of Special Education. The causes and incidences of the various exceptionalities within children are investigated in depth. As a graduate course, this course will require mature study, visitation with exceptional children, and surveying legal issues related to exceptional children.

PH 579 – PSYCHOLOGY OF THE GIFTED**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

Emphasis is placed on identifying the characteristics, identification, techniques, and evaluation of the gifted.

SE 551 – ADMINISTRATION AND SUPERVISION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

Considers the evaluation of special types of education, state and local agencies involved in administration and supervision of special education, methods of commitment to institutions, and the training of teachers and related topics.

SE 582 – CURRICULUM AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT FOR GIFTED LEARNERS**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

An exploration and examination of current curricula instructional models and methods of curriculum development employed in teaching gifted and talented learners. Emphasis will be placed on curricular models and selecting materials used in instructional planning for gifted learners in Pk-12 schools. Opportunities will be provided for the development of curriculum for the gifted learners.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND RECREATION

Johnny Thomas, Ed.D., Department Chair
Davey L. Whitney HPER Complex, 2nd Floor
1000 ASU Drive #1380
Phone: 601-877-6507 FAX: 601-877-3821

GRADUATE FACULTY

Donwook Cho, Ph.D., Coordinator of Sport Management and Assistant Professor of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation

Johnny Thomas, Ed.D., Chairperson, Department of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation and Assistant Professor of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation

ENDORSEMENT AREA: ATHLETIC ADMINISTRATION AND COACHING (TEACHING)

Program Description

The Department of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation offers the **Master of Science in Secondary Education with an emphasis in Athletic Administration and Coaching**. The basis of this degree program is a disciplinary curriculum that requires graduates to engage in a profound, comprehensive exploration, examination, and study of the various administrative and coaching models, theories, approaches, techniques, and methodologies for their effective management, administration, and leadership of an athletic and/or a sport programs on any athletic hierarchy.

The department's objectives for **the Master of Science Degree in Secondary Education with an emphasis in Athletic Administration and Coaching – Standard Educator License** are as follow:

- ❖ To prepare graduates with comprehensive, diverse, relevant, and holistic managerial and operational knowledge and skills of athletic administration and coaching.
- ❖ To provide graduates with the different instructional strategies and techniques associated with athletic administration and coaching.
- ❖ To provide opportunities for graduates to learn various research theories and execute the most contemporary research approaches and applications supporting athletic administration and coaching.
- ❖ To increase the awareness of graduates of the importance of their acquiring sufficient knowledge of the anatomy and physiology, prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation of athletic injuries.
- ❖ To educate graduates so that they can be able to demonstrate competency and expertise in athletic administration and coaching, ranging from K – 12, the collegiate level, the private sector, and/or beyond.
- ❖ To promote and encourage graduates to be role models for student athletes whom they teach, coach, and mentor to show evidence to these athletes of the importance of obtaining an

equivalent balance in achieving excellence in both scholastic and intercollegiate athletics and academics.

- ❖ To provide a curricular offering and graduate experience that cause graduates to continue to extend their academic pursuit to the doctoral degree and beyond.
- ❖ To provide graduates with a disciplinary experience that teaches them how to maximize both the athletic and academic performance of student athletes by linking both teaching and methodological strategies, technology, measurement and evaluation, and /or research with the overall disciplinary knowledge bases underlying athletic administration and coaching.
- ❖ To ensure that graduates are recipients of a qualitative and quantitative curricular offering so that they can demonstrate competency and expertise in teaching, coaching, service, and/or research related to athletic administration and coaching.
- ❖ To ensure that graduates are recipients of a qualitative and quantitative curricular offering so that they can demonstrate competency and expertise to enhance the student population and community that they serve and the profession of which they are associated.

Course Requirements

Required Education Core Courses (12 hours)		Credits
ED 512	Foundations of American Research	3 hrs.
ED 514	Methods of Educational Research	3 hrs.
ED 533	Curriculum Development	3 hrs.
PE 539*	Foundations & Principles in PE & Spot	3 hrs.
PH 513	Advanced Educational Psychology	3 hrs.
Required Courses (15 hours)		Credits
PE 510	Care and Prevention of Athletic Injuries	3 hrs.
PE 511	Psychology of Sports	3 hrs.
PE 516	Management in Physical Education & Sports	3 hrs.
PE 521	Scientific Principles of Coaching	3 hrs.
PE 545	Trends, Issues, Challenges in Athletics/Sports	3 hrs.
Electives (6 hours)		Credits
PE 527*	Measurement and Evaluation of Physical Education	3 hrs.
PE 540	Independent Research	3 hrs.
PE 541	Sociology of Sports	3 hrs.
PE 543	Philosophy of Sports	3 hrs.
TOTAL		33 hrs.

*PE 539 and PE 527 or PE 543 must be taken by students whose first master is in NCAA Compliance and Academic Progress Reporting

ENDORSEMENT AREA: ATHLETIC ADMINISTRATION AND COACHING (NON-TEACHING)

Program Description

The Department of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation offers the **Master of Science in Secondary Education with an emphasis in Athletic Administration and Coaching (Non-Teaching)**. The basis of this degree program is a disciplinary curriculum that requires graduates to engage in a profound, comprehensive exploration, examination, and study of the various administrative and coaching models, theories, approaches, techniques, and methodologies for their effective management, administration, and leadership of an athletic and/or a sport programs on any athletic hierarchy.

The department's objectives for the **Master of Science Degree in Education with an emphasis in Athletic Administration and Coaching (Non-Teaching)** are as follow:

- ❖ To prepare graduates with comprehensive, diverse, relevant, and holistic managerial and operational knowledge and skills of athletic administration and coaching.
- ❖ To provide graduates with the different instructional strategies and techniques associated with athletic administration and coaching.
- ❖ To provide opportunities for graduates to learn various research theories and execute the most contemporary research approaches and applications supporting athletic administration and coaching.
- ❖ To increase the awareness of graduates of the importance of their acquiring sufficient knowledge of the anatomy and physiology, prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation of athletic injuries.
- ❖ To educate graduates so that they can be able to demonstrate competency and expertise in athletic administration and coaching, ranging from K – 12, the collegiate level, the private sector, and/or beyond.
- ❖ To promote and encourage graduates to be role models for student athletes whom they teach, coach, and mentor to show evidence to these athletes of the importance of obtaining an equivalent balance in achieving excellence in both scholastic and intercollegiate athletics and academics.
- ❖ To provide a curricular offering and graduate experience that cause graduates to continue to extend their academic pursuit to the doctoral degree and beyond.
- ❖ To provide graduates with a disciplinary experience that teaches them how to maximize both the athletic and academic performance of student athletes by linking both teaching and methodological strategies, technology, measurement and evaluation, and /or research with the overall disciplinary knowledge bases underlying athletic administration and coaching.
- ❖ To ensure that graduates are recipients of a qualitative and quantitative curricular offering so that they can demonstrate competency and expertise in teaching, coaching, service, and/or research related to athletic administration and coaching.
- ❖ To ensure that graduates are recipients of a qualitative and quantitative curricular offering so that they can demonstrate competency and expertise to enhance the student population and community that they serve and the profession of which they are associated.

Course Requirements

Required Education Core Courses (12 hours)		Credits
ED 512	Foundations of American Research	3 hrs.
ED 514	Methods of Educational Research	3 hrs.
ED 533	Curriculum Development	3 hrs.
PE 539*	Foundations & Principles in PE & Sport	3 hrs.
PH 513	Advanced Educational Psychology	3 hrs.
Required Courses (15 hours)		Credits
PE 510	Care and Prevention of Athletic Injuries	3 hrs.
PE 511	Psychology of Sports	3 hrs.
PE 516	Management in Physical Education & Sports	3 hrs.
PE 521	Scientific Principles of Coaching	3 hrs.
PE 545	Trends, Issues, Challenges in Athletics/Sports	3 hrs.
Electives (6 hours)		Credits
PE 527*	Measurement and Evaluation of Physical Education	3 hrs.
PE 540	Independent Research	3 hrs.
PE 541	Sociology of Sports	3 hrs.
PE 543	Philosophy of Sports	3 hrs.
TOTAL		33 hrs.

*PE 539 and PE 527 or PE 543 must be taken by students whose first master is in NCAA Compliance and Academic Progress Reporting.

Athletic Administration and Coaching Course Descriptions (PE)

PE 510 – CARE AND PREVENTION OF ATHLETIC INJURIES **3-0-3** (3 Credits)

This course examines the general principles of the care and prevention of athletic injuries, injuries to the musculoskeletal tissues, the mechanism and etiology of injuries, the protective equipment of the care and prevention of athletic injuries, and the principles of treatment. Further investigation is on the care, prevention, rehabilitation, and injuries at the joints that comprise the human body, and special emphasis of study is on children and adolescents, environmental problems, specialized activities, general risk factors, and training and exercising.

PE 511 – PSYCHOLOGY OF SPORTS **3-0-3** (3 Credits)

The course provides principles and scientific methods from psychology to study human behavior in sports. It helps coaches to develop and apply effective skills and strategies that will enhance their athletes' performance and to improve their athletes' mental game. Achievement motivation, regulation of anxiety, self-confidence, rehabilitation, adherence, cohesion, and leadership are among many of the topics subjected to study.

PE 515 – PROBLEMS IN CONTENT AND METHOD IN HEALTH EDUCATION **3-0-3** (3 Credits)

This course covers problems in the content, method, and instruction of health education at various levels, particularly in the school and in the community. It also covers the suitability of content and method as determined by need, interest, and ability.

PE 516 – MANAGEMENT/SUPERVISION IN PHYSICAL EDUCATION**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

The course examines the philosophies, goals, objectives, and purposes of physical education; it critiques the philosophic foundation of physical education and professional organizations; it discusses the different concepts of physical fitness, styles of leadership, approaches of facility management, and supervising functions of personnel; and it focuses on the different features of program development, the budgetary process, and on the variety of techniques underlying measurement and evaluation of an organization.

