

# EDUCATION, DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

## Admission Requirements

Applicants apply for admission to the program via the J. Jeffrey and Ann Marie Fox Graduate School application for admission (<https://gradschool.psu.edu/admissions/how-to-apply/>). Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-300 Admissions Policies (<https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/>).

### Master of education (M.Ed.)

All applicants must submit a letter of application, two or three pages in length, describing their professional experience, education, career goals, and reasons for pursuing the degree. Applicants must ensure that three recommendation and evaluation forms from individuals knowledgeable about the applicant are forwarded to the department. Only the most qualified applicants will be admitted to the graduate program. The graduate program may provisionally admit (<http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-300/provisional-admission/>) selected applicants pending resolution of the requirements listed here. Exceptions to the admission criteria listed below may be made at the discretion of the program for students with special backgrounds, abilities, and interests.

Prerequisite for admission to a master's degree program is a demonstrated professional interest for employment in college and university programs, youth and family programming, state-level administration, local-level administration, private industry, and international education. Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores are required for application. The GRE score is one of several variables taken into consideration for offers of admission to the EDCE graduate program.

The purpose of the EDCE M.Ed. degree program is to prepare students through experience and course work in teaching, learning, and educational planning and assessment to enhance their professional qualifications and career advancement. Prerequisite for admission to this program is a minimum of 18 credits in professional education courses (including educational psychology and teaching and/or professional internship), or certification as a teacher of agriculture, or equivalent professional experience, including extension. Credits obtained to fulfill this admission prerequisite requirement cannot be applied towards requirements for the degree. The program is designed for individuals who are primarily interested in teaching. Graduates can go on to become: agricultural educators at the secondary or post-secondary level; Cooperative Extension educators or related professionals; and professionals in the public, private, or non-profit sectors focused on education, training, or human capacity development.

Students considering graduate education beyond the Master's level are encouraged to pursue the M.S. degree, which prepares students for advanced study and research activity.

### Master of Science (M.S.)

All applicants must submit a letter of application, two or three pages in length, describing their professional experience, education, career goals, and reasons for pursuing the degree. Applicants must ensure that three recommendation and evaluation forms from individuals knowledgeable

about the applicant are forwarded to the department. Only the most qualified applicants will be admitted to the graduate program. The graduate program may provisionally admit (<http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-300/provisional-admission/>) selected applicants pending resolution of the requirements listed here. Exceptions to the admission criteria listed below may be made at the discretion of the program for students with special backgrounds, abilities, and interests.

Prerequisite for admission to a master's degree program is a demonstrated professional interest for employment in college and university programs, youth and family programming, state-level administration, local-level administration, private industry, and international education. Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores are required for application. The GRE score is one of several variables taken into consideration for offers of admission to the EDCE graduate program.

The purpose of the EDCE M.S. degree program is to prepare students through experience and course work in research methods, data analysis, and research reporting to enhance their professional qualifications and career advancement. The program is designed for individuals who are primarily interested in conducting, interpreting, or communicating research for educational work or advanced graduate (i.e. doctoral) study. Graduates can go on to become: agricultural educators at the post-secondary level; Cooperative Extension educators or related professionals; and professionals in the public, private, or non-profit sectors focused on education, training, or human capacity development.

### Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)

**Letter of Introduction and Résumé.** Applicants must submit a two-to three-page letter of introduction in which they describe their professional experience and education and delineate their career goals. A current résumé is also required.

**Graduate Record Examination.** Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores are required for application. The GRE score is one of several variables taken into consideration for offers of admission to the EDCE graduate program.

**Official Transcripts.** Official transcripts from all post-secondary institutions attended (<http://www.gradschool.psu.edu/prospective-students/how-to-apply/new-applicants/requirements-for-graduate-admission/>) must be submitted. Applicants must provide evidence of either a baccalaureate or a master's degree in the agricultural sciences, human sciences, or related area.

**Three Letters of Reference.**

**Professional Experience.** A minimum of two years of appropriate professional experience is required either prior to admission or before the degree is awarded. An interview with the graduate faculty is recommended of all applicants prior to admission into a doctoral program.