Learning and Development FAQ

Is my background well-suited for a degree in L&D?
Students from many different backgrounds apply to the L&D programs. There is no minimum experience requirement for our programs, although PHD applications preferably have a strong psychological or social science background.

Many MS students are current educators interested in advancing their careers or in enriching their understanding of psychological and developmental phenomena that impact teaching/student learning. MS and PhD students come from an array of backgrounds, including business, art, criminology, theater, exceptional education, family studies, etc.

What do graduates do with a M.S. degree?
Graduates of our Master’s program take one of two tracks. Some students apply to Ph.D. programs to pursue research and/or teaching careers. Other graduates seek employment in a wide range of industries such as education, research, marketing, and program evaluation. This MS degree does not grant licensure or certification.

Cost and Financial Aid

What kind of financial aid do you have available?
UWM offers numerous types of aid, including fellowships and scholarships. Please click here to receive more information about financial aid or refer to the Financial Assistance link on the Educational Psychology homepage.

How much does it cost to attend UWM?
Click here to find information about tuition and fees.

Applying to the Program

Are paper applications accepted?
No, all applications must be received through Panthera, the online Graduate School application system: graduateschool-apply.uwm.edu. Panthera will collect information about your educational background, transcripts, personal statement/statement of purpose, letters of recommendation, writing samples, application fee, and an application for a teaching assistantship, if you choose to apply for one (doctoral students; must apply by the December 1 deadline for full consideration of funding).

What are your application deadlines?
All application deadlines can be found on our webpage.

Are letters of recommendation required?
Letters of recommendation are not required for the M.S. program but you may choose to provide letters as additional evidence of admissibility.

Three letters are required for Doctoral program applicants and at least two should be from individuals (i.e., faculty, instructors) who can speak to your academic experience and/or research experiences. If you are unable to provide a letter from faculty members, provide your reasons in the personal statement.

**What should my letters of recommendation say?**
The letters should speak to your abilities as a student and researcher, your overall goals, why you would be a good fit for the Learning and Development Ph.D., and how you might contribute to the area. Letters of recommendation are required for the Ph. D. program.

**Are test scores required? What is the minimum score I need?**
Doctoral applicants must submit GRE scores whereas MS applicants may GRE scores as additional evidence of admissibility. The L&D area does not have a minimum GRE score requirement as we consider all applications holistically, but our program and department are known for rigorous training in research methods and scores that indicate an applicant will be successful in quantitative methods and in scholarly writing at the graduate level are preferred.

**What should I write in my personal statement?**
The personal statement is one of the most critical pieces of your application. The statement should provide a substantive outline your academic and professional background, declaration of Area of Concentration (Learning and Development), specific research/career/academic interests, and goals for the program, including plans for graduate study. This statement should be submitted to both the Graduate School and the Department of Educational Psychology (see Application Process for more information) and must be complete and thorough as it provides information that is central to the admission decision. This statement of purpose should be a strong reflection of your candidacy, the skills and experience you bring into the program, your future interests, and evidence that you can be successful in the program. We also regard the statement of purpose as a writing sample.

**After Applying to the Program**

I have applied for graduate study and would like to know the status of my application. Who do I contact?
Please watch your email and mailbox for information on monitoring your application status online. The L&D area reviews applications twice a year, after the application deadlines.