PE 517 – METHODS AND MATERIALS OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This course explores the history of physical education, the purpose, benefits, and philosophy of physical education, and the duties and challenges of physical education. Additional examination is on organization and instruction, lesson planning and outcomes, and careers in physical education.

PE 521 – SCIENTIFIC PRINCIPLES OF COACHING IN PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND SPORTS**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

The course focuses on the coach's responsibility and relations, the coach and the student, the coach and the community, the coach and the news media, the coach and organized athletics, and the coach and the inter-scholastic athletic program. Athletic equipment, the coach and the sports facilities, liability for injuries in athletics, safety in sports, athletic facilities-layout and maintenance, athletics for girls, and trends in high school athletics are major emphases of discussion in the course.

PE 523 – THEORIES & CONCEPTS OF COACHING**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

The course investigates what is coaching about, how coaches do behave, coaching as an interpersonal relationship, and coaching in its social context. It investigates, additionally, motivations and recruitment in sports coaching, sports coaching and social issues, coaching styles, sports specificity in coaching practice, and the uniqueness of the coaching role.

PE 524 – ORGANIZATION OF SAFETY EDUCATION**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

The course reveals the organization, design, and development in effective safety and health training, human behavior and the health and safety trainer, the training materials in effective safety and health training, and training over the generation gap.

PE 527 – MEASUREMENT AND EVALUATION OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

The course introduces measurement and evaluation, links program development with measurement and evaluation, discusses basic statistics and criteria for test selection, and reveals alternative assessment and how to measure health-related physical fitness and physical activity. Also, the course discusses how to measure psychomotor skills, cognitive knowledge, and affective behavior; how to grade, use self-evaluation to improve instruction; and how to use measurement and evaluation in activity-based settings and in non-school settings.

PE 538 – PHYSIOLOGY OF MUSCULAR ACTIVITY**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

The course aims to discuss physiology of exercise in the US (its past and future), the control of the internal, bioenergetics, exercise metabolism, hormonal responses to exercise, hormonal control of substrate mobilization during exercise, measure of work, power, and energy expenditure, and the nervous system; structure and control of movement. It also aims to explore skeletal muscle: structure and function, circulatory adaptations to exercise, respiration during exercise, and acid base balance during exercise. Other aims of the course are to discuss temperature regulation, the physiology of health and fitness, exercise for the special populations, body composition and nutrition for health, and the physiology and training for performance.

PE 539 – FOUNDATIONS AND PRINCIPLES OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

The course examines the nature and scope of physical education, exercise science, and sports, reveals the foundations of physical education, exercise science, and sports, and discusses the careers and professional considerations in physical education, exercise science, and sports. Sports careers in management, media, performance, and other areas; issues, challenges, and the future of physical education, exercise science, and sports are also the focus of the course.

PE 540 – INDEPENDENT RESEARCH**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

The course permits the student to explore, investigate, and research any area of his or her interest in health, physical education, or athletic administration and coaching. It provides the knowledge base for the student to have a fundamental foundation in designing and conducting research in education or in his or her area of interest. Particular emphases of the course are on research methods and designs and data analysis and results interpretation.

PE 541 – SOCIOLOGY OF SPORTS**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

The course examines the role of sports in society, the impact of sports on participants in sports, and the relationship between sports and other societal institutions. It investigates the influence of gender, race, and socioeconomic status on participation in sports and physical activity and explores drug abuse by athletes, aggression and violence, the effect of the media on sports, and player-coach relationships.

PE 542 – PHILOSOPHY OF SPORTS**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

The course examines sports from many different perspectives, such as the nature of reality, the structure of knowledge in sports, ethical and moral questions, and the aesthetics of movement. It critically examines the meaning of sports for all participants involved and enjoins students to question the beliefs and assumptions about sports.

PE 543 PHILOSOPHY OF SPORT**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

The course examines sport from many different perspectives, such as the nature of reality, the structure of knowledge in sport, ethical and moral questions, and the aesthetics of movement. It critically examines the meaning of sport for all participants involved and enjoins students to question the beliefs and assumptions about sport

PE 545 – TRENDS, ISSUES, CHALLENGES IN ATHLETICS**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

The course focuses on salient issues, challenges and trends confronting athletics/sports. It explores issues and challenges such as gambling, drug abuse, fan and player violence, scandals, parental conduct, and an overemphasis on winning within sports that exists from professional athletics to youth sports. Examining technological, societal, medical, training, current, and future trends in athletics/sports is also the focus of this course.

PE 547 – HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND SPORTS**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

The course critically investigates the past with a focus on events, people, and trends that influenced the development and direction of physical education and sports. It explores who, what, when, where, how, and why of physical education and sports to give students a better understanding of the past, the present, and the future of physical education and sports.

PE 551 – TRENDS, ISSUES, & CHALLENGES IN PHYSICAL EDUCATION**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

The course examines issues related to increased call for accountability, dwindling economic resources, and the insufficient parental, administrative, and teacher support for elementary and secondary physical education. The integrity of physical education as a school subject, the status and nature of school physical education, promoting and providing daily, high-quality physical education at the elementary and secondary levels, working to achieve the nation's health objectives and encouraging lifespan involvement for all people are some challenges subjected to investigation in the course. Trends in health promotion and disease prevention, health care reform, education, technology, demographics, and physical activity and fitness are also topics of the contents of the course.

ENDORSEMENT AREA: NCAA COMPLIANCE AND ACADEMIC PROGRESS REPORTING (Non-Teaching) ONLINE

Program Description

The Master of Science in Secondary Education with a Concentration in NCAA Compliance and Academic Progress Reporting (APR) – Non Teaching prepares students with the necessary tools to become leaders in NCAA compliance and athletic administration. Also, this degree program provides instruction that enables students to acquire and develop practical skills in NCAA compliance and academic programing to ensure collegiate athletic programs are complying with the requirements of the NCAA; and requires students to learn, develop and engage in best practices for effective APR reporting to accelerate academic success and retention of the student-athlete population.

The objectives of **The Master of Science in Secondary Education with a Concentration in NCAA Compliance and Academic Progress Reporting (APR) –Non Teaching** are as follows:

- ❖ To provide graduates with scholarly instruction, methodology, and technology for further advancement and success in NCAA compliance and APR reporting, higher education, and/or in related fields.
- ❖ To require graduates to execute research and/or write critical-subjective-thinking projects respecting NCAA compliance and APR reporting and provide forums in which their individual findings and perspectives can be orally discussed.
- ❖ To promote vehemently the intellectual and collaborative engagement in NCAA compliance, APR research, and service so that graduates can contribute in addressing, examining, ameliorating, and resolving the challenges faced by NCAA member institutions
- ❖ To develop and improve graduates' career related abilities in NCAA compliance and academic services.
- ❖ To present graduates with the most contemporary, reliable, valid, and advanced events, issues, trends, and challenges confronting NCAA Division one institutions.

Admission Requirements

- Transcript reflective of bachelor's or an equivalent from an accredited college or university.
- A minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.50 on a 4.0 scale for all undergraduate courses earned or a minimum cumulative GPA or 2.65 on all upper undergraduate courses earned.
- Two letters of recommendation (at least one letter must be from academic personnel).

Course Requirements

Required Education Core Courses (12 hours)	Credits
ED 512 Foundations of American Research	3 hrs.
ED 514 Methods of Educational Research	3 hrs.
ED 533 Curriculum Development	3 hrs.
PE539* Foundation & Principles of PE & Sport	3 hrs.
PH 513 Advanced Educational Psychology	3 hrs.

Required Courses (15 hours)		Credits
PE 552	Intro to NCAA Compliance	3 hrs.
PE 553	NCAA Rules and Procedures	3 hrs.
PE 554	NCAA Enforcement Process and Infraction Cases	3 hrs.
PE 555	Foundations of NCAA Academic Progress (APR) Reporting	3 hrs.
PE 556	Current Trends in Academic Progress Rate (APR)	3 hrs.
Electives (6 hours)		Credits
PE 527*	Measurement & Evaluation of PE & Sport	3 hrs.
PE 540	Independent Research	3 hrs.
PE 541	Sociology of Sports	3 hrs.
PE 543	Philosophy of Sport	3 hrs.
PE 545	Trends, Issues, and Challenges in Athletics	3 hrs.

TOTAL**33 hrs.**

*PE 539 and PE 527 or PE 543 must be taken by students whose first master is in Athletic Administration & Coaching.

NCAA Compliance and Academic Progress Reporting (APR) Non-Teaching Course Descriptions**PE 527 – MEASUREMENT AND EVALUATION OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION 3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

The course introduces measurement and evaluation, links program development with measurement and evaluation, discusses basic statistics and criteria for test selection, and reveals alternative assessment and how to measure health-related physical fitness and physical activity. Also, the course discusses how to measure psychomotor skills, cognitive knowledge, and affective behavior; how to grade, use self-evaluation to improve instruction; and how to use measurement and evaluation in activity-based settings and in non-school settings.

PE 539 FOUNDATION & PRINCIPLES TO PE & SPORT 3-0-3

(3 Credits)

The course examines the nature and scope of physical education, exercise science, and sport, reveals the foundations of physical education, exercise science, and sport, and discusses the careers and professional considerations in physical education, exercise science, and sport. Sport careers in management, media, performance, and other areas; issues, challenges, and the future of physical education, exercise science, and sport are also the focus of the course.

PE 540 INDEPENDENT RESEARCH 3-0-3

(3 Credits)

The course permits the student to explore, investigate, and research any area of his or her interest in health, physical education, athletic administration and coaching, NCAA compliance and APR reporting. It provides the knowledge base for the student to have a fundamental foundation in designing and conducting research in education, athletics, or in his or her area of interest. Particular emphases of the course are on research methods and designs and data analysis and results interpretation.

