



COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Dr. Ronald L. Barnette
Acting Dean

Dr. David Bechler, Head, Department of Biology

Dr. Jesse G. Spencer, Head, Department of Chemistry

Dr. Sharon Gravett, Head, Department of English

Dr. David Williams, Acting Head, Department of History

Dr. Thomas A Carnevale, Head, Department of Mathematics and Computer Science

Dr. Susan Wehling, Acting Head, Department of Modern and Classical Languages

Dr. James F. Hill, Acting Head, Department of Philosophy

TBA , Head, Department of Physics, Astronomy, and Geosciences

Dr. James W. Peterson, Head, Department of Political Science

Dr. Michael Brooks, Head, Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and
Criminal Justice

Dr. Patrick Burns, Director, Office of Academic Student Instructional Support

Dr. Viki Soady, Director, Women's Studies Program

Dr. Shirley Hardin, Director, African American Studies Program

Dr. Brian Adler, Director, University Honors Program and
Coordinator, General Studies

The College of Arts and Sciences offers graduate programs that lead to the Master of Arts degree with majors in English and in history, the Master of Science degrees with majors in sociology, in criminal justice, and in marriage and family therapy, and the Master of Public Administration degree. Courses in anthropology, the natural sciences, foreign languages, mathematics, computer science, and philosophy are available at the graduate level to fulfill electives and requirements for programs across the University.



DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

Dr. Sharon Gravett, Head
Room 207, West Hall

Degrees

The Department of English offers a Master of Arts degree with a major in English. Students have the option of pursuing the M.A. with an emphasis in literature or an M.A. with an emphasis in rhetoric and composition.

Description

The Department of English at Valdosta State University offers a Master of Arts degree with a major in English for students who wish to continue their study of literature, literary criticism, language, rhetoric and composition, and creative writing. Because there is no formal tracking, students may, in consultation with their advisers, individually tailor their programs to accommodate special interests. Students earning a Master of Arts degree with a major in English are well prepared for a number of careers and programs. These include doctoral studies, college and secondary school teaching, business, and other professional endeavors. The English Department of Valdosta State University expects its graduate students to acquire the following:

1. A breadth of knowledge, including general knowledge of major literary periods and movements, general knowledge of useful literary concepts and terminology, and specific knowledge of key works and figures;
2. The ability to produce cogent written works blending knowledge of specific texts, history, and sources with a clearly developed critical point of view; and
3. The ability to discuss their work articulately.

The English Department's admissions policies, degree offerings, degree options, and course offerings are designed to help all students achieve these goals.

Departmental Requirements in addition to the University Requirements for Admission, Retention, and Graduation

Special Admission Requirements: To be accepted as a regular graduate student in the Department of English, an applicant must have the following:

1. an undergraduate GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale. This GPA may be cumulative or in the undergraduate major;
2. a GRE verbal score of 500 or above or a GRE writing assessment number of 4 or above;
3. submission of a three-page essay to the Department of English, detailing (a) career goals and (b) academic interests.

Applicants must include a brief cover letter of application detailing reasons for seeking the master's degree in English at VSU and relevant past experience, including academic awards or recognition.

To be accepted as a probationary student in the Department of English, the student must meet at least two of the three criteria listed above and submit a letter of application.

Special Graduation Requirements: For graduation, students must have a cumulative graduate GPA of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale as well as meet all general requirements for graduate degrees. Besides completing the comprehensive written and oral examinations or the thesis and oral defense, students must receive a grade of B or better in the fourth sequence course of a foreign language or a passing grade in a reading proficiency examination administered by the Department of Modern and Classical Languages. Students entering the literature emphasis without an undergraduate degree in English must complete at least 6 hours in British literature and 6 hours in American literature; for students in the Rhetoric and Composition Emphasis, 3 hours in each. Students in both the Literature Emphasis and the Rhetoric and Composition Emphasis must have the written permission of the department head to enroll in ENGL 8700 more than once. Students seeking the M.A. in English as a second master's degree must satisfy all the requirements for the Master of Arts in English. Students wishing to obtain T-5 certification may do so after the completion of the M.A. program, provided they have a T-4 certificate and complete the professional education courses required for T-5 certification by the State Department of Education.

ESOL CERTIFICATION

The English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Endorsement provides credentials to teach English as a second language in Georgia. An ESOL endorsement can be pursued by undergraduate or graduate students working toward possessing certification in a teaching field (T-4 certification) or in speech and language pathology or by students working toward possessing certification in school counseling, provided that a teaching field has been established. Students add the ESOL endorsement by completing the following courses: LING 4000 / ENGL 6000 (Elements of Linguistics), LING 4160 / ENGL 6000 (Sociolinguistics), and FLED 4600/6800 (Methods and Materials for Teaching ESOL).

