

# Online Master's Program in Measurement and Statistics

The online M&S master's program is non-thesis track and requires:

- A minimum of 30 credit hours of coursework; at least 21 of the hours must be letter-graded (e.g., A, B, C, in particular, these credits cannot be earned via directed independent study which is graded U/S)
- Passing grade on the Comprehensive Exam
- Courses taken more than 7 years prior to the comprehensive exam may not be counted towards these numbers

In order to be eligible for conferral of a degree, the university requires that your cumulative grade point average be at least 3.0 in formal graduate courses. No course hours with a grade below "C-" will be credited on the graduate degree; all grades in graduate courses except those for which grades of "S" or "U" are given or those conferred under the provision for repeating a course will be included in computation of the average. In addition, you are expected to earn a grade of B or better in all M&S required graduate courses. Grades earned at another institution cannot be used to improve a Grade Point Average (GPA) at Florida State University.

## Coursework

Graduate level courses in the M&S program are numbered in the 5000 through 7000 course codes under EDF. Students in the online Master's program should enroll in 6-8 credits of coursework during the academic year, and in one 4-credit class in summer. The online program will take 2 years to complete if students follow the structured curriculum.

## Required Courses

1. EDF 5400 Descriptive/Inferential Statistics Applications (4hrs)
2. EDF 5401 General Linear Models Applications (4hrs)
3. EDF 5402 Advanced Topics in ANOVA (3hrs)
4. EDF 5406 Multivariate Analysis Apps (3hrs)
5. EDF 5432 Measurement Theory I (3hrs)
6. EDF 5448 Scale and Instrument Development (3hrs)
7. EDF 5481 Methods in Educational Research (3hrs) (co-requisite with EDF5916)
8. EDF 5916 Research Proposal Writing (1hr) (co-requisite with EDF5481)
9. EDF 5484 Educational Data Analysis (3hrs)
10. EDF 7418 Multilevel Modeling (3hrs)

Students are also required to attend the M&S Colloquium, which is EDF 5922, usually held every other Friday afternoon at 12pm.

## Recommended Courses

Students who have previously taken courses equivalent to the required courses may substitute, with the approval from the major advisor, other M&S courses such as those below:

- EDF 5409 Causal Modeling (3 hrs)
- EDF 7489 Meta-Analysis (3 hrs)

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## Major Advisor

Your advisor or major professor is the person who signs your paperwork and works with you to help you make decisions during your time at FSU. Upon admission to the master's program, you will be assigned a major advisor who will assist you in selecting courses and planning your study. The student and faculty advisor jointly develop the program of studies that best combines the student's experience, areas of interest, and career goals. The major advisor will guide you through all stages of your study.

## Supervisory Committee and Program of Study

You and your major professor will select a three-person supervisory committee, which must include your major advisor; at least one of the other two faculty members should be from the Measurement & Statistics program. All committee members should have Graduate Faculty Status. The supervisory committee will formally approve your program of study.

During your first year of study, you and your advisor should draft your Master's Program of Study. Program of Study Forms are available online through the College of Education website (<https://education.fsu.edu/oasis/graduate-students>) and must be completed by the end of your first year (i.e., signed off on by your supervisory committee). If necessary, you can make revisions before applying for graduation.

## Recommended Timetable

A suggested roadmap to the online master's degree in M&S is:

Year 1: Begin core coursework; Complete and turn in a Program of Study in the second term.

- Fall: EDF 5484 (3hrs), EDF5916 (1 hr), and EDF 5400 (4 hrs)
- Spring: EDF 5402 (3hrs), EDF5432 (3hrs)
- Summer: EDF 5401 (4hrs)

Year 2: Continue coursework; Prepare for comprehensive exam; Take comprehensive exam during last semester.

- Fall: EDF 5406 (3hrs), EDF 5448 (3hrs)
- Spring: EDF 5484 (3hrs), EDF 7418 (3hrs)

## Comprehensive Exam

The Comprehensive exam is required for students pursuing a master's degree via the non-thesis track who have completed or almost completed their coursework. The purpose of the exam is to ensure graduate students have acquired the knowledge to practice Measurement & Statistics at the master's level. Students must demonstrate competence in all required courses.

Students must officially register for a zero-credit hour course for the Comprehensive Exam (EDF 8966) during the semester when taking the exam. To take the exam, students submit a

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portfolio no later than the 8<sup>th</sup> week of the semester. The portfolio consists of the Program of Study and two papers evidencing the student's knowledge of practice in Measurement & Statistics at the Master's level. One paper should be in the Measurement area and the other should cover topics in Statistics. Papers may be coauthored but students must document how they have made a major contribution to the work in each paper. The papers could be:

- 1) Based on expanded projects from classes with substantial measurement and statistics content,
- 2) Conference papers,
- 3) Journal articles submitted for publication.

### **Evaluation Procedure and Grades**

The student's committee will evaluate the portfolio and make a pass/fail decision. If the committee feels it is necessary, an oral defense will be scheduled. The student will be notified of the decision. An official Pass/Fail grade will be recorded for EDF 8966, the Master's Comprehensive Exam course. The student should also submit the Master's Comprehensive Exam Results Form (<https://education.fsu.edu/oasis/graduate-students>) immediately after receiving the notification of exam results.

### **Retake Policy**

If a student fails the Master's Comprehensive Exam, the student may take it during a later semester. Failing the exam twice leads to termination from the degree program.