

The Ohio State University
College of Education and Human Ecology
SCHOOL OF EDUCATIONAL POLICY AND LEADERSHIP

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MASTER OF ARTS DEGREE
For students admitted Autumn 2008 and afterward

Master's degree programs give students the opportunity to gain additional knowledge and necessary skills in a field in order to engage in research and other scholarly activities, to teach and to become practitioners. At Ohio State, Master's degree programs consist of a coherent pattern of courses and other educational experiences, a Master's examination and, in many cases, a thesis or its equivalent.

I. Program of Study

You are expected to select a program of study in consultation with your advisor. The program must include a reasonable concentration in a single area or in related academic areas, must be approved by your advisor, and must be within the rules of the Graduate Studies Committee. (ref. Graduate School Handbook, Section II.5.1).

The **Master of Arts Program Sheet** must be completed and signed by you and your advisor. You should turn in your Program Sheet as soon as you work out a program with your advisor. At the latest it must be submitted at the same time you submit your **Application to Graduate – Master's Degree**. The **Application to Graduate – Master's Degree** is available on line at <http://www.gradsch.ohio-state.edu/Depo/PDF/Master'sGraduate.pdf>. The **Master of Arts Program Sheet** is available on line at <http://ehe.osu.edu/epl/students/downloads/ma-program-sheet.pdf>.

II. Foundations of Education Requirement:

A minimum of six hours of graduate credit concerning historical, philosophical, comparative, psychological or sociocultural foundations are required. A list of approved foundations courses can be found online at <http://ehe.osu.edu/epl/students/current-stdnts.cfm>. Be sure to choose the list appropriate for your date of admission to your current Master's degree program.

III. Multicultural Education Requirement:

A minimum of three hours of graduate credit must relate to multicultural education. A list of courses approved to meet the multicultural education requirement is available online at <http://ehe.osu.edu/epl/students/current-stdnts.cfm>. Be sure to choose the list appropriate for your date of admission to your current Master's degree program.

IV. Research Requirement:

For students pursuing the non-thesis option, courses in research are strongly recommended. For students pursuing the thesis option, a minimum of six graduate hours must be taken in courses related to educational research design and data analysis. Students in the School of Educational Policy and Leadership are strongly encouraged to take research methodology coursework from Quantitative Research, Evaluation and Measurement and/or from Cultural Foundations, Technology and Qualitative Inquiry.

V. Independent Study:

1. Students pursuing the thesis option are required to take a minimum of twelve (12) credit hours of independent study coursework (EDU P&L 999.XX) related to the Master of Arts thesis.
2. Students pursuing the non-thesis option are required to take a minimum of six (6) credit hours of independent study in preparation for the Master's examination (EDU P&L 693.XX).
3. Students in Higher Education and Student Affairs are required to take three (3) credit hours of EDU P&L 858 Case Studies in Higher Education Administration and three (3) credit hours of independent study coursework (EDU P&L 693.32) in preparation for the Master's case study examination.
4. Students in the Educational Administration program working on both a Master of Arts degree and Administrative Licensure are not required to complete independent study coursework.

5. A maximum of twenty-four (24) hours of graduate credit may be earned in individual study courses (e.g. 693.XX or 893.XX), internships (e.g. 930), planned field experience (884.XX), and practicum (e.g. 945). Of these 24 credit hours, only 20 may be Individual Studies (e.g. 693 or 893).

VI. Residency Requirement:

Students must fulfill a residency requirement with a minimum of twelve (12) hours of graduate credit. The residency requirement can be completed by choosing one of the following options:

1. Satisfactorily completing 12 quarter hours of graduate credit during any given quarter.
2. Satisfactorily completing a total of 12 hours of graduate credit over two consecutive quarters.
3. Satisfactorily completing a total of 12 hours of graduate credit over two consecutive summer quarters.
4. Satisfactorily completing 10 hours of graduate credit during any given quarter if employed as a University teaching, administrative, or research associate.

VII. Program Coursework:

1. Courses within the School of Educational Policy and Leadership: Students pursuing the thesis option must complete a minimum of 20 graduate credit hours within the School. Students pursuing the non-thesis option must complete a minimum of 25 graduate credit hours within the School.
2. All 727s taught by university qualified instructors are considered special topics courses. Thesis option students may apply no more than 6 credit hours of 727 coursework toward their degree. Non-thesis option students may apply no more than 12 credit hours of 727 coursework toward their degree.

VIII. Thesis Option: (Minimum of 45 graduate credit hours)

Students must submit a complete typed thesis draft approved by the student's Master's Examination Committee before being examined over the thesis. The Master's Examination Committee is composed of at least two Graduate Faculty members, including the student's faculty advisor. The thesis must conform to Graduate School Format Requirements as described in the Graduate school Guidelines for Preparing Theses, Dissertations, and D.M.A documents (<http://www.gradsch.ohio-state.edu/Depo/PDF/Guidelines.pdf>).

IX. Non-Thesis Option: (Minimum of 50 graduate credit hours)

Students must take and satisfactorily pass a minimum four-hour examination that has been constructed and evaluated by the student's Master's Examination Committee during the final quarter of the student's program. Included in the Non-Thesis Option is the Action Research Project Option to be developed in consultation with the student's advisor or the Case Study Exam option for Higher Education and Student Affairs students.

X. Time Limit: Requirements for the Master of Arts of degree must be completed within a six year period.