MASTER OF ARTS WITH A MAJOR IN ENGLISH– EMPHASIS IN LITERATURE

Selected Educational Outcomes

1. To demonstrate an ability to interpret language and literature in light of key facts, concepts, and contexts.
2. To employ a variety of critical approaches.
3. To produce systematic and thoroughly researched work appropriate to the discipline.
4. To participate in activities related to the profession.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE M.A. DEGREE WITH A MAJOR IN ENGLISH—EMPHASIS IN LITERATURE

Thesis Option

A Master's thesis in English should be a work of 50 or more pages demonstrating competent and substantial research coupled with an innovative approach to the subject matter. The thesis will be directed by a faculty member and a committee of two other faculty members (one of whom must be from a department outside English). Once the thesis has been submitted, students will have an oral defense covering both the thesis and their coursework. Students following this option must complete a minimum of 30 hours of coursework and 6 hours of thesis credit.

Non-Thesis Option—Comprehensive Examination

Students will develop, in consultation with their committee, a reading list in a specialized area. This list should consist of approximately six to eight primary and secondary works, excluding material that students have already studied in their classes. Students will then take a two-hour written examination over this reading list and a follow-up oral examination over that written test and their coursework. These examinations should be taken before or immediately after the final semester. Students following this option must complete 36 hours of coursework.

Required Courses	18 hours
ENGL 7000 Approaches to Graduate Study	3 hours
ENGL 7010 Approaches to Critical Theory	3 hours
Seminars (8000-level)	12 hours

Guided Electives	18 hours
Studies Courses (7000-level ENGL)	0-18 hours
Seminars (8000-level ENGL)	0-18 hours
*Graduate Option (ENGL 6000 and/or courses from other departments)	0-9 hours
Thesis Hours (under the thesis option)	6 hours

Total Required for the Degree **36 semester hours**

* In order to take advantage of our extensive undergraduate offerings and/or to engage in interdisciplinary study, students will also have the opportunity to exercise a graduate option. Under this option, students will be allowed a maximum of 9 hours of coursework that can be drawn from selected 4000-level courses within the English Department with the prefixes ENGL, LING, CRWR, and JOUR (with the instructor's permission, graduate students may take the undergraduate course with appropriate adjustments in the course syllabus); only 6 hours of the Graduate Option can be taken as graduate courses outside the English Department.

MASTER OF ARTS WITH A MAJOR IN ENGLISH— EMPHASIS IN RHETORIC AND COMPOSITION

Selected Educational Outcomes

1. To demonstrate an ability to apply theoretical, pedagogical, and historical approaches in the study of composition and rhetoric.
2. To demonstrate an ability to interpret language and literature in light of key facts, concepts, and contexts, employing a variety of critical approaches.
3. To produce systematic and thoroughly researched work appropriate to the discipline.
4. To participate in activities related to the profession.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE M.A. DEGREE WITH A MAJOR IN ENGLISH— EMPHASIS IN RHETORIC AND COMPOSITION

Thesis Option

A Master’s thesis in English should be a work of 50 or more pages demonstrating competent and substantial research coupled with an innovative approach to the subject matter. The thesis will be directed by a faculty member and a committee of two other faculty members (one of whom must be from a department outside English). Once the thesis has been submitted, students will have an oral defense covering both the thesis and their coursework. Students following this option must complete a minimum of thirty hours of coursework and 6 hours of thesis credit.

Non-Thesis Option—Comprehensive Examination

Students will develop, in consultation with their committee, a reading list in a specialized area. This list should consist of approximately six to eight primary and secondary works, excluding material that students have already studied in their classes. Students will then take a two-hour written examination over this reading list and a follow-up oral examination over that written test and their coursework. These examinations should be taken before or immediately after the final semester. Students following this option must complete 36 hours of coursework.

The Rhetoric and Composition Emphasis. 18 hours

Required courses 6 hours

ENGL 7000 Approaches to Graduate Study 3 hours

ENGL 7010 Approaches to Critical Theory 3 hours

Required, if not taken as an undergraduate 0-3 hours

ENGL 4620** Survey of the History of Rhetoric

Choice of the following 3-6 hours

ENGL 7600 Studies in Rhetoric and Composition

and/or ENGL 8600 Seminar in Rhetoric and Composition

Choice of the following 3-6 hours
 ENGL 7600 Studies in Rhetoric and Composition
 ENGL 8600 Seminar in Rhetoric and Composition
 **LING 4000 Elements of Linguistics
 **LING 4160 Sociolinguistics
 **ENGL 4610 History of the English Language
 ENGL 8690 Workshop in Rhetoric and Composition
 (ENGL 8690 may be taken twice for credit)

