

# Assessment and Measurement Doctoral Program

*Dr. J. Christine Harmes, Program Director*

## Admission Requirements

- Completion of an advanced degree (M.A./M.S. or Ed.S.) in psychology, education, statistics or a related field
- General GRE scores (verbal, quantitative and analytic writing)
- Statement of interest in the program and professional goals
- Three letters of recommendation from professionals familiar with the applicant's academic work and relevant professional experiences
- Transcripts from all undergraduate and graduate programs attended
- A current professional vita or resume
- Representative samples of professional writing
- Personal interview

## Mission

The vision of the Doctor of Philosophy program in assessment and measurement at JMU is to establish and maintain a national reputation as a valuable resource in educational outcomes assessment and applied measurement. As such, the program will help meet the growing demand for quality assurance and program accountability. To attain this vision, the mission of the doctoral program is to:

- Provide training for its graduate students that combines rigorous, theory-based course work in assessment and measurement with extensive real-world assessment experiences. This training will prepare students to address the increasing external pressures for assessment data as well as the need for formative feedback for program development.
- Conduct high-quality scholarship that will significantly advance knowledge in the fields of assessment and applied measurement and promote more effective assessment methods.
- Provide, both for JMU and outside constituencies, valuable service activities that promote effective assessment practice and contribute to the professional well-being of the fields of assessment and measurement.

The focus of the assessment training in the Ph.D. program is on the design of program assessment strategies, identification of appropriate existing and/or construction of new assessment measures/methods, empirical analysis of aggregate data, appropriate use of assessment results, and effective communication of assessment to a variety of audiences. Moreover, with the extensive background in measurement theory provided, the graduates of this Ph.D. program are trained as experts in assessment, enabling them to enter the field equipped with a knowledge base that extends far beyond the pragmatic aspects of implementing assessment strategies. Although the program focuses on applications of assessment and measurement in higher education, students can apply many of the skills and knowledge gained in the program

to assessment and measurement in K-12 education as well as to the health care and business sectors. Students are not trained to perform psychological assessment of individuals for clinical diagnostic or therapeutic purposes, as training in this concentration revolves around the design and improvement of methods to measure program effectiveness.

The Ph.D. program in assessment and measurement adheres to a practitioner-scientist, applied model of graduate training, built on a solid theoretical base in scientific psychology. The program integrates selected, major pedagogical foundations of psychology, assessment and applied experience. The training model is further designed to capitalize on the previous educational and professional experiences and training of incoming students to expand, strengthen and supplement these skills.

## Curriculum

The program for a given student will consist of the 57 required hours plus any additional course work that the program faculty deems is needed to fulfill the foundational course work expectations.

### *Assessment and Measurement Doctoral Program Degree Requirements*

Foundational graduate course work in Psychology

Research and inferential statistics

Measurement theory

Course work in at least two of the following areas: social psychology, cognitive psychology or student development

<b>Required Courses</b>	<b>Credit Hours</b>
PSYC 604. Computer-Assisted Data Management	3
PSYC 608. Multivariate Statistics	3
PSYC 770. Assessment and Public Policy	3
PSYC 812. Assessment Methods and Instrument Design	3
PSYC 814. Performance Assessment	3
PSYC 816. Classical Test Theory and Generalizability Theory	3
PSYC 825. Doctoral Seminar	3
(3 occasions; 1 credit hour per offering)	
PSYC 855. Assessment and Consultation Practice	3
Two of the following four courses:	6
PSYC 830. Structural Equation Modeling	
PSYC 832. Item Response Theory	
PSYC 834. Computers and Testing	
PSYC 836. Hierarchical Linear Modeling	
Approved Electives	9
Required Research Experiences	
PSYC 879. Doctoral Assessment Practicum	3
PSYC 891. Doctoral Assessment Internship	6
PSYC 900. Doctoral Dissertation	9
	<b>57</b>