

Professional Studies

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The College of Continuing Education and Distance Learning offers the Master of Professional Studies (M.P.S.) with a concentration in Strategic Leadership in conjunction with all six of the Tennessee Board of Regents universities. Courses are offered online each semester through the Regents Online Degree Program (RODP). For more information contact mps@mtsu.edu, call (615) 898-5611, or visit www.mtsu.edu/learn/mps/index.shtml.

Requirements for the Master of Professional Studies Major

Once accepted into the College of Graduate Studies, students interested in the Master of Professional Studies may enroll for one semester before being fully admitted to the program.

Candidate must

1. complete a minimum of 33 semester hours of graduate credit. This includes 9 hours of the following core courses.

Core Courses:

PRST 6100 Professional Environment: Issues and Ethics

PRST 6200 Globalization and the Professions

PRST 6300 Research Methods (requires a statistics course prerequisite)

2. file a degree plan with the Graduate Office prior to the completion of 21 credit hours.

Application Process

All applicants to the Master of Professional Studies degree program must formally apply to the College of Graduate Studies as degree-seeking students. A complete application package consists of the graduate application, application fee, official transcripts from all collegiate institutions attended, three letters of reference, and an official Graduate Record Exam (GRE) report. A composite GRE score of 900 is expected for consideration of unconditional admission. Also, the applicant must have a 2.75 undergraduate GPA for unconditional admission. Applicants with a 2.75 GPA or higher and 5 years of professional full-time work experience may submit a portfolio of works in place of a GRE score. Applicants who meet this requirement may inquire about the portfolio requirements by e-mailing mps@mtsu.edu.

Students considering this degree program must be competent in word processing, library retrieval systems, presentation graphics, spreadsheets, and databases. Students must be computer literate (using e-mail, posting discussions, using chat, Web page navigation, uploading attachments, etc.) as well as have excellent time management skills in order to be successful in the online course environment. Students must also have regular access to a computer and reliable Internet connection.

To view hardware and software requirements please go to www.rodpa.org/students/hardware_software.htm.

Concentration in Strategic Leadership

In addition to the 9 hours of core courses, the Strategic Leadership concentration requires 24 hours from the following courses.

Seven courses must be completed, including at least one course from each of the five subject areas.

Leadership Theory

PRST 6500 Foundations of Leadership
LDSP 6000 Current Issues and Cases in Leadership
ELPA 6560 Small Group Leadership

Research/Data Analysis

PRST 6770 Computer-based Decision Modeling
PRST 6600 Statistical Analysis

Organizational Structure and Change

PRST 6310 Leadership in Organization
PRST 6800 Organizational Skills and Development

Communication

COMM 6110 Leadership and Communication
JOUR 6450 Public Relations Management
PRST 6700 Conflict Management and Negotiation

Strategic Planning and Assessment

TECH 6105 Project Planning and Scheduling
PRST 6040 Human Resources Management

Required

PRST 6998 Professional Project (must be taken during the final semester of the program)

Courses in Professional Studies [PRST]

6100 Professional Environment: Issues and Ethics. Three credits. Introduces the discipline of ethics and values. Explores the various theories and practices that have led to, and continue to dominate the study of ethics and values in public service. Students will display their knowledge of ethics and values in various reading, writing, and oratorical assignments.

6770 Computer-based Decision Modeling. Three credits. Advanced techniques in quantitative methods. Modeling and optimization techniques. Computer applications emphasized.

6800 Organizational Skills and Development. Three credits. Examines concepts and techniques of organizational development (OD) and the leadership skills required for organizational change. Emphasis on understanding and application of OD theory, skills, and methods.

