



# GRADUATE ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

## ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Christopher M. Kennedy  
Associate Provost and Director of Graduate Programs

Dr. Kay L. Belanger  
Director, Master of Business Administration

Dr. Tracy E. Meetze-Holcombe  
Director of Graduate Studies and Special Programs  
Coordinator, Instructional Accommodation Program

Dr. Karen M. Fries  
Coordinator, Learning Disabilities Program, (M.Ed.)

Dr. Cynthia A. Nixon  
Coordinator, Learning Disabilities Program, (M.A.T.)

Dr. Deborah L. Hopla  
Director, Family Nurse Practitioner Program

Dr. Karen K. Gittings  
Chair of Nursing Program and Director, Nurse Educator

Mr. James F. "Chip" Hull Jr.  
Director, Physician Assistant Studies Program

Dr. William P. Wattles  
Coordinator, Clinical/Counseling Psychology

Dr. Crystal R. Hill-Chapman  
Coordinator, School Psychology

## HISTORY

Founded in 1970, Francis Marion University is one of South Carolina's 13 state supported universities. Classified by the Carnegie Foundation for Education as a comprehensive university, FMU takes pride in providing a strong liberal arts education in a broad range of undergraduate majors. The University also offers two professional schools in education and business.

The University has been offering graduate coursework since 1974, and today about 10 percent of the total student body is enrolled in graduate programs. Graduate degree programs are offered in business, education, nursing, physician assistant studies, and psychology.

The University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), and a number of its departments or programs are accredited by specialized accrediting agencies.

## GRADUATE COUNCIL

The Graduate Council coordinates all graduate programs at the University. Responsibilities of the Council are to (1) review admission data on each graduate program, (2) notify the faculty of all graduate curricular proposals prior to Council action, and (3) advise the Faculty Senate on all graduate curriculum matters, including proposed courses, course changes, or new academic programs.

## GRADUATE FACULTY

All full-time and part-time faculty teaching graduate courses (other than Educational Professional Development (EDPD) 525 courses) will (a) hold the terminal degree in their disciplines or in unusual cases have demonstrated exceptional scholarly or creative activity or professional experience and do not hold the terminal degree, (b) demonstrate scholarship appropriate for graduate instruction, and (c) show evidence of professional characteristics appropriate for graduate instruction. The graduate courses which they teach must be in the field of their respective expertise. Credentials of both annual and continuing graduate faculty are evaluated annually by their respective department chairs. Deans make appropriate recommendations regarding graduate faculty status to the Provost. Faculty teaching Education 525 courses, which are workshop courses designed to meet specific needs in a school system, do not necessarily require that the faculty member hold the terminal degree, depending on the nature and purpose of the specific 525 course.

**Continuing Membership** – The Graduate Continuing Faculty is comprised of the President, the Provost, the Deans of all schools, the chairpersons of all academic departments, and all who hold at the University the rank of full professor. It also is comprised of all with academic rank who both regularly teach courses carrying graduate credit and have been recommended by their respective department chairperson or school dean and by the Graduate Council to the Provost and approved by the President. Each department or school has the right to establish additional membership criteria which, once approved by the President upon the recommendation of the Graduate Council and the Provost, must be met by the Graduate Continuing Faculty in the respective department or school.

**Annual Memberships** – Faculty members at any academic rank who have not been designated as continuing members of the Graduate Faculty are members of the Graduate Faculty during any academic year including the preceding summer session in which they teach at least one course numbered 500 or above. Such members may participate fully in Graduate Faculty meetings. The extent of their participation in department/school graduate affairs is determined by the department/school concerned.

**Functions** – Graduate faculty meetings may be called at the recommendation of the Graduate Council, a department/school, the Provost, or the President. The Provost shall serve as the regular presiding officer. The Graduate faculty reviews graduate regulations and related academic matters brought to it.

## GRADUATE DEGREES

The graduate academic programs at FMU are offered through the following department and schools:

### School of Business

General Business Administration (Master of Business Administration [M.B.A.]

### School of Education

Learning Disabilities (Master of Arts in Teaching [M.A.T.] and Master of Education [M.Ed.])  
Instructional Accommodation (Master of Education [M.Ed.]

**School of Health Sciences**

Nursing

Family Nurse Practitioner (Master of Science in Nursing [M.S.N.])

Nurse Educator (Master of Science in Nursing [M.S.N.])

Certificate in Nursing Education (Post-baccalaureate or Post-masters)

Physician Assistant Studies

Physician Assistant (Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies [M.S.P.A.S.])

