



# 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.])