Guided Electives 18 hours

Studies Courses (7000-level ENGL) 0-18 hours
 Seminars (8000-level ENGL) 0-18 hours
 *Graduate Option (ENGL 6000 and/or 0-9 hours
 courses from other departments)
 Thesis Hours (under the thesis option) 6 hours

Total Required for the Degree 36 semester hours

- * In order to take advantage of our extensive undergraduate offerings and/or to engage in interdisciplinary study, students will also have the opportunity to exercise a graduate option. Under this option, students will be allowed a maximum of 9 hours of coursework which can be drawn from selected 4000-level courses within the English Department with the prefixes ENGL, LING, CRWR, and JOUR (with the instructor's permission, graduate students may take the undergraduate course with appropriate adjustments in the course syllabus); only 6 hours of the Graduate Option can be taken as graduate courses outside the English Department.
- ** These courses fall under the Graduate Option that allows for only two courses at the 4000 level. Credit for such courses will be listed as ENGL 6000. If taken at the undergraduate level, these courses cannot be taken again for graduate credit.

Outcome Assessments

The English Department assesses the extent to which its program requirements create the desired outcomes by using a variety of techniques. Examples of these assessments (and the related educational outcome) include the following:

1. Students will pass a two-hour written comprehensive examination or prepare a master's thesis.
2. Students will pass either an oral examination or successfully defend a thesis.
3. Students will complete a Graduate Student Exit Questionnaire and an exit interview.



DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
Dr. David Williams, Acting Head
Room 210, Ashley Hall North

The Department of History offers a graduate program that leads to the Master of Arts degree with a major in history.

The graduate major in the Department of History is designed to provide students with advanced instruction and training, and courses are available in the history of the United States, Europe, Latin America, Africa, and Asia. The program also equips students with the knowledge, skills, and values required for professional careers in history and gives qualified students the foundation for doctoral study in history.

History's scope is extremely broad, and the study of people and their institutions form a particular focus of the discipline. The use of language and the ability to communicate skillfully also are major concerns of history. Thus, advanced study in history prepares students for many different occupations and professions in which such qualities are essential.

Traditionally, teaching has been a career possibility, but, as well, qualified recipients of the Master of Arts with a major in history are prepared to enter doctoral programs, to seek employment in business or government, in museums and libraries, in publishing, journalism, and advertising, or to enter the military, politics, or theology. An advanced degree in history continues to be excellent preparation for business school or law school. Students who are interested in the Master of Arts or who have questions about the vocational possibilities of the major should consult with members of the History Department faculty in Ashley Hall.

MASTER OF ARTS WITH A MAJOR IN HISTORY

Departmental Requirements in addition to the University Requirements for Admission

To be considered for regular admission, an applicant must

1. possess a cumulative undergraduate grade-point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale, calculated on all work attempted in which letter grades were awarded
2. possess an grade-point average of at least 3.0 in all college-level history courses, with no grade below "C" for a history course
3. hold at least 15 semester hours credit, or its equivalent, in college-level history courses.
4. possess minimum scores of 500 on the verbal section and 4 on the analytical writing section of the Graduate Record Examination.
5. submit (a) an essay on career goals, (b) a formal writing sample, such as a term paper or seminar paper, and (c) two letters of recommendation from persons familiar with the applicant's academic work
6. be recommended for admission by no less than a simple majority of the Department of History's Graduate Studies Committee.

To be considered for probationary admission, an applicant must:

1. possess a cumulative undergraduate grade-point average of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale, calculated on all work attempted in which letter grades were awarded
2. possess an grade-point average of at least 2.75 in all college-level history courses, with no grade below “C” for a history course
3. hold at least 15 semester hours credit, or its equivalent, in college-level history courses.
4. possess minimum scores of 400 on the verbal section and 3 on the analytical writing section of the Graduate Record Examination.
5. submit (a) an essay on career goals, (b) a formal writing sample, such as a term paper or seminar paper, and (c) two letters of recommendation from persons familiar with the applicant’s academic work
6. be recommended for admission by no less than a two-thirds majority of the Department of History’s Graduate Studies Committee. Applicants for probationary admission may, in extraordinary cases, petition the committee for waiver of requirements specific to the department. The committee’s decision in such cases must be unanimous for the petition to be approved.

Selected Educational Outcomes

1. Students will demonstrate advanced knowledge of political developments in history.
2. Students will demonstrate advanced knowledge of social developments in history.
3. Students will communicate effectively orally and in writing.
4. Students will demonstrate advanced knowledge of the process of historical research and critical analysis.
5. Students will complete historical research projects that effectively use library resources and computer and information technology.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MASTER OF ARTS DEGREE WITH A MAJOR IN HISTORY

PLAN A (thesis program) 33 semester hours required

The thesis option is designed primarily for those students who plan on pursuing a Ph.D. in history upon completion of the M.A. at Valdosta State.

