APPLIED PROFESSIONAL STUDIES (MA)

The Master of Arts in Applied Professional Studies (MA) from the School of Continuing and Professional Studies (SCPS) is for adults like you who would benefit from a graduate degree program that’s personally-relevant with room for flexibility and customization.

Whether you’re a working professional seeking career advancement, a career changer or a curious learner, our master’s of professional studies will deepen your knowledge, enhance your skills and advance your goals.

Our flexible approach to learning is shaped by your unique needs as an adult learner, with formats designed to fit your busy schedule. We offer options to study full-time or part-time, in online classes with synchronous meetings (Zoom) on nights or weekends.

Key Features

- Earn credit for professional certificates.
- Benefit from an advising team and instructors who are practicing experts in their fields
- Complete the degree requirements with courses, approved prior learning and certificates.
- Engage with fellow students—working professionals with diverse jobs, experience and interests.
- Complete your degree in as little as two years while attending class as a part time student.
- Program can be completed online.

Program Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree Requirements</th>
<th>Quarter Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total hours required</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Learning Outcomes

Students who complete the MAAPS common curriculum plus their Focus Area demonstrate the following learning outcomes:

- Demonstrate advanced knowledge in their areas of professional study.
- Cultivate a regular practice of reflection on their professional practice.
- Engage methods of inquiry to improve practice in their areas of study.
- Take initiative to broaden professional networks and continually develop and refresh key skills.
- Anticipate, adapt and engage with emerging issues in their areas of study and practice.
- Exercise personal agency and collaborative skill to attain personal and professional goals.

Degree Requirements

Course Requirements

Students are required to complete a minimum of 52 graduate credit hours with a cumulative GPA of not less than 2.5.

Planning & Integration (8 credit hours)

Students, with the assistance of an academic committee, design individualized graduate learning plans. Once plans are approved, students pursue their plans and work to ensure that all parts link together.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Quarter Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AP 501</td>
<td>PROFESSIONAL PLANNING PROSEMINAR</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AP 504</td>
<td>RESEARCHING PROFESSIONAL PATHWAYS</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Liberal Learning (16 credit hours)

The liberal learning seminars offer opportunities for unique and rich discussions with fellow professionals from diverse professional backgrounds. They are designed to challenge students’ thinking around topics relevant to working professionals as they enhance core skills in critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and problem solving.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Quarter Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LLS 410D</td>
<td>WRITING FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LLS 450B</td>
<td>APPLYING SYSTEMATIC INQUIRY (IN PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Elective Options (8 credit hours) choose from list:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Quarter Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LLS 410F</td>
<td>ADVANCED LEADERSHIP THEORY &amp; PRACTICE</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LLS 410H</td>
<td>EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP IN A CHANGING PROFESSIONAL ENVIRONMENT</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LLS 420D</td>
<td>APPLYING ETHICS IN THE PROFESSIONS</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LLS 420E</td>
<td>LEADERSHIP, CHANGE AND POSITIVE ORGANIZATIONS</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LLS 420F</td>
<td>LEADERSHIP MODELS FOR STRONG ORGANIZATIONS</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LLS 420G</td>
<td>EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE AT WORK</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LLS 420H</td>
<td>LEADING FOR SOCIAL CHANGE</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LLS 440A</td>
<td>UNDERSTANDING AND FLEXING MINDSETS</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ORGL 510</td>
<td>EVIDENCED BASED DECISION MAKING (formerly LLS 410E))</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tracks (24 credit hours): Individualized, Educating Adults, Organizational Leadership, or Social Change

Students design and implement learning strategies for enhancing their understanding and competence development in each of the following aspects of their track.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Quarter Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AP 510</td>
<td>MAIN THEORIES AND IDEAS</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AP 520</td>
<td>METHODS OF RESEARCH</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AP 530</td>
<td>SPECIALIZED SKILLS</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AP 540</td>
<td>COMMUNICATION MODES</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AP 550</td>
<td>ORGANIZATIONAL AND/OR INTERPERSONAL DYNAMICS</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AP 560</td>
<td>CHALLENGES FROM LARGER CONTEXTS</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Program Culmination (4 credit hours)
Students culminate their graduate study through either four supplemental competencies or an integrating project (proposal and final artifact).

