Welcome

The MAE program in Education and Behavioral Science Studies is an interdisciplinary program designed for qualified graduate students who wish to do advanced study of education or behavioral sciences in a more flexible way. The program allows a faculty advisor to individually tailor the curriculum based on individual interests and career goals.

It is important to note that completion of this program does not lead to initial or advanced certification by Kentucky’s Education Professional Standards Board, nor does it lead to certification or licensure in counseling or psychology.

Upon Completion:

- Students will be knowledgeable about philosophy, strategies, and ethical issues in education or behavioral science
- Students will be knowledgeable about developmental issues of a specific population
- Students will be able to apply their knowledge of development to curriculum design, educational planning, or intervention strategies
- Students will develop content knowledge in identified subject areas
- Students will be knowledgeable about professional ethics in education or behavioral science fields
- Students will be able to research "best practices" in teaching/working with specific populations

The Online Advantage

- All courses are taught online, with many also available in an on demand format, providing you with unparalleled flexibility
- Credentialed faculty with broad research interests
- No out-of-state tuition ever charged
- Staff dedicated to support of online students

Admission Requirements

Applicants for admission must hold a bachelor’s degree with a minimum overall grade point average (GPA) of 2.75 OR a GPA of 3.0 in the last 30 hours of course work. Required application materials include:

- An application to The Graduate School, which is available at www.wku.edu/graduate
- Official undergraduate transcripts (and graduate, if applicable)
- A scholarly/professional writing sample to be assessed by the admissions committee
  OR
- Attain a GAP score consistent with the minimum established by the university (currently 550 for applicants who took the GRE General Test on or after August 1, 2011; or 2200 for applicants who took the GRE General Test on or after October 1, 2002, but prior to August 1, 2011); earn a GRE verbal score of at least 144 (at least
350 on the GRE-V prior to August 1, 2011); and achieve a GRE Analytical Writing score of at least 3.5. Applicants who took the GRE General Test on or after August 1, 2011 must also earn a GRE quantitative score of at least 139.

AND

- Submit completed departmental application form that describes the applicant’s professional/career goals, including a discussion of how the applicant believes completing the MAE in Education and Behavioral Science Studies will contribute to the realization of those goals (see final page of document for departmental application).

Please note: International students who apply must achieve a minimum score of 550 on the paper-based TOEFL (or at least 79 on the iBT TOEFL). The listening sub-scale score must be at least 53 (18 on the iBT version), and the writing sub-scale score must be at least 60 (23 on the iBT version).

Students admitted to the program are assigned faculty advisors to assist them in developing their programs of studies. A minimum of 30 semester hours of graduate level course work is required for the non-thesis option; 24 hours of course work is required for the thesis option. All students must pass a final comprehensive examination. Details about program requirements may be found here. For further information about this program, please contact the program coordinator Dr. Janet Applin, Associate Dean for Academic Programs.

Once you have submitted the online application, mail supporting materials, including your official undergraduate transcripts, and graduate transcripts, if applicable, and official GRE scores, if applicable, to:

Western Kentucky University
The Graduate School
1906 College Heights Blvd. #11010
Bowling Green, KY 42101-1010

Questions? Contact The Graduate School by email at graduate.school@wku.edu or by phone at (270) 745-2446. Approximately 10-14 days after all required admission documents have been submitted, you should receive a letter from the WKU Graduate School indicating your admission status.

Please note: To be eligible for any type of financial aid or a graduate assistantship, you must be admitted in good standing to a degree program. Non-degree seeking students are ineligible for financial aid and graduate assistantships.

Degree Program Requirements (30 credit hours)

The MAE in Education & Behavioral Sciences requires a total of 30 credit hours. This program may completed 100% online. Students should work with their advisor to select distance options, contact WKU Online or visit www.wku.edu/online to view a schedule of online classes.

Required Core (18 hours/6 classes)

- EDFN 500: Research Methods
- Professional Foundations
- Strategies/Methodologies of Education or Behavioral Sciences
- Developmental Issues
• *Professional Development: Practicum/Seminar Course: Field-based, practical application, selected with prior approval by advisor.
• *Capstone Course: EDU 595: Directed Study in Education or Behavioral Sciences

*Note: A thesis (6 hours) may be substituted for the Professional Development and Capstone Course requirements.

Program Options (12 hours/4 classes)

In addition to the core requirements, students must select one of the following options:

**Option 1: Education Studies (12 hours)**
- Advisor-approved pedagogy-related strategies or methods course
- Content courses
- Courses from non-education fields; must be approved by advisor.

**Option 2: Behavioral Science Studies (12 hours)**
Courses selected with advisor approval from Counseling, Psychology, Consumer Family Sciences, Sociology, Social Work, or other behavioral science areas.

Program Total: 30 hours

Financial Aid

Eligibility
Financial Aid includes grants and loans for educational purposes. The government requires the student to file a form online to the government agency for this purpose which is called FAFSA at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) to apply. Once that form is completed and filed, the student will receive an email from WKU about the status. All financial aid comes through the WKU Student Financial Aid office and they communicate mostly through email. The email will explain all the grants and/or loans that are available to the student and how to receive the money.

Nearly all students are eligible for some form of financial assistance. In fact, over 90% of the students who applied for financial aid in recent years received an award offer. Every effort is made to assist you and your family in obtaining the resources necessary to meet the difference between the total cost of attending Western Kentucky University and your ability to contribute toward your education.

If you would like to apply for financial assistance (loans, grants, scholarships, veteran's benefits) the first step is to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). Please refer to the Financial Aid Guide for additional information and complete instructions.

Please keep in mind, student must maintain satisfactory academic progress to continue to qualify for financial aid. For additional information on receiving, and keeping your financial aid, please refer to the WKU Financial Aid website to review the complete policy on Satisfactory Academic Progress at [http://www.wku.edu/financialaid.sap.php](http://www.wku.edu/financialaid.sap.php).
Contact Information

Department Contact

Program Director: Dr. Janet Applin
Email: janet.applin@wku.edu
Phone: (270) 745-4014
Website: http://www.wku.edu/cebs/programs/graduate/ebss/index.php

WKU Online
Email: learn.online@wku.edu
Phone: (270) 745-5173
Toll-Free: (888) 4WKUWEB / (888) 495-8932
# Applicant Statement of Professional/Career Goals

## MAE: Education and Behavioral Science Studies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name:</th>
<th>WKU ID #:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mailing address:</td>
<td>Undergraduate major:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-mail address:</td>
<td>Home phone #:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Work phone #:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Today’s date:</td>
<td>Cell phone #:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. **Please describe your short-term and long-term professional/career goals:**

2. **What specific things do you believe that completing the MAE program in Education and Behavioral Science Studies will enable you to do; in what specific ways will completing the program serve to advance you professionally?**

3. **Please identify the specific knowledge and skills you would like to acquire in the program (NOT specific courses but rather specific skills and areas of knowledge):**

4. **Please identify an area of focus for your program:**

5. **Please provide any other information about your background, education, skills, or interests that you would like for the admissions committee to know about you.**

Please use as much space as you need to address these topics. The information will be used by the program admissions committee to determine whether the program is appropriate for meeting your goals, and also to assist in determining which faculty advisor to assign to you if you are admitted to the program. Please submit the completed form to the Office of Graduate Studies with the rest of your application.