HIST 7000 Seminar in Historical Research	3 hours
HIST Graduate Seminars	15 hours
HIST Graduate courses	6 hours
HIST 7999 Thesis	6 hours
Electives (graduates courses outside of history)	3 hours

PLAN B (non-thesis program) 30 semester hours required

The non-thesis option is designed primarily for students currently employed as secondary education teachers, those seeking an advanced degree in history to teach at the community college level, or those seeking a graduate degree in history for any other personal or professional reason.

- HIST 7000 Seminar in Historical Research 3 hours
- HIST Graduate Seminars 15 hours
- HIST Graduate courses 6 hours
- Electives (graduates courses outside of history) 6 hours

Comprehensive Exams and Foreign Language Requirement

1. Regardless of which option students select, they must pass both a comprehensive written and oral examination.
2. Regardless of which option students select, they must pass a reading knowledge examination in a foreign language. A grade of “B” or better in a fourth sequence course in a foreign language may be accepted in lieu of a reading knowledge exam.

Outcome Assessments

The department assesses the extent to which the program requirements create the desired outcomes by using a variety of techniques.

1. The History Department’s policy is that all graduate courses require such written work as essays, reviews, and research papers to help determine progress in research and written communication skills, analytical and interpretive skills, and mastery of course content.
2. The comprehensive written and oral examinations to which all students are subject provide a means of ascertaining mastery of historical knowledge as well an indication of the candidate’s adequate mastery in oral communication, critical analysis, historical synthesis, and historical interpretation commensurate with that expected of a student seeking a Master of Arts degree.
3. When such information is available, the History Department will use as an assessment tool the results of University-wide data related to the program and to Master of Arts graduates.



DEPARTMENT OF MODERN AND CLASSICAL LANGUAGES

Dr. Susan Wehling, Acting Head
Room 128, West Hall

The Department of Modern and Classical Languages, in conjunction with the Department of Middle Grades and Secondary Education, offers the Master of Education degree with a major in Spanish.

Students entering the program for the Master of Education degree with a major in Spanish have already met initial certification requirements and, consequently, have the necessary foundations in language, culture, literature, and professional education for advanced study. In their graduate work, the foreign language education (FLED) students take 21 hours of guided electives at the graduate level within the content area of Spanish. Following an integrated approach, these courses are designed to promote competencies in the areas of language, literature, and culture at the superior level of proficiency and to provide students with a focused and in-depth program of study. Students take a course dealing with second language acquisition, in order to further their knowledge in the areas of instructional and learning strategies and their application in foreign language teaching, and a core of professional education courses that address ideas, concepts, and trends associated with education and how these relate to educators. Finally, through a professional development seminar, students are required to perform self-assessment, determine areas of skill and knowledge in need of improvement, and design an effective career growth and development plan, as a preliminary step in expanding and modifying their personal teaching strategies.

MASTER OF EDUCATION WITH A MAJOR IN SPANISH

Selected Educational Outcomes

1. Graduates will demonstrate the ability to listen, speak, read, and write at the superior level of proficiency (as defined by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages Proficiency Guidelines) in the Spanish language and an in-depth knowledge of Hispanic cultures and representative authors and works of Hispanic literature.
2. Graduates will demonstrate knowledge of and the ability to use innovative approaches to curriculum, instructional methods, resources, and assessment appropriate to the teaching of foreign languages.
3. Graduates will develop and integrate personalized teaching strategies.
4. Graduates will demonstrate an understanding of second-language acquisition and its relation to first-language development and the ability to create meaningful learning opportunities based on this knowledge.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE M.ED. DEGREE WITH A MAJOR IN SPANISH

Core Curriculum. 9 hours

SEED 7000 Contemporary Issues in Secondary Education 2 hours

PSYC 7010 Learning and Assessment 3 hours

RSCH 7100 Research Methodology in Education 3 hours

LEAD 7210 Ethics and Law 1 hour

Area of Concentration. 27 hours

Content Courses (Guided Electives in Spanish) 21 hours

FLED 7100 Professional Development Seminar I 2 hours

FLED 7500 Theory and Practice in Second

Language Acquisition 2 hours

FLED 7800 Professional Development Seminar II 2 hours

This program also requires students to prepare and present a professional portfolio.

Total Required for the Degree 36 semester hours

The Department of Modern and Classical Languages evaluates the level of linguistic proficiency and cultural knowledge achieved by the students in the Master of Education degree program in Spanish by using a variety of assessment measures. The results of the assessment activities are used for continued curriculum development and revision.