**Department of Psychology**

Psychology (Master of Science in Applied Psychology [M.S.] and Specialist in School Psychology [S.S.P.])

**COURSE LISTINGS & NUMBERING**

For University courses, the following information is indicated:

- Course number
- Course title
- Semester hour value of course
- Number of clock hours required per week in course
- Statement of prerequisites and/or other restrictions on enrollment
- Term(s) offered
- Brief course description
- Restriction of credit

When two courses are listed under a single title, a hyphen (-) between the course numbers indicates that the first is prerequisite to the second. A comma (,) between the course numbers indicates that the first is not a prerequisite to the second.

Courses are classified by numbers, which indicate the class level at which they are most often taken. Class levels and number sequences are as follows:

|                                      |         |
|--------------------------------------|---------|
| Freshman Courses . . . . .           | 100-199 |
| Sophomore Courses . . . . .          | 200-299 |
| Junior Courses . . . . .             | 300-399 |
| Senior Courses . . . . .             | 400-499 |
| Senior or Graduate Courses . . . . . | 500-599 |
| Graduate Courses . . . . .           | 600-799 |

With written departmental/school approval, seniors may take courses numbered 500-599 for either undergraduate or graduate credit. Designation of credit as undergraduate or graduate must be made at registration. With written departmental/school approval and with an overall grade point average of 3.0 or better, seniors may take courses numbered 600-799 for graduate credit. All seniors taking courses for graduate credit must submit a graduate application for admission. Some programs require formal admission before enrolling in any course numbered 600 or above. Work taken for graduate credit may not be used to meet undergraduate requirements. Any senior permitted to enroll for graduate credit will be classified as a non-degree student until the student has attained regular admission to a graduate degree program. No more than 12 hours of graduate work may be completed prior to the completion of baccalaureate degree requirements and admission to the graduate program as a graduate degree student.

The figures enclosed in parentheses immediately following the title of a course are, in order of appearance, indications of the following:

1. Number of semester hour credits given for the course.
2. Number of lecture hours normally scheduled each week for one semester in the course.

3. Number of laboratory hours normally scheduled each week for one semester in the course.

If there is one figure only, there are as many class meeting hours per week as there are semester hours credit for the course. A two-number sequence, such as (3:4), means that the course carries three semester hours credit but meets four class hours each week. A three-number sequence, such as (3:2:3), means that the course carries three semester hours credit but meets two lecture hours and three laboratory hours each week.

Terms Offered Key:

- F = Fall
- S = Spring
- SU = Summer
- AF = Alternating Fall Terms
- AS = Alternating Spring Terms

The University reserves the right to withdraw any course for insufficient enrollment. In certain cases and with the approval of the Provost, classes may be offered with fewer than the required number of students in order to meet specific needs.

**ADMISSION TO GRADUATE STUDY**

Students interested in applying for admission to graduate programs at FMU should write or call the Graduate Office for information and an application packet, which contains necessary forms and instructions for applications. Completion of an application packet does not guarantee admission to a graduate program.

The University encourages all qualified students to apply. Equal educational opportunities are offered to students regardless of race, religion, color, national origin, sex, physical disability, sexual orientation, or age.

For information on specific admission requirements, please consult the information pertaining to each "Graduate Program" in this section of the catalog.

**ADMISSION DECISIONS**

A committee in each school or department offering a graduate program makes admission decisions. Each committee will consider candidates with completed application packets. Incomplete packets will be reviewed at the discretion of the selection committee for that graduate program.

**ADMISSION APPEALS**

Students who are denied admission to a graduate program may appeal the decision to the Provost. To submit an appeal, the applicant should prepare a typed letter addressed to the attention of the Provost. The letter should explain why reconsideration of the admissions decision is warranted and should clearly describe any extenuating circumstances that will help determine the applicant's suitability for admission.

**LEGAL RESIDENT DEFINED**

Charges for tuition and fees depend upon the student's status as a resident or non-resident of South Carolina. A non-resident pays a higher rate of tuition and fees than a legal resident of South Carolina.

For fee purposes, the state's Code of Laws defines South Carolina residents as independent persons who reside in and have been domiciled in South Carolina for a period of no less than 12 months with the intention of making a permanent home therein, and their dependents. Those who meet these criteria may be considered eligible to pay general university fees at state-supported higher education institutions at in-state rates. Eligibility begins with the next academic semester after expiration of the required 12 months.