PE 541 SOCIOLOGY OF SPORTS 3-0-3

(3 Credits)

The course examines the role of sports in society, the impact of sports on participants in sports, and the relationship between sports and other societal institutions. It investigates the influence of gender, race, and socioeconomic status

on participation in sports and physical activity and explores drug abuse by athletes, aggression and violence, the effect of the media on sports, and player-coach relationships.

PE 543 PHILOSOPHY OF SPORT 3-0-3

(3 Credits)

The course examines sport from many different perspectives, such as the nature of reality, the structure of knowledge in sport, ethical and moral questions, and the aesthetics of movement. It critically examines the meaning of sport for all participants involved and enjoins students to question the beliefs and assumptions about sport

PE 545 TRENDS, ISSUES, HCALLENGES IN ATHLETICS 3-0-3

(3 Credits)

The course focuses on salient issues, challenges and trends confronting athletics/sports. It explores issues and challenges such as gambling, drug abuse, fan and player violence, scandals, parental conduct, and an overemphasis on winning within sports that exists from professional athletics to youth sports. Examining technological, societal, medical, training, current, and future trends in athletics/sports is also the focus of this course.

PE 552 INTRO TO NCAA COMPLIANCE 3-0-3

(3 Credits)

Students will examine the historical background of NCAA compliance and receive broad theoretical knowledge of National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) compliance topics. An outline of NCAA rules, by-laws, eligibility, best practices and procedures is presented.

PE 553 NCAA RULES AND PROCEDURES 3-0-3

(3 Credits)

NCAA rules and infractions can seem cryptic and arbitrary, due to the manner in which they are covered by the media. The NCAA has rules and processes that affect the daily workings of any NCAA institution, particularly Division I institutions. This course provides an overview of how the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) functions. The course also examines and analyzes the by-laws, policies, and procedures of the NCAA.

PE 554 NCAA ENFORCEMENT PROCESS AND INFRACTION CASES 3-0-3

(3 Credits)

Students will analyze infraction case studies to gain experience and develop a framework to apply in everyday NCAA issues. Enforcement procedures, waivers processes, and the evolution of the NCAA rules will be examined as well.

PE 555 FOUNDATIONS OF NCAA ACADEMIC PROGRESS (APR) REPORTING 3-0-3

(3 Credits)

The APR, or Academic Progress Rate, holds institutions accountable for the academic progress of their student-athletes through a team-based metric that accounts for the eligibility and retention of each student-athlete for each academic term. This course examines the history of the NCAA Academic Progress rate and details the process of APR reporting. Students will gain general knowledge of APR and implications of failure to meet APR benchmarks.

PE 556 CURRENT TRENDS IN ACADEMIC PROGRESS RATE (APR) 3-0-3

(3 Credits)

This course examines the NCAA Academic Progress rate (APR) as an essential component of student-athlete success and retention in higher education. Topics include: identification of APR critical issues, current trends in APR, development and assessment of APR improvement plan assessment, and APR penalty structure.

CERTIFICATION PROGRAM: NCAA COMPLIANCE AND ACADEMIC PROGRESS REPORTING

Program Description

The Post-Baccalaureate Certificate Program in NCAA Compliance and Academic Progress Reporting (APR) is a post-baccalaureate fifteen hours online certificate program designed to provide a knowledge base regarding NCAA compliance and APR reporting for professionals in intercollegiate athletics and those seeking a career change.

Admission Requirements

- Transcript reflective of a bachelor's or an equivalent degree from an accredited College or University.
- A minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.50 on a 4.0 scale for all undergraduate courses earned or a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.65 on all upper undergraduate courses earned.
- Resume
- Two letters of recommendation (at least one letter must be from academic personnel)

Course Requirements

Required Courses (15 hours)	Credits
PE 552 Intro to NCSS Compliance	3 hrs.
PE 553 NCAA Rules and Procedures	3 hrs.
PE 554 NCAA Enforcement Process and Infraction Cases	3 hrs.
PE 555 Foundations of NCAA Academic Progress (APR) Reporting	3 hrs.
PE 556 Current Trends in Academic Progress Rate (APR)	3 hrs.

Certificate Awarded

NCAA Compliance and APR Reporting

Post-Baccalaureate Certificate Program in NCAA Compliance and Academic Progress Reporting (APR) Course Descriptions

PE 540 INDEPENDENT RESEARCH

3-0-3

(3 Credits)

The course permits the student to explore, investigate, and research any area of his or her interest in health, physical education, athletic administration and coaching, NCAA compliance and APR reporting. It provides the knowledge base for the student to have a fundamental foundation in designing and conducting research in education, athletics, or in his or her area of interest. Particular emphases of the course are on research methods and designs and data analysis and results interpretation.

PE 541 SOCIOLOGY OF SPORTS

3-0-3

(3 Credits)

The course examines the role of sports in society, the impact of sports on participants in sports, and the relationship between sports and other societal institutions. It investigates the influence of gender, race, and socioeconomic status on participation in sports and physical activity and explores drug abuse by athletes, aggression and violence, the effect of the media on sports, and player-coach relationships.

PE 545 TRENDS, ISSUES, HCALLENGES IN ATHLETICS**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

The course focuses on salient issues, challenges and trends confronting athletics/sports. It explores issues and challenges such as gambling, drug abuse, fan and player violence, scandals, parental conduct, and an overemphasis on winning within sports that exists from professional athletics to youth sports. Examining technological, societal, medical, training, current, and future trends in athletics/sports is also the focus of this course.

PE 552 INTRO TO NCAA COMPLIANCE**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

Students will examine the historical background of NCAA compliance and receive broad theoretical knowledge of National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) compliance topics. An outline of NCAA rules, by-laws, eligibility, best practices and procedures is presented.

PE 553 NCAA RULES AND PROCEDURES**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

NCAA rules and infractions can seem cryptic and arbitrary, due to the manner in which they are covered by the media. The NCAA has rules and processes that affect the daily workings of any NCAA institution, particularly Division I institutions. This course provides an overview of how the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) functions. The course also examines and analyzes the by-laws, policies, and procedures of the NCAA.

PE 554 NCAA ENFORCEMENT PROCESS AND INFRACTION CASES**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

Students will analyze infraction case studies to gain experience and develop a framework to apply in everyday NCAA issues. Enforcement procedures, waivers processes, and the evolution of the NCAA rules will be examined as well.

PE 555 FOUNDATIONS OF NCAA ACADEMIC PROGRESS (APR) REPORTING**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

The APR, or Academic Progress Rate, holds institutions accountable for the academic progress of their student-athletes through a team-based metric that accounts for the eligibility and retention of each student-athlete for each academic term. This course examines the history of the NCAA Academic Progress rate and details the process of APR reporting. Students will gain general knowledge of APR and implications of failure to meet APR benchmarks.

PE 556 CURRENT TRENDS IN ACADEMIC PROGRESS RATE (APR)**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This course examines the NCAA Academic Progress rate (APR) as an essential component of student-athlete success and retention in higher education. Topics include: identification of APR critical issues, current trends in APR, development and assessment of APR improvement plan assessment, and APR penalty structure.

SCHOOL OF NURSING



There is no exercise better for the heart than reaching out and lifting people up.”

SCHOOL OF NURSING

Debra Spring, Ph.D., Dean
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Graduate Nursing Program

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GRADUATE FACULTY

Lacey Blessitt, D.N.P., FNP-BC, Assistant Professor of Nursing & DNP Coordinator
Tearsanee Carlisle-Davis, D.N.P., Adjunct Faculty
Brenda Collins, Post-M.S.N. NP-C, Assistant Professor of Nursing
Carolyn Dollar, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Nursing
Linda Godley, Ph.D., Interim Director and Professor of Nursing
C. Cory Smith, Ph.D., NP-C, Assistant Professor of Nursing & FNP Coordinator
Eric Toran, Ph.D., Adjunct Faculty
Hazel Washington, M.S.N., Adjunct Faculty

SCHOOL OF NURSING

Programs:

The School of Nursing offers the following degrees/role concentrations in the Graduate Nursing Program:

- Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)
 - Post-Master's Family Nurse Practitioner Option
- Master of Science in Nursing (MSN)
 - Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP)
 - Nurse Educator (NE)
- Post-Master's Certificate
 - Family Nurse Practitioner
 - Nurse Educator

Accreditations:

The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program is a Candidate for accreditation by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing.

Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN)
3343 Peachtree Road NE, Suite 850
Atlanta, GA 30326 404-975-5000
<http://www.acenursing.us/candidates/candidacy.asp>

The Doctor of Nursing Practice program is accredited by the:

Mississippi Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning
3825 Ridgewood Road
Jackson, MS 39211
601.432.6486

The Master of Science in Nursing program is accredited by the:

Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing
3343 Peachtree Road NE, Suite 850
Atlanta, Georgia 30326
404.975.5000
Fax 404.975.5020

Mississippi Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning
3825 Ridgewood Road
Jackson, MS 39211
601.432.6486

“There is no exercise better for the heart than reaching out and lifting people up.”

DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE (DNP)

Mission

The Graduate Nursing Programs are devoted to educating nursing leaders and scholars committed to advancing the global healthcare needs of diverse and underserved populations through teaching, scholarship and service.

Program Description

The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) is a practice-focused doctoral nursing degree designed for the Post-Master's Family Nurse Practitioner seeking careers in advanced clinical nursing practice. The DNP Program provides a 36-credit hour curriculum that is designed to be delivered in five (5) semesters of continuous study. The DNP program emphasizes research application and utilization in clinical practice settings as well as interdisciplinary team building skills, organizational leadership and management development, utilization of information technology and quality improvement techniques, development and initiation of public policy, and the establishment of evidence-based practice. Graduates from the DNP program will be instrumental in translating research into nursing practice to improve health outcomes and decrease health disparities in their communities and beyond.