Outcomes Assessments

1. Coursework and Comprehensive Examination: The Department of Modern and Classical Languages will assess students' listening reading, and writing proficiency through an examination administered upon the students' entry into the program. These skills will be assessed again upon the students' completion of the program through the Comprehensive Examination. Knowledge of content material related to Hispanic culture, linguistics, and literature will be assessed through a similar procedure. A Simulated Oral Proficiency Interview to assess speaking proficiency will be administered when students enter the program and upon their completion of the program. The corresponding department will evaluate core courses through written examinations, projects, papers, and presentations and through the Comprehensive Examination that is administered upon the students' completion of the program.
2. Student Portfolio: Students are required to maintain a professional portfolio containing goal statements, sample papers, research projects, course work, reflective self-assessment, and other specified items to be monitored as the students progress through the program. The portfolio will be submitted for partial fulfillment of the requirements for the M.Ed. degree in Spanish.

ENDORSEMENT IN ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

This endorsement is intended for certified teachers whose students in grades P-12 are non-native speakers of English. The applicant must possess a professional certificate at the bachelors or higher certification level in a teaching field, or in the service field of school counselor (provided that a teaching field prerequisite has been established) or speech and language pathology

Requirements for the Endorsement in English as a Second Language

- ENGL 6000 Graduate Option: Intro. to Linguistics 3 hours
- ENGL 6000 Graduate Option: Sociolinguistics 3 hours
- FLED 6800 Methods and Materials for Teaching ESOL 3 hours

Total Required for the Endorsement 9 hours



MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Dr. James W. Peterson, Head, Department of Political Science
Room 244, West Hall

Dr. Nolan Argyle, Coordinator of the MPA Program
Room 101, West Hall

Description

The Master of Public Administration Degree is designed to prepare students for productive and rewarding careers in public service. The format of the program accommodates students currently employed in the public sector as well as students seeking entry-level positions. The MPA Program is designed to complement any undergraduate program of study. Applications for admission will be accepted from any qualified candidates regardless of their undergraduate degree.

Students pursuing the MPA degree in residence at one of Valdosta State University's centers must complete 36 semester hours of coursework including 12 hours of required core courses, 12 hours of guided electives, and 12 hours in a concentration area approved by the MPA Coordinator. The 12-hour core includes PADM 7210 and PADM 7900, which must be taken by students during their final semester of coursework. These courses serve as the exit requirement for the MPA program.

The MPA degree, City Manager Track is offered exclusively via the Internet. Candidates for this track must be currently employed in a governmental (including military) or non-governmental organization or have appropriate work experience in such an organization. Candidates with private-sector experience who are interested in a career in the public or non- governmental sectors may be considered.

Departmental Requirements in addition to University Requirements for Admission

A student desiring to work in the College of Arts and Sciences on the M.P.A. degree must present a score of 450 on the Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT), or a score of 44 on the Miller Analogy Test (MAT), or a combined score of 800 or more on the verbal and either the quantitative or analytical section of the General Test of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE).

A student must also submit a resume, a career goal statement, and three letters of recommendation.

Selected Educational Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the MPA program students will:

1. Gain a comprehensive understanding of the basic technical skills needed to succeed in public or not-for-profit management.
2. Develop a broad outlook and an understanding of ethical factors required of program managers and administrators in public or not-for-profit agencies operating in a multicultural context.
3. Strengthen oral and written communication skills.
4. Gain familiarity with up-to-date information management systems.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE M.P.A. DEGREE

Core (Required) Courses. 12 hours

PADM 7060	Quantitative Methods for PA	3 hours
PADM 7070	Computer Applications in PA	3 hours
PADM 7090	Policy Analysis	3 hours
PADM 7900*	Capstone Seminar in PA	2 hours
PADM 7210*	Internship in PA	1 hour

(*Co-requisite courses)

Guided Electives (for all but City Manager track). 12 hours

Take any four of the following:

PADM 7000	Human Resource Management	3 hours
PADM 7140	Governmental Budgeting and Finance	3 hours
PADM 7150	Public Management	3 hours
PADM 7170	Organizational Behavior	3 hours
PADM 7060	Democracy and Public Administration	3 hours

Concentration Area

(all courses for a concentration must be approved by advisor). 12 hours

Total Required for the Degree 36 semester hours

Courses Required for City Management Track (Internet only) ----- 36 hours

PADM 7000 Human Resource Management -----	3 hours
PADM 7020 Public Sector Planning -----	3 hours
PADM 7060 Quantitative Methods for Public Administration -----	3 hours
PADM 7090 Policy Analysis -----	3 hours
PADM 7110 Information Management -----	3 hours
PADM 7120 Accounting for the Public Sector -----	3 hours
PADM 7170 Organizational Behavior -----	3 hours
PADM 7240 Public Administration and Community Based Organizations -----	3 hours
PADM 7250 Managing Small Cities & Counties -----	3 hours
POLS 6620 Public Finance Administration -----	3 hours
POLS 6630 Techniques and Processes of Public Management -----	3 hours
POLS 6650 Intergovernmental Relations -----	3 hours

Outcome Assessments

1. The comprehensive understanding of basic technical skills essential for successful public or not-for-profit management will be demonstrated by successful completion course work and PADM 7900.
2. Students will demonstrate an understanding of ethical management in a multi-cultural context through course papers, portfolio assessment and employer surveys.
3. Students will demonstrate effective communication skills through written and oral presentations in program course work.
4. Students will demonstrate familiarity with up-to-date information management systems through course examinations, portfolio analysis, exit and alumni questionnaires and employer surveys.



