

University of Delaware

MS in Evaluation



CURRICULUM

1. The MS-Evaluation requires the student to complete a minimum of 37 credits. The curriculum includes (a) core courses in evaluation theory and practice (6 course credits, plus 2 credits in special projects and a 1 credit portfolio), (b) core courses in applied research methods (16 credits), (c) elective courses in an area of methodological specialization (6 credits), and (d) elective courses in a program area or advanced technical skills (6 credits).
2. To graduate from the program, each student will write a competency analysis paper, describing their level of achievement on a set of core competencies (evaluation theory, research methods (including measurement and data collection methods), program evaluation design and management, program evaluation implementation, data analysis, and communication of evaluation results. The competency analysis paper will be accompanied by a portfolio supporting the student's assessment of his or her competencies.
3. Each student will be required to have a committee for his or her Portfolio Review and Competency Exam. The committee will be comprised of two graduate faculty members, the chair of which must be a core or affiliated faculty member in the Evaluation Program. To provide guidance on the development of the portfolio, the committee will be developed one calendar year before the expected date of graduation, and the chair will be responsible for advising the student, including guiding the selection of and approving electives.
4. The curriculum is designed to be completed in 2 years of full-time study (a minimum of 9 hours/semester). However, there are no full-time residency requirements. Although there will be no separate part-time track, the program will be open to part-time students. As noted earlier courses will be offered in the evening or in block schedule format to increase access by working students.

Courses Required Within Evaluation

- HDFS 637 Program Planning, Assessment, & Evaluation (3)
- EVAL 755 Evaluation Models and Approaches (3)
- EVAL 756 Advanced Seminar in Evaluation (3)
- EVAL 757 Special Projects (2)
- EVAL 758 Portfolio and Competency Analysis Paper (1)

Courses Required From Other Programs

- Measurement (3) [EDUC 865 Educational Measurement Theory or HDFS 655 Measurement Techniques for Children & Families]
- Research Methods (3) [EDUC 607-Educational Research Procedures; HDFS 815: Research Issues & Designs; UAPP 800-Research Methods & Data Analysis]

- Statistics (3) [EDUC 665-Elementary Statistics or UAPP 815-Public Management Statistics]
- Qualitative Methods (3) [EDUC 850: Qualitative Research in Educational Settings]
- Survey Design (1) [UAPP 676 – Survey Research]

Area of Emphasis [6 credits to be selected with approval of advisor]

Qualitative Methods

- UAPP 804 Qualitative Methods for Program Evaluation
- EDUC 858 Advanced Qualitative Methods

Quantitative Methods

- EDUC 812 Regression and Multivariate Models in Education
- EDUC 856 Introduction to Statistical Inference
- EDUC 862 Design and Analysis of Experiments
- EDUC 874 Multivariate Data Analysis

Economic Evaluation

- UAPP 834 Economics in Public and Nonprofit Sectors
- UAPP 827 Program and Project Analysis

Electives -- 6 credits in a program area to be selected with approval of advisor

NEW COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Evaluation Models & Approaches – This course gives students an understanding of the breadth of evaluation approaches and of the themes underlying all evaluation practice. It is the second in a series. The first (HDFS637) is a basic introduction.

Advanced Seminar in Evaluation -- This course is the third in a series. After first taking a general introduction and then learning the breadth of evaluation approaches, this course immerses students in specific evaluation issues selected based on their relevance and importance in the field.

Special Projects – This course is an independent study that provides students in the MS Evaluation program with the opportunity to apply evaluation principles and methods in a practical context. This is a key component of preparing students for their capstone.

Portfolio & Competency Analysis Paper -- This course is an independent study, intended to introduce MS in Evaluation students to the competencies expected of a professional evaluator and to assist them in planning for the portfolio and competency analysis report that is required.

Contact Program Director:

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