A DNP Project and clinical practicum hours are required. The clinical practicum hours will assist in the development and completion of the DNP Project and assure that students have mastered the DNP Essentials for doctoral level advanced nursing practice. The DNP Project indicates mastery of an advanced practice specialty area and is a requirement for the DNP degree. Examples of DNP projects include, but are not limited to, a pilot study; evaluation of an existing practice model; a quality improvement project; an evaluation of a new practice model; or a consulting project.

End of Program Student Learning Outcomes

At the completion of the program, graduates will be able to:

1. Synthesize theoretical, philosophical, ethical, and empirical knowledge to develop therapeutic interventions in complex health systems.
2. Develop leadership skills within complex health systems to improve safe, cost-effective, and quality health care for diverse populations.
3. Utilize clinical scholarship and analytical methods to design, implement, evaluate, and disseminate evidence-based practice.
4. Utilize information systems and patient care technology for the improvement and transformation of health care in diverse populations.
5. Provide leadership in the analysis, development, and implementation of health care policy on local, regional, national, and global levels.
6. Employ professional/interprofessional communication and collaboration to improve healthcare and healthcare outcomes for diverse populations.
7. Evaluate advanced practice care in complex situations and systems to improve healthcare services to patients, families, and populations.

Admission Criteria

Applicants who are seeking admission to the Doctor of Nursing Practice Programs must submit a complete application package to Graduate Studies. The application package includes:

1. Completed Alcorn State University Graduate School Application.
2. Official transcripts for all previous college course work. Transcripts must verify that the applicant received a MSN with a specialty as a Family Nurse Practitioner.
3. Evidence of graduation from a nationally accredited nursing program.
4. Documentation of a minimum 3.0 overall grade point average on a 4.0 scale for the MSN degree and a grade of "B" or better in a graduate level research course taken within the last five years. The applicant must also verify the number of clinical practicum hours completed in the MSN Program.
5. Copy of current unrestricted and unencumbered RN and APRN licenses and certification as a family nurse practitioner in the state of residence in which the individual will complete clinical practicums.
6. Individual Nursing Student Professional Liability Insurance in the amount of \$1,000,000/\$3,000,000 (prior to first project course).

7. Three (3) letters of recommendation [professional, academic and personal] on official letterhead with original signatures specifying in detail the applicants' capabilities for graduate study and for future nursing practice. Letters must be current (< 1 year).
8. A current resume that describes all work experience and education since becoming a registered nurse, detailed in chronological order. The applicant must include in the resume full legal name, address, telephone number, and email address. The resume should be no more than two pages.
9. Documentation of a minimum, on current resume, of one year of continuous clinical nursing experience with patient contact as a RN and/or advanced practice nurse within the past three years.
10. Goal Statement. The required goal statement should be a narrative which expounds on how obtaining a DNP from Alcorn State University will help achieve the applicant's career path. The content should also include reasons for seeking admission to the DNP program, state areas of research interest, identify goals while in the program and long-range career goals, explain qualifications and readiness for the program, and mentorship expected by program faculty.
11. An interview with Graduate Nursing Faculty.

Transfer Credits

If transferring from another graduate nursing program, the applicant must submit a letter of good academic standing from that program. All transfer courses must be approved by the Director of Graduate Nursing Programs.

After being accepted for admission, each student will be required to submit a completed health form that will be provided by the Graduate Nursing Program, official immunization record, tuberculosis screening documentation, evidence of personal health insurance, a copy of the liability insurance face sheet (must be submitted prior to first clinical course), and current BLS certification (infant, child, adult).

Applicants must comply with Mississippi's legislative statutes and regulations regarding criminal background checks by having fingerprints taken at an approved health care agency (not a police or sheriff's department) and a criminal background check completed. Any cost of this requirement will be the student's responsibility.

Progression

Academic performance of all graduate students is monitored each semester by the Office of Graduate Studies staff.

A graduate student must maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale at Alcorn State University to remain in good academic standing. The student must not accumulate more than six semester hours of credit below B (3.0).

A cumulative grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale is required for continued study in the MSN program. No more than two "C" will be allowed in non-clinical courses; however, students must maintain at least a 3.0 each semester to remain in the program.

Students enrolled in clinical management theory and clinical management practicum courses must achieve a grade of "B" or better in both components. If a student achieves less than "B" (including WF) in either the clinical management theory or clinical management practicum, a grade of "C" or less will be recorded for both courses, resulting in failure of both courses.

Students who earn a grade of "C" in a clinical practicum course may not progress to the next nursing course. Only one repeat of a clinical practicum course will be allowed.

Probation

A student will be placed on academic probation at the close of any term in which the student's cumulative GPA falls below a 3.0. A student will be notified in writing when placed on academic probation. A copy of the written notification will be placed in the student's file and sent to the Dean, Provost and Executive Vice President, and Office of Graduate Studies. A student on probation will be suspended from the program if the minimum GPA of 3.0 is not obtained at the end of the subsequent semester or term.

Readmission

Students who are eligible to register for nursing courses and who have not enrolled for one or more semesters must file an application for readmission to Graduate Studies and submit a written request to the MSN Program Coordinator.

All applications for readmission should be on file at least 90 days prior to registration for the semester for which readmission is being requested.

Students are readmitted based on available space.

Dismissal

If a student is currently on academic probation and a grade of "C" is earned in a clinical management theory and clinical management practicum, s/he will be dismissed and not eligible for re-admission in the program.

A grade of "C" earned in a clinical management theory and/or practicum course will result in the recording of a failing grade for both courses and dismissal from the program.

Students who earn the third grade of "C" or one grade of "D", "F", or "WF" will be dismissed from the graduate nursing program.

Based on the Alcorn State University Graduate School Policy a maximum of six consecutive calendar years from the date of first enrollment is allowed for completion of all degree requirements. Specific policies related to progression, retention, and dismissal of graduate students can be found in the School of Nursing Graduate Student Handbook at: <http://www.alcorn.edu/academics/schools/son/index.aspx>.

Degree Audit

The Graduate go.alcorn.edu serves as the official degree audit module to monitor students' progress towards degree completion. Students must successfully complete the graduate curriculum according to the student's degree plan. Advisors and students should monitor the Degree Plan and Checklist for curriculum and other requirements to graduate. Course substitutions and transfers are requested through this platform for approval. The core requirements must be met following the degree audit for degree completion.

Requirements:

- must earn a cumulative/overall grade point average of at least 3.0 for all graduate level credit hours
- curriculum must be for the approved program of admission in which to graduate
- completion of required credit hours on Degree Plan for the approved program
- must meet all degree progression requirements set forth by Graduate Studies
- final grades for courses must comply with earned grade requirements. Grades of "D" and "F" are automatic degree stops, as well as more than two grades of "C"
- must fulfill all other requirements of the Graduate Nursing Program and Graduate Studies by published deadlines.

DNP Degree Plan

Course Number	Course Title	Credit Hours (Practicum Hours)
Semester 1 (Fall)		
NU 700	Advanced Health Informatics	3
NU 701	Clinical Epidemiology	3
NU 702	Healthcare Quality Improvement	3
Semester 2 (Spring)		
NU 703	Evidence-Based Practice, Theory, Design, & Method	3
NU 704	Population Health	3
NU 710A	DNP Project I	1 (60)
Semester 3 (Summer)		
NU 705	Leadership in Health Systems	3
NU 710B	DNP Project II	3 (180)
Semester 4 (Fall)		
NU 706	Leadership in Health Systems	3
NU 707	Advanced Healthcare Policy & Politics	3
NU 710C	DNP Project III	2 (120)
Semester 5 (Spring)		
NU 708	Business Management in Clinical Practice	3
NU 710D	DNP Project IV	3(180)
TOTAL		36 (540)

Course Descriptions:

NU 700 – ADVANCED HEALTH INFORMATICS

3-0-3

(3 Credit Hours)

This course focuses on the collection, organization, analysis, and dissemination of information in nursing and health care. Students are introduced to the specialty of nursing informatics, the information system life-cycle, telemedicine, and the use of technology to enhance nursing care delivery and patient safety. Also, students learn how to design, use, and manipulate patient databases for the analysis of patient outcomes.

NU 701 – CLINICAL EPIDEMIOLOGY

3-0-3

(3 Credit Hours)

This course provides an overview of the basic epidemiological methods as well as study designs that may be used by advanced practice nurses to study the health of populations. This course will combine a focus on traditional and social epidemiology to examine how society and social organizations influence health and well-being of individuals and populations, with special attention to rural populations. In particular, this course will address frequency, distribution, surveillance methods, and new applications of epidemiological methods.

NU 702 – HEALTHCARE QUALITY IMPROVEMENT**3-0-3**

(3 Credit Hours)

This course provides knowledge and skills necessary to critically evaluate existing patient safety policies and practices. The principles of design, implementation, and evaluation of evidence-based strategies used to improve practice policies for diverse patient populations in clinic, home, institutional, and community settings are explored. Emphasis is placed on identification of critical variables that serve as catalysts for positive clinical outcomes. Special attention will be given to safety in prescribing and medication management in nurse practitioner practice at the doctoral level.

NU 703 – ADVANCED HEALTH SYSTEMS, THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS, AND ETHICAL ISSUES**3-0-3**

(3 Credit Hours)

This course provides the student with the opportunity to analyze ethical theories, and evaluate the applicability of theories to nursing, health care systems, and health care policies. Emphasis is on reasoned considerations of contemporary theoretical perspectives in bioethics. The focus is on theories related to rational systems of bioethical problem solving in a culturally pluralistic society. Students are expected to also explore their professional beliefs and value system. Practical application of nursing, developmental, ethical, family, health and other theories will be examined.