**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY,
ANTHROPOLOGY, AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

Dr. Michael Brooks, Head
Room 1120, University Center

The Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminal Justice offers three Master of Science degrees, one with a major in criminal justice (MSCJ) having both a thesis and non-thesis option, one with a major in sociology (MS SOC) having concentrations in applied sociology and thesis, and one with a major in marriage and family therapy (MSMFT).

MASTER OF SCIENCE WITH A MAJOR IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE

**Departmental Requirements in Addition to the University
Requirements of Admission, Retention, and Graduation**

Special Admission requirements: In addition to the requirements of the Valdosta State University Graduate School, applicants for regular admission into the MSCJ degree program must also have a minimum 2.75 grade point average on all undergraduate work for which grades were assigned. Applicants must submit two letters of recommendation from undergraduate professors and a two-page essay relating the reasons why they wish to pursue graduate study in criminal justice at Valdosta State University and summarizing their career goals, relevant past experience, academic awards, and recognition of achievements. In addition, admission to the MSCJ degree program requires completion of one undergraduate course in basic statistics and one course in research methodology. Students may apply for a waiver of these requirements and demonstrate proficiency by passing an examination.

Students who have not completed these requirements or who do not receive a waiver must complete a statistics course and a research methods course without graduate credit before formal admission to the criminal justice graduate program. Students who do not have an undergraduate degree in criminal justice may be required to audit undergraduate criminal law and criminological theory courses before enrolling in graduate level work in these areas, as determined by the Criminal Justice Admissions Committee. See details in this Graduate School *Catalog* for probationary admission.

Special Graduation Requirements: MSCJ students are required to complete satisfactorily the core requirements and electives as outlined in the degree plan below. All students in the MSCJ program must also successfully complete a comprehensive examination requirement as required by the Graduate School. Students who successfully complete the thesis option will be seen as having completed this requirement. Students electing the non-thesis option will satisfy this requirement by writing an Area Paper in the field. A full description of the Area Paper is available from the departmental office.

Selected Educational Outcomes

Students completing requirements for the Master of Science degree with a major in criminal justice should demonstrate a mastery of the following:

1. an understanding of major criminological theories, their strengths and weaknesses, their role in explaining crime and delinquency, and their role in informing public policy;
2. a familiarity with the structure and function of systems of criminal justice in the United States and in other countries;
3. the use and application of scientific research methods to the study of crime as well as to solving crimes;
4. the integration of criminal justice theory and research findings with criminal justice practice;
5. an understanding of the development of contemporary criminal justice issues in modern societies and how such issues may be informed by systematic research and analysis.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE M.S. WITH A MAJOR IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Required Core. 12 hours

CRJU 7000 Seminar in the Criminal Justice System	3 hours
CRJU 7400 Applied Statistics in Criminal Justice	3 hours
CRJU 7401 Advanced Research Methods for CRJU	3 hours
CRJU 7600 Advanced Criminological Theory	3 hours

Criminal Justice Electives. 18 hours

CRJU 7010 Advanced Comparative CJ Systems	3 hours
CRJU 7100 Seminar in Law Enforcement	3 hours
CRJU 7300 Seminar in Criminal Law and Procedure	3 hours
CRJU 7350 Seminar in Forensic Investigation	3 hours
CRJU 7370 Criminal Justice Ethics	3 hours
CRJU 7500 Adv. Criminal Behavior and Personality	3 hours
CRJU 7510 Advanced Correctional Therapies	3 hours
CRJU 7610 Seminar in Gang, Group, and	3 hours
CRJU 7620 Seminar in Criminal Victimization	3 hours
CRJU 7630 Advanced Crime Prevention	3 hours
CRJU 7700 Selected Topics	3 to 6 hours
CRJU 7710 Seminar in Juvenile Justice	3 hours
CRJU 7720 The Media and Criminal Justice	3 hours
CRJU 7730 Great Works in Criminal Justice	3 hours
CRJU 7900 Independent Study	1-6 hours
CRJU 7999 Thesis (for students taking the thesis option) ...	6 hours

Guided Electives (selected by student with approval of advisor). 6 hours

Total Required for the Degree 36 semester hours

Outcome Assessments

Educational outcomes for the Master of Science degree with a major in criminal justice will be assessed in the following ways:

1. the use of systematic analysis of student examinations and research papers from courses;
2. periodic uses of surveys of students or alumni from the program;
3. the use of comprehensive examinations for students and an analysis of their performance;
4. to the extent possible, baseline data from other comparable programs in the university will be compared to data based on students in the program;
5. program faculty will meet regularly to assess courses and student performance;
6. program faculty will review all theses and area papers written in a given assessment period and evaluate related student performance.

