MA in Social Sciences

The Master of Arts in Social Sciences (MASS) offers its graduates the opportunity to pursue careers in a variety of fields. From education, to museums, to doctoral work, the M.A. in Social Sciences equips its graduates with the tools needed to excel in the professional world. Edinboro University’s Department of History, Anthropology and World Languages offers this program, the only one of its kind in the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education, with concentrations in history and anthropology. Explore the past and control your future with an M.A. in Social Sciences.

This degree is designed to be multi-disciplinary, giving men and women in education, business and government the opportunity to develop their own program of study. Options and flexibility are kept at the maximum level possible. This also allows the professional in education, urban affairs, criminal justice, gerontology, international trade and commerce, etc. to attain a graduate degree in his or her career.

Admission Requirements and Procedures:
Visit the Graduate School webpage and click the “Apply” link on the left side of the screen. Begin by creating an account on CollegeNET by clicking the “account” link on the Apply page. CollegeNET is a self-managed application system. It will allow you to submit admission materials, check the status of your application, and view your decision letter using this account. If you have issues with your CollegeNET account, consult the CollegeNET help desk by submitting a Help Request Form or email help@collegenet.com.

Individuals seeking admission as degree students in this program must comply with the general admission requirements for graduate students at Edinboro University and with the following specific admission requirements for this program:
1. Complete the online application.
2. Pay an application fee of $30.
3. Provide an official transcript verifying an earned baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited institution of higher education.
4. Test scores from either the Miller Analogies Test (MAT) or Graduate Record Examination (GRE)
5. Three letters of reference.
6. Professional Resume
7. Typed essay (2-3 pages) answering the following questions:
   a. What attracted you to the profession of social sciences?
   b. What professional goals do you have for the next 10 years, and how will the Master of Arts in Social Sciences help you attain those goals?
   c. What attributes do you possess that suggest success in graduate school and as a practicing social scientist?

Curriculum

This curriculum contains both a thesis track and a comprehensive examination track. Both tracks require the earning of 36 semester hours of graduate credit as a partial requirement of the degree. These credits must be earned as follows:
1. Multidisciplinary Research Course (3 credits)
   Recommended Course Options: HIST 660, HIST 700, HIST 793, ANTH 795
2. Primary Social Science Field (15-18 credits)*
3. Secondary Social Science Field (6 credits)**
4. Free Electives (9 credits)
5. Thesis, HIST 799 (3-6 credits)
   OR
   Comprehensive Written Exam and Historiographical Essay or Literature Review (0 credits)
6. Final Oral Examination and Thesis Defense
   OR
   Oral Defense of the Comprehensive Exam and Historiographical Essay or Literature Review

* Students will complete a 15-18 credit concentration in one of the following disciplines (15 if writing a thesis and 18 if taking the
Comprehensive Exam): History (Concentration Code 08017), Anthropology (Concentration Code 08015). Because of faculty teaching loads, not all disciplines may be available as a program concentration.

**Students will complete 6 credits in one of the aforementioned disciplines. In consultation with the Program Director, other disciplines may also be used in this category, including Economics, Biology, Communications, Secondary Education, and Counseling.

Degree Requirements:

Students must comply with the degree requirements for the Master of Arts degree listed in the Graduate Catalogue.

Students registering for thesis must submit, with their registration materials, an application for authorization to enroll for Thesis which has been signed by the advisor at least two weeks prior to the start of the semester in which the student intends to enroll in thesis. This application form may be obtained at the School of Graduate Studies and Research or on the Graduate School webpage.

Students not completing the thesis must complete a Comprehensive Examination.

For More Information: If you have questions about the application process, please contact Edinboro University's School of Graduate Studies at gradstudies@edinboro.edu or at (814)732-2856 or toll-free (888) 845-2890. For questions specific to the MA in Social Sciences, please contact Dr. Jerra Jenrette at (814) 732-1225 (jjenrette@edinboro.edu).

Office for Students with Disabilities: For information or assistance regarding services, activities and facilities that are accessible to and usable by persons with a disability, contact the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD), at (814) 732-2462. For additional information, visit the OSD web page.

Graduate Assistantships: Graduate Assistantships are available for campus based students only. They are awarded on a competitive basis. Admission applications must be completed by February 15th to be considered for an assistantship. Assistantships provide a partial waiver of tuition and a stipend, as well as an opportunity to gain experience in research and professional activities. Additional information about assistantships is available through the School of Graduate Studies and Research, (814) 732-2856 or toll-free (888) 845-2890.

Financial Aid Considerations: An academic year consists of fall, spring, and summer. Graduate students taking graduate level courses may receive up to $20,500 in the Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan Program. Most students will use their Stafford loans during the 9 month period (fall and spring). Students will want to be mindful of their financial aid to allow for funding for 12 months if planning on enrolling during the summer term. Students will have an option to apply for Graduate Plus loan or private loans if other funding has been exhausted. For more specific information, please contact the Financial Aid Office at (888) 611-2680 or finaid@edinboro.edu.

Employer Reimbursement: Non-traditional students who are working and taking classes on a part-time basis may have employer-paid education benefits. The purpose of the employer tuition reimbursement agreement is to allow employees who receive reimbursement to defer payment of their tuition and fees until after grades are available at the end of the semester. Edinboro University accepts employer benefit plans through arrangements with the Bursar's Office by completing the enclosed employer tuition reimbursement agreement.

Veterans' Education Benefits: Information and printable forms regarding Veterans' Education Benefits and the Montgomery GI Bill are available at the Department of Veterans Affairs website, http://www.gibill.va.gov/. After the Department of Veterans Affairs approves a student's eligibility, and after the school certifies the student's enrollment, benefits are paid directly to the student after the end of each month.

Edinboro University of Pennsylvania is an equal opportunity education institution and employer and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, and disability in its activities, programs or employment practices as required by Title VI, Title VII, Title IX, Section 504, and the ADA. For information regarding civil rights or grievance procedures, contact the Office of Human Resources and Faculty Relations, (814) 732-2703 or the Office of Social Equity (814) 732-2167, Reeder Hall, 219 Meadville Street, Edinboro, PA 16444.

6/2016