

Degree-seeking students admitted to a graduate program must enroll and begin classes at Western within one academic year after receiving official notice of acceptance from the Graduate Office.

Applicants who are not citizens of the United States must receive a score of 550 or above on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), unless the applicant is from a country where English is the native language or they possess a baccalaureate degree from an English-speaking college or university.

Learning Improvement Option Admission

Admission to the Learning Improvement option requires successful completion of a baccalaureate degree with teacher certification, at least one year successful teaching in a P-12 setting, a minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.0, approval of the Education Graduate Committee, and an official record of completion of the Graduate Record Exam (GRE). Deadline is Aug. 1. Applicants with a GPA from 2.75-2.99 may be given provisional enrollment with the requirement to successfully complete (B or better) the first two Western courses in the program.

Courses

Total credits required for graduation: 33

Professional Core Courses (18 credits)

- EDU 510: Policy Decisions and Data that Drives Them (3) (SU-YR 1)
- EDU 530: Research Approaches in Assessment (3) (F-YR 1)
- EDU 570: Seeking Support for Assessment: Funds, Partners, and Disseminating Results (3) (SP-YR 1)
- EDU 615: Data Informed Analysis and Decisions (3) (SU-YR 2)
- EDU 630: Improving Outcomes: Documenting Process and Evidence (6) (F-YR 2 and SP-YR 2)

The Accountability and Improvement: Documenting Process and Evidence course provides a capstone applied research component that will require that the student use

the knowledge gained throughout the program to develop an improvement plan for a previously identified problem. The final applied research plan will be professionally reviewed and disseminated through a university-based applied research publication..

Learning Improvement Option Courses (15 credits)

- EDU 520: 21st Century Educators: Foundations of Professional Behaviors (3) (SU-YR 1)
- EDU 540: Current Barriers to Learning Improvement (3) (F-YR 1)
- EDU 580: Literature Review and Case Study Analysis (3) (SP-YR 1)
- EDU 620: Applied Educational Research: Developing a Learning and Assessment Plan (3) (SU-YR 2)
- EDU 640: Applied Research for School Improvement (3) (F-YR 2)

Graduate Faculty

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Dr. Richard Porr | Dr. Melody Smith |
| Dr. Mike Smith | Dr. John Ellis |
| Dr. Elizabeth Hendrix | Dr. Nancy Edwards |
| Dr. Deborah Bogle | Dr. Cindy Heider |

For more information

**Please contact the
Education Department at
Missouri Western State University
816- 271-4332 or visit
<http://graduate.missouriwestern.edu>**



Missouri Western State University
4525 Downs Drive • St. Joseph, MO 64507

Western is an equal opportunity institution.

Master of Applied Science in Assessment

Learning Improvement

Missouri Western State University





Master of Applied Science in Assessment

Learning Improvement

If you are a dedicated teacher wanting to improve your skills and increase student learning, consider Missouri Western State University's Master of Applied Science (MAS) in Assessment degree as your next career move.

The MAS in Assessment is a unique interdisciplinary degree that focuses on research and data-informed decision making to facilitate improvement within organizations. Graduate candidates will work hand-in-hand within their professional field to collect data about programs, personnel, and methods; analyze and interpret the information; seek support in the form of partnerships and funding; and develop plans to improve professional performance and outcomes. Technology will be integrated throughout the curriculum.

Today, educational institutions from preschool to college are faced with the demands and challenges of high

standards and accountability. Graduates of the MAS in Assessment Degree will learn how to meet these expectations while improving quality within their organizations.

There are two options in the MAS in Assessment Degree: Learning Improvement and Writing.

Learning Improvement Option

The Learning Improvement Option is designed as a two-year professional applied master's degree that will equip teachers to meet the 21st century challenges of assessment and improvement.

Graduates will perform as master teachers who have acquired skills of collecting, analyzing and interpreting data; analyzing contextual influences to include policy and economics; and developing, implementing and disseminating coherent and relevant plans for improvement at many levels.

The capstone project of this option requires that graduate candidates develop and implement a learning improvement project. The project will lead to improvement in the classroom, the school, the district, or at the state level. The project begins with the identification of a problem the graduate candidate wants to improve. For example, at the classroom level, the graduate candidate will identify the need to improve students' academic skills or civic skills. At the school level, the graduate candidate will, with the help of other school professionals, improve parental involvement.

Critical Components to School Improvement Project

- Choose a problem
- Survey professional literature
- Adopt a theoretical framework to both guide data collection and the development of the improvement project
- Identify possible barriers
- Collect and analyze data



- Develop learning improvement plan
- Apply learning improvement plan and disseminate results

Admission Graduate Admission

Applicants must complete an Application for Graduate Admission to be admitted to the graduate studies program at Western. Admission is based on the following: a bachelor's degree or master's degree from an accredited college or university; a minimum 2.75 undergraduate grade point average (GPA); and minimum graduate-level entrance exam (GRE) score as designated by the department or graduate program.