MASTER OF SCIENCE WITH A MAJOR IN SOCIOLOGY

Departmental Requirements in addition to the University Requirements for Admission, Retention, and Graduation

To be considered for admission to the M. S. degree program in Sociology, students must meet the admission requirements of the Graduate School and present a minimum combined score of 800 on the verbal and quantitative sections of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). In addition, applicants must submit a copy of a sample of written work submitted for credit in an upper division or graduate level course in Sociology or their current major field. Also, two letters of recommendation written by faculty members who have taught the candidate in an academic class must be submitted. An undergraduate degree in sociology is not mandatory. However, students without an undergraduate degree in sociology must enroll in and successfully complete SOCI 5000 (Proseminar: The Discipline of Sociology) prior to admission into the degree program. Should an applicant desire to apply for a waiver of this last requirement, a completed *Application for Waiver* should be submitted.

The writing sample, letters of recommendation, and the *Application for Waiver* for SOCI 5000 (if being submitted) should all be sent to the Coordinator of M.S. degree program in sociology in the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminal Justice no later than one month prior to the opening of the semester for which admission is being sought.

Special Graduation Requirements

To receive a Master of Science degree with a major in sociology, students must complete the core requirements, complete a concentration option as outlined below, pass a written comprehensive examination, and complete the application of knowledge requirement, which includes either a sociological practice or a thesis.

Selected Educational Outcomes

Students completing the program for the Master of Science degree with a major in sociology should demonstrate a mastery of the following:

1. an understanding of sociological perspectives and their applications and uses, including basic concepts and their theoretical interrelationships.
2. the ability to identify, define, and use basic research methods and analytical techniques in the gathering and/or application of scientific data.
3. competence in the use of basic library research techniques as well as on-line data resources.
4. an understanding of the role of diversity and its impact on social and individual life.
5. a highly developed sense of ethics in research and professional practice.
6. effective communication skills and their application in a variety of professional roles.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE M.S. DEGREE WITH A MAJOR IN SOCIOLOGY

Core Courses. 15 hours

SOCI 7011 Sociology in Applied Settings	3 hours
SOCI 7012 Sociological Theory	3 hours
SOCI 7021 Statistical Applications in Sociology	3 hours
SOCI 7022 Research Methods	3 hours
SOCI 7050 Class, Gender, and Ethnic Issues in Applied Settings	3 hours

Concentrations (Students will select one area of concentration.) 18 hours

1. Applied Sociology 18 hours
SOCI 7800 6 hours
Elective courses 12 hours
Students may select from any SOCI prefix course
numbered SOCI 5000-8000 except for SOCI 5000,
SOCI 7800, and SOCI 7999.

Students who select the Applied Sociology Concentration may elect to complete the Thesis Option by taking these additional courses:

SOCI 6300 Classical Theory (3 hours) and
SOCI 7999 Thesis (6 hours)

OR

2. Thesis Option 18 hours
SOCI 6300 Classical Theory 3 hours
Students select from any SOCI prefix
course numbered SOCI 5000-8000
except for SOCI 5000 and SOCI 7800 9 hours
SOCI 7999 Thesis 6 hours

Successful completion of the Graduate Comprehensive Examination

Total Required for the Degree 33 semester hours

Outcome Assessments

Educational outcomes for the Master of Science degree with a major in sociology will be assessed by multiple techniques including the following:

1. Program faculty will meet regularly to plan and to assess student and program outcomes.
2. The Sociological Practice/Thesis courses will provide opportunities to assess writing and oral presentation skills.
3. The Comprehensive Examinations will provide a means of assessing outcomes of the program.
4. Graduate exit surveys will be given to all students successfully completing the program.
5. When available, university-wide data pertaining to the program and its graduates will be used for assessment and improvement.

MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREE WITH A MAJOR IN MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY

Marriage and Family Therapy addresses the interpersonal and social context of mental health and emotional problems. To qualify students to practice MFTH, the curriculum for the master's degree program with a major in marriage and family therapy focuses on the knowledge and skills necessary to assess and intervene in the interactions among people. It prepares students to use an active, positive approach to therapy that will help individuals and their families build on their strengths, improve communication, and develop solutions to their problems.