NU 704 – POPULATION HEALTH**3-0-3**

(3 Credit Hours)

This online course for the Doctor of Nursing practice program prepares the student to implement population-based disease prevention and health promotion activities to achieve national and international goals of improving worldwide health status. The course focuses on a spectrum of issues affecting health, which include emerging infectious disease, emergency preparedness, disparities in health and healthcare services, and the impact of behavior and lifestyle choices on health.

NU 705 – EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE, THEORY, DESIGN, & METHOD**3-0-3**

(3 Credit Hours)

In this course, the students will examine the evidence-based standards for the advanced practice nurse. Students will explore strengths and weaknesses of different research methodologies and types of data analyses. Each student will evaluate the status of current research and evidence-based literature pertinent to clinical practice.

NU 706 – LEADERSHIP IN HEALTH SYSTEMS**3-0-3**

(3 Credit Hours)

This course focuses on knowledge and skills that are necessary for nursing leaders to effectively manage change, empower others, and influence organizational processes in health care environments. Models and strategies related to leadership, effective organizational processes, organizational change, conflict management, strategic planning and interprofessional and intraprofessional teamwork will be evaluated. Emphasis is on the development of skills in health system assessment and intervention design.

NU 707 – ADVANCED HEALTHCARE POLICY & POLITICS**3-0-3**

(3 Credit Hours)

This course provides knowledge and understanding needed to participate in health policy development, analysis and implementation. The impact of policies on the delivery of health care and nursing services will be explored. The relationship of health policies to the financing of health care will be presented. Students will be introduced to health economics with a focus on the elements of financial management including the language and basic concepts of cost, the budgeting process and systems of reimbursement. Global, national, state, and local systems of financing health care will be compared.

NU 708 – BUSINESS MANAGEMENT IN CLINICAL PRACTICE**3-0-3**

(3 Credit Hours)

This course provides the student with an overview of the principal financial mechanisms in the U.S. health care industry and offers specific insights into the critical issues the industry currently faces. A feature of this course is the development of practical financial analysis skills that will provide students with a foundation for immediate application within the health care industry. The student will also be provided best practices for business management of a clinical practice.

NU 710-A – DNP PROJECT I**3-60-1**

(1 Credit Hour)

This course will assist Doctor of Nursing Practice students in gaining the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to develop an evidence-based project proposal and plan, which addresses a practice issue affecting a chosen microsystem. The purpose of the DNP Project courses is to provide structured didactic content and application of the Student's DNP Project. This is the first of four DNP Project courses that will occur sequentially and will include 60 DNP clinical practicum hours.

NU 710-B – DNP PROJECT II**3-180-3**

(3 Credit Hours)

This course will assist Doctor of Nursing Practice students in developing a full proposal that reflects synthesis of the student's knowledge from prior coursework and work in an area of interest or expertise under the direction of a faculty mentor. The purpose of the DNP Project course series is to provide structured didactic content and application of the student's DNP Project. This is the second of four DNP Project courses will include 180 DNP clinical practicum hours.

NU 710-C – DNP PROJECT III**3-120-2**

(2 Credit Hours)

This course will assist Doctor of Nursing Practice students in continued development of knowledge, skills, and abilities to implement the chosen DNP proposal. Students will assume a role of leadership in inter-professional collaboration, consultation, and partnership. Students will receive direction from a faculty mentor and peer feedback as they become engaged in the microsystem where they are implementing their DNP Project. The purpose of the DNP Project courses is to provide structured didactic content and application of the student's DNP Project. This is the third of four DNP Project courses includes 120 DNP clinical practicum hours.

NU 710-D – DNP PROJECT IV

(3 Credit Hours)

This course is designed to assist Doctor of Nursing Practice students in the completion of an evidence-based project. Students will complete the implementation phase, evaluate the project, and write the final DNP project. Students will receive individual direction from a faculty mentor and peer feedback as they write the final paper. Students will also be mentored in making professional presentations and writing for publication. This course is the last of four DNP Project courses and includes 180 hours of clinical practicum hours.

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

Mission

The Graduate Nursing Programs are devoted to educating nursing leaders and scholars committed to advancing the global healthcare needs of diverse and underserved populations through teaching, scholarship and service.

Program Description

The Graduate Nursing Program offers two options for baccalaureate prepared nurses. The Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) option is designed to prepare graduates to provide global primary health care to diverse and underserved clients across the life continuum. Upon completion of the program of study, graduates are eligible to write a national certification examination for Family Nurse Practitioners (FNP). The program of study is designed to be completed in five (5) semesters (including one summer) and 44 semester hours of full-time continuous study.

The Nurse Educator (NE) option is designed to prepare qualified nurses to function as well-prepared educators in academic or healthcare settings. Upon completion of the program of study, graduates are eligible to write a national certification examination for Nurse Educators (NE). The program of study is designed to be completed in three (3) semesters (including one summer) and 35 semester hours of full-time continuous study.

The Post-Master's Certificate option is a special studies program for Master's prepared nurses pursuing certification in a specialty area or seeking a program of study that may lead to a change in role (e.g., a CNS seeking an FNP specialty certificate). Alcorn offers Post-Master's Certificate options for specialized study as a Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) and Nurse Educator (NE). Upon completion of the program of study, applicants are eligible to write a national certification examination.

Nurses with advanced education have more opportunities to implement new nursing science, impact and transform the overall design of health care, and become leaders in health care systems. Graduates from Alcorn's graduate nursing programs are prepared to sit for national certification examinations, function as expert clinicians, conduct quality research, and demonstrate effective leadership that emanates from a spirit of inquiry and a commitment to life-long learning. Programs consist of courses that are taught using online and hybrid methodologies.

Master of Science in Nursing End of Program Student Learning Outcomes

At the completion of the program, graduates will be able to:

1. Evaluate theoretical and empirical knowledge from nursing and other disciplines and knowledge for use in guiding nursing research, nursing pedagogy, and advanced nursing practice..
2. Generate new practice approaches based on the integration of research, theory, and practice knowledge.
3. Demonstrate mastery of advanced knowledge and skills in advanced practice nursing (FNP) or in specialized role (NE).
4. Analyze implication of ethical and legal issues affecting health care delivery, education, and research.
5. Analyze the effect of organizational structure, functions, and resources on the development and delivery of quality health care and educational programs..
6. Communicate effectively in a scholarly manner using oral, written, and information technology in a variety of settings.
7. Assume leadership roles to initiate and guide changes that foster collaboration and contribute to the ongoing development of nursing education and practice.
8. Analyze the impact of culture and diversity on the delivery of healthcare and nursing education.
9. Utilize the best available evidence to continuously improve the quality of nursing education and practice.

10. Participate in professional organizations and activities that influence advanced practice nursing and/or health outcomes.

Admission Criteria

Applicants who are seeking admission to the Graduate Nursing Programs submit a complete application package. The application package includes:

1. Completion of the Alcorn State University Graduate School Application.
2. Official transcripts for all previous college course work.
3. Must be a graduate of an accredited nursing program.
4. Must have a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or higher in pre-requisite and nursing courses.
5. A grade of "C" or better in an undergraduate introductory-level statistics course.
6. A copy of current unencumbered license to practice nursing in a state or US territory and eligibility for licensure in the state in which you will complete your clinical practicums.
7. Individual Nursing Student Professional Liability Insurance in the amount of \$1,000,000/\$3,000,000 (prior to first clinical practicum course).
8. Three (3) letters of recommendation [professional, academic and personal] on official letterhead with original signatures specifying in detail the applicants' capabilities for graduate study and for future nursing practice.
9. An interview with Graduate Nursing Faculty.

In addition to the requirements listed above, applicants seeking a Post Master's Certificate must:

1. Hold a MSN degree in nursing from a nationally accredited college or university with a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or higher.
2. Have successfully completed the three (3) P's with a letter grade of 'B' or better: Advanced Pathophysiology [3.0 semester hours course]; Advanced Pharmacology [3.0 semester hours course]; Advanced Physical Assessment [3.0 semester hours course]; and Advanced Physical Assessment Lab [1.0 semester hour course].
3. Have successfully completed a thesis or scholarly project.

Transfer Credits

If transferring from another graduate nursing program, the applicant must submit a letter of good academic standing from that program. All transfer courses must be approved by the Director of Graduate Nursing Programs.

After being accepted for admission, each student will be required to submit a completed health form that will be provided by the Graduate Nursing Program, official immunization record, tuberculosis screening documentation, evidence of personal health insurance, a copy of the liability insurance face sheet (must be submitted prior to first clinical course), and current BLS certification (infant, child, adult).

Applicants must comply with Mississippi's legislative statues and regulations regarding criminal background checks by having fingerprints taken at an approved health care agency (not a police or sheriff's department) and a criminal background check completed. Any cost for this requirement will be the student's responsibility.

Progression

Academic performance of all graduate students is monitored each semester by the Office of Graduate Studies staff.

A graduate student must maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale at Alcorn State University to remain in good academic standing. The student must not accumulate more than six semester hours of credit below B (3.0).

A cumulative grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale is required for continued study in the MSN program. No more than two "C" will be allowed in non-clinical courses; however, students must maintain at least a 3.0 each semester to remain in the program.

A grade of "B" or better must be earned in all clinical practicum courses.

Students who earn a grade of "C" in a clinical practicum course may not progress to the next nursing course. Only one repeat of a clinical practicum course will be allowed.

Probation

A student will be placed on academic probation at the close of any term in which the student's cumulative GPA falls below a 3.0. A student will be notified in writing when placed on academic probation. A copy of the written notification will be placed in the student's file and sent to the Dean, Provost and Executive Vice President, and Office of Graduate Studies. A student on probation will be suspended from the program if the minimum GPA of 3.0 is not obtained at the end of the subsequent semester or term.

A clinical practicum course resulting in a final course grade of "C" will result in academic probation, regardless of cumulative GPA, and must be repeated the next time the course is offered.

