

LIFELONG LEARNING AND ADULT EDUCATION

Admission Requirements

Applicants apply for admission to the program via the Graduate School application for admission (<http://gradschool.psu.edu/prospective-students/how-to-apply/>). Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-300 Admissions Policies (<http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/>).

Scores from the Graduate Record Examinations (GRE), or the Miller Analogies Test (MAT), are required for admission. Either the GRE or MAT score is accepted for the D.Ed. and M.Ed. programs, but GRE scores are preferred. The Ph.D. program accepts only the GRE. At the discretion of a graduate program, a student may be admitted provisionally (<http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-300/gcac-303-provisional-admission/>) for graduate study in the program without these scores.

The best-qualified applicants will be accepted up to the number of spaces that are available for new students. Applicants with a total Verbal and Quantitative score above 302 on the GRE or 398 or above on the MAT, a junior/senior grade point average (GPA) of 3.00 or above (on a 4.00 scale), and a graduate GPA of 3.50 or above will be highly considered applications to the program. However, applicants with strong backgrounds and abilities in areas of particular interest or relevance to adult education practice may be admitted to either of the doctoral programs with a baccalaureate degree only (provided the junior/senior GPA is at least 3.0), or with master's-level studies in which the graduate GPA is at least 3.2 and the GRE total score is at least 297.

A sample of student writing is required for each degree. M.Ed. applicants submit a recent writing sample, such as a term paper, report, or publication of 3000 words or more. Ph.D. and D.Ed. applicants should submit either a published article, master's paper, master's thesis, or a paper from their master's studies.

Three letters of reference are required from people who are best qualified to evaluate the applicant's ability to succeed in graduate study. These letters may be from an academic adviser, instructors who are familiar with the applicant's academic record, a research project supervisor, an employment supervisor, or others who are able to provide a substantive evaluation of the applicant's work. Letters of recommendation must address the applicant's academic ability, motivation, and likelihood of success in completing the program.

A statement of purpose describing the applicant's short and long range career objectives is required. This statement includes an explanation of how the proposed study of adult education relates to the stated career objectives.

Applicants who exhibit exceptional qualities without meeting all of the stated requirements for admission may be considered for provisional admission (<http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-300/gcac-303-provisional-admission/>) while they remove the identified deficiencies. Deficiencies must be rectified within the first two semesters of enrollment in the degree program; courses taken to remove deficiencies are considered to be prerequisites and do not earn credit toward the degree.