

Francis Marion University

School of Education

Graduate Q & A

1. When are graduate courses offered?

During the fall and spring semesters, graduate courses meet from 4:30-7:30 p.m. Courses meet one day per week (Monday-Thursday). A weekend format is available for some courses. Courses are taught using Blackboard Collaborate which allows students to participate in live webcasts and watch prerecorded ones. Some courses are available online, and a few are face-to-face only.

During the two summer sessions, graduate courses meet 8 times for 5-hour sessions. Course times are usually 8 a.m.-1 p.m. or 2-7 p.m. Courses typically meet twice weekly for 4 weeks, either Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday. A weekend course or online option is available for at least one course each session. Blackboard Collaborate (see above) is available for most courses.

If you are interested in off-campus cohort opportunities, please contact Dr. Michelle Murphy at MMurphy@fmarion.edu.

Can I take courses online?

Yes. The graduate programs now offer some courses online. For more details, refer to question 1. Also, the M.Ed. Instructional Accommodations program is now offered fully online.

3. When can I begin the graduate program?

Students may begin a graduate program at the start of any semester. (Fall, Spring, or any Summer Session) Contact the Graduate Office for application deadlines. (See question 6.)

4. Do I have to be accepted into a graduate program to take a graduate course?

You can take courses as a non-degree student. You must pay the application fee, complete the application, and submit a copy of your valid teaching certificate to register for graduate courses.

As a degree-seeking student, you are allowed to take up to 12 hours while completing your file.

Note: You must be fully accepted into a graduate program to be eligible for most financial aid—please check with your financial aid counselor for specific information and guidelines.

5. How long does it take to complete the program?

The M.Ed.-IA program is 30 credit hours and can be completed in one full year.

The M.Ed.-LD program is 36 hours long. You can complete the program in 6 semesters (1½ years) by taking 6 hours each semester.

The M.A.T.-LD program is 51 hours. If you took 3 semesters of 6 hours, 3 semesters of 7 hours, and 1 semester of 12 hours (final student teaching block), you could complete the program in 7 semesters (2 years).

Note: The student teaching block (12 hours) can only be completed during the fall or spring semester in a public school setting. (EDUC 770).

6. Who do I contact when it is time to register for courses?

Michelle R. Murphy, Ph.D.

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Coordinator Instructional Accommodation Program and Learning Disabilities Programs (M.Ed. & M.A.T.),
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Francis Marion University
Office: CEMC 212A
Phone/Voicemail: 843-661-1465

MMurphy@fmarion.edu

If you are unable to reach the coordinator, please contact the School of Education office at (843) 661-1460.

***Please list “graduate program information” or “graduate registration” on the subject line of your email. ***

7. Where do I find information on financial aid?

[Available online](#) and at the Financial Aid Office (SAB 117)

Note: Graduate students are usually only eligible for loans.

To determine your loan eligibility, complete the FAFSA online at www.FAFSA.ed.gov . You must register for a Personal Identification Number (PIN), if you don't already have one. If you use the electronic format, it should take approximately 3-5 days for the Financial Aid Office to receive it. Manual transactions take approximately 4-8 weeks to process. Financial Aid will review your form and award money based on your eligibility.

Financial aid counselors are assigned by applicant's last name.

Hours of Operation: 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Mon-Fri

Phone Number: (843) 661-1190; FAX (843) 661-1195

8. How do I confirm my schedule and pay tuition fees?

If you have financial aid (scholarships, loans, etc.), then [confirm your schedule online](#) through SwampFox. Click "apply fee"...or pay fees with a credit card...or...submit your bill to the Cashiers Office, SAB 103.

Note: paying your fee confirms your schedule.

Hours of Operation: 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Mon-Fri (*lunch break 1-2 p.m.)

Phone Number: (843) 661-1300

9. What does it cost to take one 3-hour graduate course?

Contact the cashier's office for on-campus tuition rates. Discounted tuition is available through a school district cohort with a minimum of 15 participants per course.

10. What is LiveText and how do I purchase it?

LiveText membership is required for all degree-seeking students to submit course assignments. More [LiveText information](#) is available on the School of Education website.

11. Where do I go to purchase my textbooks?

At Patriot Bookstore, located on campus (Smith University Center)

Hours of Operation and Phone Number:

Patriot Bookstore: 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Mon-Fri (843) 661-1345

12. Where do I get a parking sticker? How much does it cost?

Cashiers Office in the Stokes Administration Building (SAB 103)

Cost: \$15. Vehicle information (make and model of car, tag #) is necessary to complete sticker registration.

Hours of Operation: 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Mon-Fri (contact for summer hours)

Phone Number: (843) 661-1595

13. Where do I get a student ID?

Contact the front desk at the James A. Rogers Library on campus. If you need to go after hours, please call to schedule an appointment. Please note that a valid* FMU ID is necessary to access most of the Library's subscription databases from off-campus.

Hours of Operation: 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Mon-Fri (*lunch break 1-2 p.m.)

Phone Number: (843) 661-1300

*If you have never used your current ID card to check out books, please go to the Library Circulation Desk to have your card validated.