Educational Statistics and Measurement
Frequently Asked Questions

General Topics

Difference between the master's and doctoral programs?

Both programs require that students gain expertise in educational statistics and measurement techniques. The master's program focuses on the application of various quantitative techniques, providing students with the skills to perform analyses and interpret statistical information in a variety of settings. The doctoral program focuses on the research of various quantitative techniques, providing students with the skills to conduct research on the development and application of mathematical and statistical models for educational and behavioral data, including the development of new methods and the improvement of existing methods.

Who can serve as references? Are there special forms?

References should be obtained from individuals who are familiar with your academic and professional record such as former professors or employers. There are no special forms.

Do all my materials get sent in together?

No, please read the information under the Application Information – MS & PHD heading for specific information about where your materials must be sent.

Will I receive confirmation that my application is complete?

No. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that his or her application is complete.
How can I get other financial aid?

Financial aid information can be obtained from the UWM Financial Aid Office website or by calling (414) 229-4541.

How much does a 3-credit hour course cost? How much is full-time study?

The Bursar Office can answer questions concerning cost by calling (414) 229-4914 or visiting the Bursar Office website.

How do I enroll in courses?

The UWM Graduate School sends registration information to you. Registration is completed online.

Are Graduate School application deadlines the same?

No. The Graduate School deadlines are campus-wide recommendations. The Educational Statistics and Measurement Area accepts students on a rolling admissions basis, but students are encouraged to apply as early as possible.

Is financial aid available through assistantships?

Assistantships are available, although doctoral students have priority when an assistantship becomes available. Students who are qualified for the Ph.D. program are strongly encouraged to apply to that program. Assistantships are available mainly as teaching assistants, project or research assistants, and consultants in the Consulting Office for Research and Evaluation (CORE).
Master’s Degree Topics

What can I do with my degree and what are the job prospects?

Students completing the Master's Degree are capable of participating in applied research projects, translating research findings for application in educational settings, designing and building assessment instruments, and assisting professional educators with analyses and interpretations of data. Graduates can find work in a wide variety of settings, including state and federal agencies, test publishing organizations, school systems, state departments of education, marketing research companies and research centers.

How many credits are required for the M.S.?

Students are required to complete 30 credits for the master's degree. Students complete 12 credits of core courses, which include 624, 724, 720, and 728; 6 credits in Learning and Development; and 12 elective credits, 6 of which must be in Educational Statistics and Measurement. Students' programs of study are developed in consultation with their assigned advisors.

Other than course work, what else is required?

In addition to coursework, students are required to either write a thesis, approved by their advisor, or pass a written comprehensive examination.

How long will it take to complete the program?

Students have five years to complete the program. Length of time to degree varies depending upon the number of credits taken per semester, but a full time student can typically complete the program in two years.
What are the criteria for admission?

The Educational Statistics and Measurement Area admits students based on their academic records, breadth of experience, career goals and three letters of reference. All applicants must meet minimum Graduate School requirements as well as minimum Educational Psychology requirements to qualify for admission.

How many units may be transferred from another graduate program?

Up to 12 semester credits, taken within the past 5 years, may be transferred if the credits are accepted by the Graduate School and are approved by one's advisor.

Are standardized test (e.g., GRE) scores required?

Standardized test scores are generally not required, but in the absence of standardized test scores students will have to otherwise demonstrate their readiness for graduate work in this area.

When should I initiate the application process?

Students apply to the Graduate School and applications should be initiated as early as possible. All application deadlines are listed on the Educational Psychology front page. Application may be completed online by visiting the UW Online Application webpage.

PhD Topics

What can I do with my degree and what are the job prospects?

Job prospects are excellent for students completing a Ph.D in the Educational Statistics and Measurement area. Graduates can find work in academia or in industry and in a wide variety of settings including universities, state and federal
agencies, test publishing organizations, school systems, state departments of education, marketing research companies and research centers.

**Is a master's degree required for admission?**

No. A master's degree is not required for admission. However, a publishable paper (written at the level of a master's thesis) is a requirement of the program (see other coursework below).

**How many credits are required for the Ph.D.?**

The total minimum number of credits is 54. Of these, 12 are psychological foundations credits, 9 are urban foundations credits, 9-12 are credits in a minor outside the area or department, and 24 are from the research methodology area. These are the minimum credit requirements but students often exceed this minimum in a typical program of studies. For further details, refer to the graduate bulletin or the Educational Statistics and Measurement doctoral handbook at the Educational Psychology website.

**Other than course work, what else is required?**

Students are also required to write a "publishable paper" within 30 credits of admission to the doctoral program, pass a qualifying exam, pass a preliminary exam (dissertation proposal hearing), and pass a final oral defense of their dissertation. For further details, refer to the graduate bulletin.

**How long will it take to complete the program?**

It is expected that most students will complete all degree requirements within six years of initial enrollment in the doctoral program. All requirements MUST be completed within ten years from the date of initial enrollment. A full-time student can typically complete the program in 5 years.
What are the criteria for admission?

The Educational Statistics and Measurement Area admits students based upon their academic records, breadth of experience, career goals and three letters of reference. All applicants must meet minimum Graduate School requirements as well as minimum Educational Psychology requirements to qualify for admission. For more detailed information on admission, see the Educational Statistics and Measurement Doctoral Program Handbook.

How many units may be transferred from another graduate program?

Up to 12 semester credits, taken within the past 5 years, may be transferred if the credits are accepted by the Graduate School and are approved by one's advisor.

Are standardized test (e.g., GRE) scores required?

Yes, scores on the general GRE, taken within the past five years, are required.

When should I initiate the application process?

The Educational Statistics and Measurement Area accepts students on a rolling admissions basis, but students are encouraged to apply as early as possible. All application deadlines are listed on the Educational Psychology front page. Students may complete applications online through the Graduate School.

What specific expertise do faculty members have?

The faculty members in the Educational Statistics and Measurement Area have expertise in educational measurement topics such as Item Response Theory, differential item functioning, and educational assessment, as well as in educational statistics topics such as general linear models including multiple regression, structural equation models and hierarchical linear models. For more detailed information on the work of specific faculty members, please see the faculty profiles link in the toolbar.