Course | Title | Quarter Hours
---|---|---
Supplementals (Electives)
AP 588 | SUPPLEMENTAL COMPETENCE V | 2
AP 589 | SUPPLEMENTAL COMPETENCE VI | 2
Integrating Project
AP 592 | GRADUATE CAPSTONE PROJECT | 4

MAAPS Program Tracks
The MAAPS Program is designed around the completion of content tracks. Students may choose from tracks in Organizational Leadership, Educating Adults or Social Change that include several required courses, elective course options and other ways to document learning in those tracks. The program also offers a Customized Focus Area track that is designed according to the student’s career and learning goals.

Organizational Leadership Track
The Organizational Leadership track is designed for students interested in developing and applying effective leadership skills known to be crucial to success in the business world. Completing the Organizational Leadership track will provide opportunities for students to positively impact their organizations. Students will learn to apply relevant leadership theories and models to generate solutions to real world problems within various types of organizations and to advance teams toward a shared corporate vision.

Course | Title | Quarter Hours
---|---|---
Organizational Leadership Required Courses | 12
ORGL 506 | LEADERSHIP AND ORGANIZATIONAL THEORY | 4
ORGL 508 | COMMUNICATION SKILLS AND STRATEGIES | 4
ORGL 510 | EVIDENCED BASED DECISION MAKING | 4
Organizational Leadership Elective Options
ORGL 512 | LEADING FOR SOCIAL CHANGE | 4
ORGL 516 | GENDER AND DIVERSITY IN LEADERSHIP | 4
LLS 420E | LEADERSHIP, CHANGE AND POSITIVE ORGANIZATIONS | 4

Educating Adults Track
The Educating Adults track is designed for students working in diverse settings who are involved in the process and practice of adults’ learning. Grounded in current research and best practices in adult education and learning theory, the Educating Adults track is made up of a set of core courses and learning activities to be applied in the students’ own workplace/practice setting. Participants in this track deepen their knowledge and skills in the areas of assessment, design, facilitation, evaluation, and applied research to improve their repertoire of core and cutting-edge knowledge and skill as educators of adults.

Course | Title | Quarter Hours
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Educating Adults Required Courses | 12
EA 516 | DESIGNING EDUCATIONAL OFFERINGS | 4
EA 517 | FACILITATING ADULT LEARNING | 4
EA 518 | ENHANCING PRACTICE WITH THEORY IN ADULT LEARNING | 4
Educating Adults Elective Options | 12
EA 526 | ASSESSING ADULT LEARNING | 4
EA 542 | DESIGNING OUTCOME BASED EVALUATION | 2-4
EA 546 | EDUCATING FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE GFDIS | 4
EA 547 | DESIGNING ONLINE LEARNING | 4

Social Change Track
This track is designed for individuals whose practice involves leading effective social change in communities and organizations. Integral components of this track are ethical decision-making, global and inclusive perspectives, future trends, and mentorship. Learning gained from the track’s core curriculum, as well as the applied capstone project, is essential to unlock each participants’ potential to effectively lead social change. As students collaborate with the other advocates in their communities, they have the unique opportunity to practice the creation of responsible action plans to effect constructive social change.

Customized Focus Area Track
The Customized Focus Area track allows students to research and design a path leading to the attainment of specific, academically grounded objectives in an applied professional field. This Customized Focus Area integrates graduate level coursework, applied learning activity, academic inquiry, and professional development. Since the Customized Focus Area track is not limited to a particular academic area with existing professional standards, it is ideal for entrepreneurial students ready to work with leaders in their field to determine the appropriate professional standards for their unique, often cutting edge or hybrid, focus.