Readmission

Students who are eligible to register for nursing courses and who have not enrolled for one or more semesters must file an application for readmission to Graduate Studies and submit a written request to the MSN Program Coordinator.

All applications for readmission should be on file at least 90 days prior to registration for the semester for which readmission is being requested.

Students are readmitted based on available space.

Dismissal

If a student is currently on academic probation and a grade of "C" is earned in a clinical practicum, s/he will be dismissed and not eligible for re-admission in the program.

A grade of "C" earned in a second clinical practicum course will result in dismissal from the program.

Students who earn the third grade of "C" or one grade of "D", "F", or "WF" will be dismissed from the graduate nursing program.

Based on the Alcorn State University Graduate School Policy a maximum of six consecutive calendar years from the date of first enrollment is allowed for completion of all degree requirements. Specific policies related to progression, retention, and dismissal of students can be found in the School of Nursing Graduate Student Handbook at: <http://www.alcorn.edu/academics/schools/son/index.aspx>.

Degree Audit

The Graduate go.alcorn.edu serves as the official degree audit module to monitor students' progress towards degree completion. Students must successfully complete their graduate curriculum according to the degree plan. Advisors and students should monitor the Degree Plan and Checklist for curriculum and other requirements to graduate. Course substitutions and transfers are requested through this platform for approval. The core requirements must be met following the degree audit for degree completion.

Requirements:

- must earn an cumulative/overall grade point average of at least 3.0 for all graduate level credit hours
- curriculum must be for the approved program of admission in which to graduate
- completion of required credit hours on Degree Plan for the approved program
- must meet all degree progression requirements set forth by the Graduate Studies
- final grades for courses must comply with earned grade requirements. Grades of "D" and "F" are automatic degree stops, as well as more than two grades of "C"
- must fulfill all other requirements of the Graduate Nursing Program and Graduate Studies by published deadlines.

Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) Option Course Requirements

Program Description

The Family Nurse Practitioner Option is designed to prepare graduates to provide global primary health care to diverse and underserved. Upon completion of the program of study, graduates are eligible to write a national certification examination for family nurse practitioners. The program of study is designed to be completed in five semesters (including one summer) of full-time continuous study.

Course Requirements

FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER DEGREE PLAN OF STUDY (THESIS PLAN)

Fall 1		
Course Number	Course Title	Credit Hours
NU 501	Role Development	2 hrs.
NU 502	Advanced Pathophysiology	3 hrs.
NU 503	Advanced Pharmacology	3 hrs.
NU 506	Research Methods	3 hrs.
Spring 1		
Credits		
NU 505	Advanced Health Assessment	3 hrs.
NU 505L	Advanced Health Assessment Lab (60)	1 hr.
NU 504	Theoretical Foundations in Nursing	3 hrs.
NU 507	Rural Health Care Policy	2 hrs.
Summer 1		
Course Number	Course Title	Credit Hours
NU 508	Clinical Management Theory I	2 hrs.
NU 509	Clinical Management Practicum (120)	2 hrs.
NU 514	Introduction to Human Genetics	2 hrs.

Fall 2		Credits
Course Number	Course Title	
NU 510	Clinical Management Theory II	2 hrs.
NU 511	Clinical Management Practicum II (120)	2 hrs.
NU 512	Clinical Management Theory III	2 hrs.
NU 513	Clinical Management Practicum III (120)	2 hrs.
NU 590A	Thesis I/Project I	3 hrs.
Spring 2		Credit Hours
Course Number	Course Title	
NU 518	Synthesis Practicum (240)	4 hrs.
NU 590B	Thesis/Project*	3 hrs.
Total		44 hrs.

FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER PLAN OF STUDY (NON-THESIS PLAN)

Fall 1		Credit Hours
Course Number	Course Title	
NU 501	Role Development	2 hrs.
NU 502	Advanced Pathophysiology	3 hrs.
NU 503	Advanced Pharmacology	3 hrs.
NU 506	Research Methods	3 hrs.
Spring 1		Credits
NU 505	Advanced Health Assessment	3 hrs.
NU 505L	Advanced Health Assessment Lab (60)	1 hr.
NU 504	Theoretical Foundations in Nursing	3 hrs.
NU 507	Rural Health Care Policy	2 hrs.
Summer 1		Credit Hours
Course Number	Course Title	
NU 508	Clinical Management Theory I	2 hrs.
NU 509	Clinical Management Practicum (120)	2 hrs.
NU 514	Introduction to Human Genetics	2 hrs.
Fall 2		Credits
Course Number	Course Title	
NU 510	Clinical Management Theory II	2 hrs.
NU 511	Clinical Management Practicum II (120)	2 hrs.
NU 512	Clinical Management Theory III	2 hrs.
NU 513	Clinical Management Practicum III (120)	2 hrs.
NU 591A	Thesis I/Project I	3 hrs.

		Spring 2	
Course Number		Course Title	Credit Hours
NU 518		Synthesis Practicum (240)	4 hrs.
NU 591B		Thesis/Project*	3 hrs.
Total			44 hrs.

Post Master's Certificate Option (Family Nurse Practitioner)

Program Description

The Post Master's Certificate Option (Family Nurse Practitioner) is a 20-credit hour program that can be completed in three (3) semesters (including one summer). Students must have taken: Advanced Pathophysiology [3.0 semester hours course]; Advanced Pharmacology [3.0 semester hours course], Advanced Physical Assessment [3.0 semester hours course]; and Advanced Physical Assessment Lab [1.0 semester hour course]. Clinical Placement can be arranged in the student's community..

Course Requirements

POST-MASTER'S FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER PLAN OF STUDY

		Summer 1	
Course Number		Course Title	Credit Hours
NU 508		Clinical Management Theory I: Adult/Gerontology	2 hrs.
NU 509		Clinical Management Practicum I (120)	2 hrs.
NU 514		Introduction to Human Genetics	2 hrs.
Total			6 hrs.
		Fall 2	Credits
NU 501		Role Development	2 hrs.
NU 510		Clinical Management Theory II	2 hrs.
NU 511		Clinical Management Practicum II (120)	2 hrs.
NU 512		Clinical Management Theory III	2 hrs.
NU 513		Clinical Management Practicum III (120)	2 hrs.
Total			10 hrs.
		Spring 2	Credits
NU 518		Synthesis Practicum (240)	4 hrs.
Total			4 hrs.
Grand Total			20 hrs.

Nurse Educator NE Option Course Requirements

Program Description

The Nurse Educator (NE) Option is designed to prepare qualified nurses to function as well-prepared educators in academic or healthcare settings. Upon completion of the program of study, graduates are eligible to write a national certification examination for Nurse Educators (NE). The program of study is designed to be completed in three semesters (including one summer) of full-time continuous study.

Course Requirements

NURSE EDUCATOR PLAN OF STUDY

Spring 1		
Course Number	Course Title	Credits
NU 505	Advanced Health Assessment	3 hrs.
NU 5045L	Advanced Health Assessment Lab (60)	3 hrs.
NU 507	Health Policy	2 hrs.
NU 530	Curriculum Theory & Design in Nursing Education	3 hrs.
Total		11 hrs.
Summer 1		
NU 504	Theoretical Foundations in Nursing	3 hrs.
NU 531	Curriculum Strategies & Roles in Nursing Education	3 hrs.
Total		6 hrs.
Fall 1		
		Credits
NU 502	Advanced Pathophysiology	3 hrs.
NU 503	Advanced Pharmacology	3 hrs.
NU 506	Research Methods	3 hrs.
NU 532	Assessment & Evaluation in Nursing Education (30)	3 hrs.
Total		12 hrs.
Spring 2		
		Credits
NU 533	Nursing Education Practicum (240)	4 hrs.
NU 539	Capstone Project	4 hrs.
Total		8 hrs.
Grand Total		35 hrs.

Post-Master's Nurse Educator Option

Program Description

The Post-Master's Certificate Option (Nurse Educator) is a 13-credit hour program that can be completed in four (4) semesters of part-time study. Students must have taken the Advance Pathophysiology, Pharmacotherapeutics, and Advanced Health Assessment. Clinical Placement can be arranged in the student's community. All courses are developed and taught by ASU nursing faculty.

Course Requirements

Spring I		
Course Number	Course Title	Credits
NU 530	Curriculum Theory & Design in Nursing Education	3 hrs.
	Total	3 hrs.
Summer 1		
NU 531	Curriculum Strategies & Roles in Nursing Education	3 hrs.
	Total	3 hrs.
Fall 1		
NU 532	Assessment & Evaluation in Nursing Education	3 hrs.
	Total	3 hrs.
Spring 2		
NU 533	Nursing Education Practicum (240)	4 hrs.
	Total	4 hrs.
	Grand Total	13 hrs.

Nursing Course Descriptions (NU)

NU 501 – ROLE DEVELOPMENT

3-0-3

(3 Credits)

In this core course the student will examine the theoretical bases and strategies for effective enactment of advanced nursing. Practice roles: nurse practitioner, nurse midwife, clinical nurse specialist or nurse anesthetists. The student will analyze various theoretical frameworks, examine expectations and strategies, and analyze issue surrounding role behaviors in advanced nursing practice. Enactment of sub-roles such as researcher, leader, consultant and educator will also be examined.

Pre-requisite: Graduate Standing

Co-requisites: Refer to Plan of Study

NU 502 – ADVANCED PATHOPHYSIOLOGY**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This online course examines current research in human pathophysiology, as well as explores physiological alterations underlying disease entities and relating knowledge to interpret changes in normal function that result in symptoms indicating an illness process across the life continuum.

Pre-requisite: Graduate Standing

Co-requisites: Refer to Plan of Study

NU 503 – ADVANCED PHARMACOLOGY**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This online course prepares nurses for professional roles in advanced nursing practice with knowledge of pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic principles of common drug categories used to prevent illness, and to restore and maintain health for client systems across the life span. Mechanisms of action, pharmacologic response, usual doses, adverse effects, indications, interactions, compatibilities, contradictions, and routes of administration will be emphasized in acute and chronic conditions. Legal consideration of prescription writing is incorporated. A scholarly approach is used to apply theory and research to pharmacotherapeutic regimens in rural family communities.

