

Graduate Programs

Mount Mercy's graduate programs are fully accredited and designed for working professionals. Programs are offered face-to-face or online with classes conveniently scheduled in the evening, weekends, and summer. All of the programs are grounded in best practices and prepare students for leadership in their chosen career.

Graduate Degrees

Master of Arts in Education

This degree is designed to prepare students to: effectively use researched instructional strategies; conduct, interpret and evaluate assessments; acquire and apply the skills needed to become reflective practitioners and teacher leaders; formulate and evaluate research; and analyze research results and communicate the results in written and oral presentations.

Emphasis in Early Childhood Inclusive Classroom

This emphasis is designed to prepare early childhood teachers to teach in birth through grade 3 inclusive classrooms. Designed for the teaching professional, a four-course core provides a shared experience for all graduate education students. These courses (i.e., 12 credit hours) focus on developing the broader perspectives needed for research and leadership in the profession.

Emphasis in Effective Teaching

This emphasis is designed in partnership with local school districts to enhance and enrich teaching instruction and to produce teacher leaders.

Emphasis in English as a Second Language

This emphasis is designed to prepare ESL teachers for teaching K-12 education and provides, if needed, the K-12 ESL endorsement from the State of Iowa upon completion. Designed for the teaching professional, a four-course core provides a shared experience for all graduate education students. These courses (i.e., 12 credit hours) focus on developing the broader perspectives needed for research and leadership in the profession. ESL graduate students take an additional 23 credits when completing the K-12 English as a Second Language endorsement.

Emphasis in Reading

This emphasis is designed to prepare teachers as specialized reading instructors with a dynamic understanding of the reading process and to equip teachers with a variety of resources for enhancing literacy for all learners. The emphasis is designed for teachers and offers endorsements in K-8 and 5-12 Reading and K-12 Reading Specialist.

Emphasis in Special Education

This emphasis trains educators with a deeper understanding of the needs of students with learning, cognitive, and/or behavior disabilities. Preparation in these areas is in high demand. This degree allows teachers to obtain an advanced degree in Special Education with endorsements in Instructional Strategist I, Instructional Strategist II Behavior Disorders/Learning Disabilities, and Instructional Strategist II Intellectual Disabilities.

Emphasis in Teacher Leadership

The emphasis in Teacher Leadership is designed for PreK-12 practitioners and others who wish to be teacher leaders outside the traditional administrative career path. It provides participants with

immediately applicable knowledge, skills, and dispositions necessary to be leaders in education.

Emphasis in Teaching and Learning

This emphasis is designed to prepare a pathway for graduate students, particularly second degree students, for obtaining their Master's degree after completing their teacher education program.

Master of Science in Education

The Master of Science in Education is a 36-credit hour program for teachers who want to obtain the K-12 Principal/K-12 Special Education Supervisor endorsement (#189) through the Iowa Board of Educational Examiners (BoEE).

Master of Arts in Marriage and Family Therapy

The MFT program trains highly qualified professionals at the master's level who possess the knowledge, skills and dispositions to improve the lives of individuals, couples and families. This degree prepares students for licensure eligibility as a Marriage and Family Therapist.

Master of Business Administration

Characterized by its emphasis on ethical and socially responsible leadership, the Mount Mercy Master of Business Administration program challenges students to think globally and strategically while using a multi-disciplinary approach to solving business problems.

Emphasis in Business Administration

In this emphasis students will complete core MBA courses and 5 electives related to Business Administration.

Emphasis in Finance

In this emphasis students will complete core MBA courses and 4 electives related to Finance.

Emphasis in Health Care Administration

In this emphasis students will complete core MBA courses and 5 electives related to Health Care Administration.

Emphasis in Human Resources

In this emphasis students will complete core MBA courses and 5 electives related to Human Resources.

Emphasis in Leadership

In this emphasis students will complete core MBA courses and 5 electives related to Leadership.

Emphasis in Supply Chain Management

In this emphasis students will complete core MBA courses and 5 electives related to Supply Chain Management.

Master of Science in Nursing

Focused on health promotion and disease prevention, the MSN program is dedicated to preparing graduates to lead the profession in meeting the challenges of an ever-changing, complex healthcare system.

Emphasis in Health Advocacy

A unique program allowing students to design, implement, manage, continuously improve, and lead innovative healthcare population management programs.

Emphasis in Nursing Administration

A distinctive program focused on attaining the competencies necessary for leading and managing complex 21st century healthcare organizations.

Emphasis in Nursing Education

An innovative program developing tomorrow's nurse educators for academic and healthcare settings.

Master of Science in Supply Chain Management

This program is not accepting new students for Fall 2025.

Supply chain management is the act of integrating procurement, manufacturing and logistics processes to ensure goods and services are available to customers. This program will cover these topics and managing the flow of materials, finances, information and labor from product or service design to customer delivery, and emphasizing quality and efficiency throughout the process.

Master of Strategic Leadership

The Master of Strategic Leadership program is designed for leaders with a growth mindset who would like to add higher level competencies to the skills most desired in organizations today. Focusing on relationship, leadership and strategic thinking this program will help you drive collaboration and purpose, making you the adaptive leader of the future.

Emphasis in Strategic Leadership

In this emphasis students will complete core MSL courses and 3 electives related to Strategic Leadership.

Emphasis in Health Care Administration

In this emphasis students will complete core MSL courses and 4 electives related to Health Care Administration.

Emphasis in Human Resources

In this emphasis students will complete core MSL courses and 4 electives related to Human Resources.

Doctor of Nursing Practice

FNP-DNP

Nurses will acquire advanced knowledge and skills in nursing practice and processes in order to practice as nurse practitioners. Students will reflect and act on the impact advanced practice nursing has on the health care delivery system and the lives of clients and communities. Graduates will be prepared to take the family nurse practitioner certification exam and then provide primary care and expertise in the holistic care of all populations.

DNP

Nurse Practitioners of any specialty will acquire doctoral skills both in the classroom and as they develop and implement a quality, practice, outcomes, or systems improvement initiative in the hospital, clinic or community.

Doctor of Philosophy in Marriage and Family Therapy

The MFT doctoral program is a unique program offering one of a kind specializations within a curriculum designed to enhance the theoretical knowledge and advanced practice of MFT. The program is designed to resemble the apprentice model, where individuals were able to work alongside a master craftsman to be nurtured and mentored to improve their talents and skills. Specializations in working with couples, developing and enhancing business and leadership skills and integrating psychophysiological knowledge and interventions provide students with a one of a kind learning experience.