The Master of Science degree with a major in marriage and family therapy prepares students for licensure as Marriage and Family Therapists in Georgia and for clinical membership in the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT). The curriculum, developed to meet national standards, links theory and practice throughout training. A twelve-month clinical practicum is required. Students receive at least 500 hours of direct client contact and 100 hours of AAMFT approved supervision. Practicum experience is provided at the on-site Marriage and Family Therapy Training Clinic and through community placements. Course work includes some assignments and activities that encourage self-exploration and personal growth.

Department requirements in addition to University Requirements for Admission, Retention, and Graduation

Special Admissions Requirements

Application to the Marriage and Family Therapy Master's degree program requires:

1. Previous course work in human development, family dynamics, social and behavioral sciences, and statistics. Students lacking these prerequisites will be required to complete these deficiencies in addition to the required coursework.
2. Undergraduate grade point average of 2.5 (minimum)
3. GRE score of 800 (combination of verbal plus the higher of the quantitative or analytical scores)

4. Three letters of reference specifically addressing qualifications for Marriage and Family Therapy
5. An essay describing yourself and your professional goals.
6. Personal qualities such as a high degree of self-awareness, emotional maturity and stability, openness to a variety of perspectives, and respect for a diverse clientele. Prospective students will be screened for these requirements in personal interviews during the admissions process.
7. Related work or volunteer experience is recommended.

Enrollment is limited. Deadline for applications is March 1 of each year. Applications received after March 1 will be considered on a space-available basis. Classes start in August. Academic credit will not be given for life experience or previous work experience.

Special Retention Requirements

Students are screened for personal and academic readiness prior to enrollment in the clinical practica. Students must demonstrate professionally appropriate behavior and may be terminated for non-academic reasons.

Special Graduation Requirements

Students must complete 60 semester hours with a “B” average or higher. Curriculum includes 42 hours classroom instruction and 18 hours supervised practice. Students must pass a comprehensive exam when most course work has been completed.

Selected Educational Outcomes

Students completing the Marriage and Family Therapy Master of Sciences degree program will demonstrate mastery in the following:

1. Assuming the profession role and identity of a marriage and family therapist.
2. Applying a systems/relational understanding to the assessment and treatment of mental health and emotional problems.
3. Considering the relevance of ethnicity, race, gender, socioeconomic status, and culture when developing treatment plans.
4. Applying the various theoretical models of marriage and family therapy to practice.
5. Demonstrating clinical competency in the practice of MFTH.
6. Practice according to the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy’s (AAMFT) ethical code.

Examples of Outcome Assessments

1. Faculty assessment of student performance in all courses includes requiring students to demonstrate their ability to integrate course content and make case application. Written case applications are stressed.

2. The comprehensive exam taken by students prior to graduation evaluates the students' ability to integrate and apply information from the training program as a whole. It also measures effectiveness of the program in teaching essential concepts.
3. Practicum supervisors will evaluate the clinical performance of each student. Community practicum site directors will also complete a form evaluating their impressions of the training program.
4. The ability of graduates to pass the national MFTH exam and obtain licensure is another measure of outcome.

Required Course Work

Area I: Theoretical Foundations. 5 hours

MFTH 7101: Family Systems Theories* 3 hours

MFTH 7103: Advanced Theories Seminars 2 hours

*Additional Theoretical Foundations included in MFTH 6800

Area II: Clinical Practice. 15 hours

MFTH 7102: Interventions in MFTH 3 hours

MFTH 7400: Psychopathology & Pharmacology 3 hours

MFTH 7601: Treatment Issues in Family Therapy 3 hours

MFTH 7602: Couples & Sex Therapy 3 hours

MFTH 7700: Assessment in MFTH 3 hours

Area III: Individual Development & Family Relations. 9 hours

MFTH 6700: Family Sociology 3 hours

MFTH 7500: Development in the Family System 3 hours

MFTH 7050: Class, Gender, & Ethnic Issues 3 hours

Areas IV: Professional identity & Ethics. 5 hours

MFTH 6800: Orientation to MFTH 3 hours

MFTH 7350: Legal Issues in MFTH 1 hour

MFTH 7880: Professional Seminar 1 hour

Area V: Research. 3 hours

MFTH 7200: Research in MFTH 3 hours

Area VI: Electives. minimum of 5 hours

MFTH 7900: Thesis 6 hours

SOCI 7021: Statistics 3 hours

MFTH 7510: Human Sexuality & Gender 3 hours

MFTH 7550: Family Stress & Crisis 3 hours

MFTH 7650: Special Topics in MFTH 1 hour each

Other approved courses

Area VII: Supervised Clinical Practice. 18 hours

(1 year, minimum 500 hours direct client contact)

MFTH 7600: Practicum in MFTH 18 hours

Total Required for the Degree minimum of 60 semester hours

The degree requires a minimum of two years to complete and requires summer study. Three-year and four-year plans are also available.