Co-requisites: Refer to Plan of Study

NU 504 – THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS IN NURSING**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This online course examines the development of philosophical and theoretical bases for nursing practice. It includes the study and critique of nursing theories and theories from related disciplines. The interrelationships between nursing theories, research, and practice are emphasized. This course provides students the opportunity to begin to develop a conceptual framework for their own practice and research. Students are also introduced to the roles of advanced practice.

Co-requisites: Refer to Plan of Study

NU 505 – ADVANCED HEALTH ASSESSMENT**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This online course examines current health assessment techniques and provides students the opportunity to synthesize interviewing, health history, and physical examination skills; laboratory/diagnostic data collection and interpretation; diagnostic reasoning and clinical decision-making for advanced nursing practice across the life continuum in a variety of settings.

Pre-requisite: Graduate Standing

Co-requisites: Refer to Plan of Study

NU 505L – ADVANCED HEALTH ASSESSMENT LAB**3-60-1**

(3 Credits)

This hybrid course is a practicum that focuses on the students' performance and interpretation of assessment and diagnostic for advanced practice nursing. This course requires sixty (60) laboratory/clinical hours. This practicum course is the first in the sequence of clinical courses, and is pre-requisite to other practicum courses.

Pre-requisite: Graduate Standing

Co-requisites: Refer to Plan of Study

NU 506 – RESEARCH METHODS**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This online course builds upon the knowledge of the research process learned at the baccalaureate level. It focuses on the process of empirical investigation in the development of nursing theory, which includes scientific inquiry and ethical issues of conducting research. Emphasis is on the formulation of testable hypotheses and the development of a research proposal.

Pre-requisite: Graduate Standing

Co-requisites: Refer to Plan of Study

NU 507 – RURAL HEALTH CARE POLICY**3-0-2**

(2 Credits)

This online course introduces students to global health care systems and models, and their influence on health disparities and healthcare delivery. A major focus of this course is for students to critically think about and discuss health and health care within a global environment. Patterns of influence that drive current policy development are examined and proposal of advocacy behaviors is encouraged.

Co-requisites: Refer to Plan of Study

NU 508 – CLINICAL MANAGEMENT THEORY I**3-0-2**

(2 Credits)

This online clinical management course is the acquisition of advanced knowledge and skills for primary care and disease management of acute and chronic health problems in the adult and older adult (geriatric) populations in a variety of settings. Theories of aging, health, health promotion and restoration are included. Uses of diagnostic procedures, pharmacological and non-pharmacological therapies are emphasized.

Pre-requisite: NU502, NU503, NU503L

Co-requisites: Refer to Plan of Study

NU 509 – CLINICAL MANAGEMENT PRACTICUM I**3-120-2**

(2 Credits)

This online clinical management practicum course places emphasis on assessment, diagnosis, goal-setting and interventions in management and treatment of acute and chronic health problems for the adult and older adult (geriatric) populations. Application of primary care and case management services in a variety of settings in collaboration with physicians (MD or DO) and nurse practitioners. A minimum of 120 hours of clinical practice is required.

Co-requisites: Refer to the Plan of Study

NU 510 – CLINICAL MANAGEMENT THEORY II**3-0-2**

(2 Credits)

This online clinical management course is the acquisition of advanced knowledge and skills for primary care and disease management of acute and chronic health problems in women's health across the life continuum. Theories of health, health promotion and restoration are included. Uses of diagnostic procedures, pharmacological and non-pharmacological therapies are emphasized.

Pre-requisite: NU507, NU508

Co-requisites: Refer to the Plan of Study

NU 511 – CLINICAL MANAGEMENT PRACTICUM II**3-120-2**

(2 Credits)

This online clinical management practicum course places emphasis on assessment, diagnosis, goal-setting and interventions in management and treatment of acute and chronic health problems for women's health across the life continuum. Application of primary care and case management services in collaboration with physicians (MD or DO) and advanced practice nurses. A minimum of 120 hours of clinical practice is required. Co-requisites: Refer to the Plan of Study.

NU 512 – CLINICAL MANAGEMENT THEORY III**3-0-2**

(2 Credits)

This third online clinical management theory course is the acquisition of advanced knowledge and skills for primary care and disease management of acute and chronic health problems in the pediatric population. Theories of human growth and development, health promotion and disease prevention are included. Uses of diagnostic procedures, pharmacological and non-pharmacological therapies are emphasized. All information is presented within the context of the individual, family system, and community as a whole.

Pre-requisite: NU509, NU510

Co-requisites: Refer to the Plan of Study

NU 513 – CLINICAL MANAGEMENT PRACTICUM III**3-120-2**

(2 Credits)

This online clinical management practicum course places emphasis on assessment, diagnosis, goal-setting and interventions in management and treatment of acute and chronic health problems for pediatric populations.

Application of primary care and case management services in collaboration with physicians (MD or DO) and nurse practitioners. A minimum of 120 hours of clinical practice is required.

Pre-requisite: NU509, NU510

Co-requisites: Refer to Plan of Study

NU 514 – INTRODUCTION TO HUMAN GENETICS**3-0-2**

(2 Credits)

This course provides an introduction to the organization of the human genome and basic principles of inheritance in humans. Course content includes an overview of cells and development, organization of the human genome, chromosome structure and function, gene structure and function, genes in pedigrees and populations, and the implications of genetic variation on health.

Pre-requisite: NU501, NU503, NU504, NU505, NU505L, NU507

Co-requisite: NU508, NU509

NU 518 – SYNTHESIS PRACTICUM**3-240-4**

(4 Credits)

This the final practicum experience focuses on the synthesis of previously gained knowledge and skills in the provision of advanced nursing care to individuals, families, and communities. Emphasis is placed on health promotion, disease prevention, and clinical management of clients with common acute and chronic illnesses. A minimum of 240 hours of clinical practice is required.

Pre-requisite: NU507, NU508, NU509, NU510, NU512, NU513

Co-requisites : Refer to the Plan of Study

NU 530 – CURRICULUM THEORY & DESIGN IN NURSING EDUCATION**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This online course explores curriculum development in nursing education with emphasis on theories and procedures. Included is an introduction to philosophies, program objectives and conceptual framework development inherent to the role of the nurse educator

Co-requisites: Refer to the Plan of Study

NU 531 – CURRICULUM STRATEGIES & ROLES IN NURSING EDUCATION**3-0-3**

(3 Credits)

This online course explores the competencies and roles of the advanced nurse as educator, practitioner and scholar. Consideration is given to learning theories, legal and ethical issues, and resources utilized for integration into classrooms and clinical settings.

Co-requisites: Refer to the Plan of Study

NU 532 – ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION IN NURSING EDUCATION**3-30-3**

(3 Credits)

This online course is designed to explore methods of evaluation, with emphasis on test preparation and the clinical performance appraisal.

Co-requisites: Refer to the Plan of Study

NU 533 – NURSING EDUCATION PRACTICUM**3-240-4**

(4 Credits)

This guided practicum experience places emphasis on theory, critical thinking, and analysis in the use of teaching strategies. A minimum of 240 hours of clinical practice is required.

Co-requisites: Refer to Plan of Study

NU 534 – NURSING EDUCATION PRACTICUM 3-240-3

(3 Credits)

This course is a clinical preceptorship in selected clinical sites in rural or urban areas with opportunities to define the role of the nurse educator as a clinician.

Co-requisites: Refer to Plan of Study

NU 539 – CAPSTONE PROJECT 3-0-4

(4 Credits)

This capstone is a scholarly project that addresses an issue, need, gap or opportunity resulting from an identified phenomenon in nursing education or healthcare need. The capstone project provides the opportunity for the graduate nursing student to demonstrate competency through design, application and evaluation of advanced nursing knowledge and higher level leadership skills for ultimately improving health outcomes.

NU 590 – THESIS 3-0-3

(3 Credits)

The thesis is derived from the investigation of a major educational or clinical problem based on the specialty and meets the research requirements for graduation from a Master of Science in Nursing Program. Students are required to be continuously enrolled in a minimum of six (6) semesters hours or until the thesis is completed and approved.

Co-requisites: Refer to Plan of Study

NU 591 – RESEARCH PROJECT 3-0-3

(3 Credits)

This course will require, in lieu of thesis, the utilization of evidence based knowledge to develop a scholarly paper that is manuscript ready. Students must be enrolled in the course three consecutive semesters for a minimum of six (6) semester hours or until the manuscript is completed and approved.

Co-requisites: Refer to Plan of Study

- Notes -

Graduation and Commencement



Graduation Requirements

Students planning to graduate at the end of the current semester/session are responsible for indicating an intent to graduate. A student must initiate an intent to graduate via go.alcorn.edu during the designated period for that semester. A preliminary graduation list is prepared and published by the Office of Graduate Studies soon after the deadline for each semester or summer session. The lists are shared with the academic department chair and program advisor to review for degree audit validation. The final list of approved candidates appears in the fall and spring commencement program. Students who have been removed from the graduation list will need to initiate their intent to graduate again for the semester in which they plan to graduate.

Degrees and diplomas at Alcorn State University are awarded two times a year, December and May. There is no formal ceremony for students completing degree requirements during the summer but they may elect to participate in the formal commencement ceremony in December.

Students must apply for graduation by published deadlines; it is not automatic. If a student does not graduate for the term in which application is made, the student must reapply for the intended graduation cycle. The Office of Graduate Studies processes all applications for graduation and informs students of their eligibility to graduate. Students must satisfy all progression to graduation requirements before allowed to participate in the May or December Commencement.

Application for Degree

Students anticipating graduation in the fall, spring, or degree completion in the summer should file an application for degree in go.alcorn.edu. Only students who meet the Application for Degree deadlines can be assured of candidacy status for the term applied. Students who fail to submit the application for degree and required documents on time will be deferred until the next graduation cycle. An application fee is affixed following submission according to the posted deadlines. Students applying after the deadline are charged a late application fee. Applications submitted after the late deadline are processed for the next application cycle. In order to qualify for a degree, the student must complete all academic program requirements and all Graduate School requirements. Students not graduating for a specific graduation cycle must reapply for the next cycle.

Application for Degree Deadlines

There are established calendars in which students can apply to graduate. The following are the months the timeframes to submit an application of each calendar year.

September (for Fall Commencement)

January (for Spring Commencement)

Summer (June for Summer I Degree Completion; July for Summer II Degree Completion)

Candidacy Advisement

Students should maintain frequent contact with their academic advisor throughout the progression of their curriculum to discuss degree progression. If there are missing courses, discuss enrollment availability or possible substitution. If there are required exit tests, make sure you are informed of administration dates in advance. If there are other requirements such as writing, time to degree completion issues to address, thesis and non-thesis degree requirements, plan in advance to meet standards and timelines to avoid delays in your degree completion date.

Candidacy Checklist

A graduation checklist is part of the go.alcorn.edu module to assist students in monitoring their progress towards degree completion. Students and their advisors should monitor the candidacy checklist often to address graduation requirements in a timely manner. The checklist also houses the link to the graduation application. Students must maintain at least a 3.0 to graduate and must meet all requirements as an Unconditional student.

Cap and Gown Order

All students anticipating graduating and participating in the commencement ceremony must complete a Cap and Gown Order Form. This form is located online on the Academic Affairs website at www.alcorn.edu/academics.

Commencement

Students desirous of participating in the official commencement ceremony must order a cap and gown. If you do not graduate the intended term, you will need to order a cap and gown for the appropriate term. No additional fees are assessed. Students who graduate in absentia can expect mailing of their diploma following the ceremony. It is the responsibility to stay informed of all commencement required regalia, rehearsals, decorum, and the commencement day schedule. If a student needs special accommodations for the ceremony, this information should be acknowledged in advance to allow ample time for these special arrangements.

Degree Audit

The Graduate go.alcorn.edu serves as the official degree audit module to monitor students' progress towards degree completion. Students must successfully complete their graduate curriculum according to the degree plan. Advisors and students should monitor the Degree Plan and Checklist for curriculum and other requirements to graduate. Course substitutions and transfers are requested through this platform for approval. The core requirements must be met following the degree audit for degree completion.

Requirements

- must earn an cumulative/overall grade point average of at least 3.0 for all graduate level credit hours
- curriculum must be for the approved program of admission in which to graduate
- completion of required credit hours on Degree Plan for the approved program
- must meet all degree progression requirements set forth by the Graduate School
- final grades for courses must comply with earned grade requirements. Ds and Fs are automatic degree stops, as well as more than two Cs
- must fulfill all other requirements by published deadlines by the academic unit and the Graduate school

Degrees with Honors

Students graduating with honors will be issued an honor cord which is provided by Academic Affairs. In order for the honor designation to appear in the commencement program, the cumulative grade point average is calculated a semester before graduation.

Honors are conferred as follows:

With Highest Distinction-Candidates who attain a cumulative average of 3.91 - 4.00

With High Distinction - Candidates who attain a cumulative average of 3.81 - 3.90

With Distinction - Candidates who attain a cumulative average of 3.71 - 3.80

Exit Requirements

EXIT EXAMINATIONS

Core Comprehensive Examination

The student will take a written examination on the core courses in the program of study. The student must successfully complete these courses or their equivalent before taking the examinations. In the case of a failure in any part of the core examinations, only one reexamination is normally allowed. Should a student fail only one part of the three parts of the core examinations, then the reexamination would be on that part only and given at a time convenient to the student and the committees involved. Passed sections on the Core are banked. Should a student fail two or three parts of the core examinations, then the reexamination would be on all three parts and will be given only at a regularly scheduled time for the core examinations. Failure on any part of the reexamination constitutes failure on the core examinations.

The Graduate Coordinating Unit Committee will give the core examinations. Regularly scheduled times for the core examinations are posted each semester, and a second term administration only in the case if they are needed for graduation. Pass or fail will be determined by the criteria set forth by the academic unit and the result of the final score based on these criteria.

The core examinations are as follows:

School of Education and Psychology

All students enrolled in the Office of Education graduate programs must pass the Core Examination as a requirement for graduation. All students who have successfully completed at least two of the Core courses and who are officially enrolled in the third are eligible to take the Core Examination. An application to take the Comprehensive Examinations must be filed in the School of Education and Psychology office and approved by the Chair of the School of Education and Psychology before the examination date.

- a. CORE courses:
 1. **Foundations of American Education** (ED 512)
 2. **Methods of Educational Research** (ED 514)
 3. **Advanced Educational Psychology** (PH 513)
 4. **Curriculum (Methods) Development** (ED 533)

Area Examination

All Master of Science/Specialist degree students are required to pass the Area Examination. The time of the Area Examination is determined by the student's advisory committee or the department chairperson. Students eligible to take the Area Examination should contact their advisor or department chairperson.

Go.alcorn.edu is the approved platform for advisement and monitoring curriculum progress and progress to degree completion.

Participation in Commencement Ceremony

In order for graduate students to participate in the commencement ceremony, students must meet the following requirements:

1. Students must be cleared for graduation by the Office of Graduate Studies to be eligible to participate in the commencement ceremony. Submission of the Application for Degree initiates the clearance process. The students' Progress to Graduation file is reviewed to verify students have met all requirements.
2. To graduate, a student must fulfill requirements specified on the Degree Plan and Graduation Checklist.
3. Students who do not wish to participate must notify the Office of Graduate Studies in writing.

Graduation Fees

All prospective graduates submitting an application for degree are charged an application processing fee. Students applying by the priority date each term are affixed \$50.00. Students applying after the priority date are charged a \$100.00 fee. Unpaid fees hinder degree completion. If an application fee has been paid and a student does not complete during this cycle, the student's account is credited and no additional application fees are required.

Issuance of Diplomas

Diplomas are issued immediately following the Commencement Ceremony in a designated location at the venue. Students not participating in the Commencement Ceremony will receive their degrees by U.S. Postal Services. Diplomas will be mailed at least one week following commencement during the Fall and Spring.

Thesis and Non-Thesis Options

Degree programs which require a thesis or research project must offer research-based courses to prepare students for producing a well-written and researched study. Students are required to identify a topic in collaboration with their committee chair. A committee is selected based on the student's discipline and topic interest. All students must have a thesis committee chair to guide their compliance of Graduate School requirements. The chair should be available for every stage of the research.

Thesis Track – Students have an opportunity to demonstrate mastery of a particular topic of interest when they choose the thesis track. The student is required to complete a five chapter thoroughly researched topic. The five chapter study includes Introduction, Literature Review, Methodology, Results and Discussion, and Conclusions, Implications and Recommendations. A reputable printing company should be used to bind the thesis manuscript. The standard cover should be a black hardcover and contents printed on letter size 8 ½ x 11" white 25% cotton bond paper, 20 lb. weight.

Non-Thesis Track – Students pursuing a non-thesis curriculum must conduct an advanced quality research project which consists of three chapters, Introduction, Literature Review, and Methodology. The binding requirements differ significantly from the thesis. An approved non-thesis research project binding requirement can be black spiral or spine with a clear transparent cover. The contents should be printed on letter size 8 ½ x 11" white 25% cotton bond paper, 20 lb. weight.

In addition to the required chapters for the thesis and non-thesis, students should refer to the Thesis Manual for requirements for supplementary pages and other specifications. The approval/signature page for a thesis or non-thesis cannot be copied; it must have original signatures in black ink. Four (4) original signature pages must be submitted to Office of Graduate Studies for the approval signature of the Graduate Studies Administrator. Students are required to use two main resources in drafting their manuscript. Currently in place are the APA Manual, 6th edition and the Alcorn Thesis Manual. The submission process for review of the thesis for approval by the Office of Graduate Studies

is a very rigorous process. The Gold Standard for reviews during the submission process is a maximum of three reviews. If a document is not approved after the third review, the student must work closely with his/her committee chair to correct the manuscript during the next graduation cycle.

Students and committee chairs are encouraged to devise clear timelines in mentoring advisees to meet deadlines of the Graduate School. Students should take personal responsibility to make sure their formatting and content adhere to scholarly requirements for the end product. It is the discretion of the reviewer/administrator during the review process to determine compliance of the reviewed paper and subsequent corrections needed to improve the quality and rigor. Students should expect constructive feedback at each stage of the review process and be receptive and responsive to suggestions from the reviewer. Work with your committee chair or committee members to address any comments from the reader that may seem reasonable or unreasonable. Students should recognize in respecting submission timelines, that the reviewer/reader needs sufficient but reasonable time to answer questions and review drafts related to suggested edits related to formatting or content. Allow sufficient time to make corrections or redirect research efforts in response to feedback of the reviewer. The quality of the paper when submitted during each iteration will greatly influence the nature of the feedback.

Capstone Project – Some degree programs such as Master of Liberal Arts and Nurse Educator require completion of a capstone project versus a research project. Students complete a culminating written paper in which they research a topic based on knowledge and theory they have learned and apply in a real-world setting. The project is reviewed and approved by the professor serving as the committee chair and submitted to the Graduate Studies Administrator for review and approval. Each program has a different set of capstone projects that students can complete for graduation. Nonetheless, most capstones usually contain an introduction, theories, hypothesis, scholarly literature review, research methods, proposal alternatives and any other issues relevant to the project proposal. These projects adhere to APA Manual, 6th edition and style of the Thesis Manual.

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