

# MISSOURI SOUTHERN

ROBERT W. PLASTER SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

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#### **WELCOME**

**WELCOME TO THE ROBERT W. PLASTER SCHOOL OF BUSINESS (PSB)** and the Master of Science in Management (MSM) graduate program in the College of Business, Technology, and Communication at Missouri Southern State University (MSSU).

Across the global business community, there is a growing demand for graduates who possess management, business, and leadership skills to leverage projects and teams in support of strategic business goals. A Master of Science in Management from Missouri Southern can be a useful next step for aspiring leaders, whether fresh graduates with an interest in pursuing management careers, or mid-career professionals looking to take on management responsibilities.

Our Master of Science in Management program is designed for working adults who are looking for an opportunity to expand their knowledge of management and human resource management. Though the degree is specifically designed for individuals who do not have an undergraduate business degree, we welcome anyone with a bachelor's degree in any background. We are glad you chose our program!



# **ROBERT W. PLASTER SCHOOL OF BUSINESS**

#### Mission

The Robert W. Plaster School of Business provides quality, student-centered, accessible business education programs for undergraduate and graduate students from the four-state area and beyond.

We are committed to preparing our students with the knowledge, skills, and ethical perspectives necessary to thrive in the global community; developing close relationships with regional businesses; responding to stakeholder needs; engaging in applied research to advance the practice of business and the effectiveness of teaching and learning; and promoting faculty excellence in teaching, research, and community service.



#### **MSM Program**

The Master of Science in Management is a 30-hour program. All students will complete the core curriculum (21-hours) and choose from one of two tracks of study. The general management emphasis (9-hours) is designed for students preparing to move into leadership roles with their current organization or seeking to move into a new career field.

The MSM program also offers a focused track of study in human resource management (9-hours). The human resource management programs at the Plaster School of Business have been recognized by the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) and coordinate with professional certification requirements.

While students may not pursue both tracks, students interested in taking additional courses are encouraged to pursue the general management track and add a graduate certificate in human resource management. Please consult the most recent MSSU Catalog for graduate certificate details. Students are encouraged to reach out to the MSM Coordinator to discuss available options. A complete list of MSM courses and corresponding course descriptions are included as Appendix A of this document.

#### **MSM Program Goals**

Learning Goal 1: MSM students will demonstrate competency in their chosen area of emphasis.

**Learning Goal 2:** MSM students will be able to communicate business information effectively in writing.

**Learning Goal 3:** MSM students will be able to communicate business information effectively in an oral presentation.

Learning Goal 4: MSM Students will be able to use ethical criteria to make business decisions.

**Learning Goal 5:** MSM Students will be able to work effectively in teams.

**Learning Goal 6:** MSM students will be able to use quantitative analysis to solve problems.

## **Master of Science in Management Core Curriculum**

All Master of Science in Management students will complete the 21-hour core curriculum, comprised of the following courses:

FIN 550	Applied Managerial Finance
MGMT 501	Law and Ethical Leadership
MGMT 520	Managerial Communications
MGMT 521	Data Analytics for Managers
MGMT 541	Organizational Behavior
MGMT 550	Contemporary Management
MGMT 552	Strategic Management

# **Management Track Curriculum**

Students who wish to pursue a more general education in management will complete 9 additional hours of management/marketing coursework, including:

IB 510	International Management
MGMT 631	Operations and Resource Planning
MRKT 572	Marketing Management

# **Human Resource Management Track Curriculum**

Students who choose to pursue an emphasis in human resource management will complete 9 additional hours of specific human resource management coursework, including:

MGMT 643	Recruitment and Retention
MGMT 645	Compensation and Rewards
MGMT 647	Training and Development

## **Advanced Topics in Management**

If deemed appropriate, the program may offer a 3-credit hour Advanced Topics in Management (MGMT 698), with topics to be announced each time the course is offered.

Advanced Topics courses cannot be substituted for core courses but may be eligible to replace a course in the 9-hour management or human resource management track. The opportunity to take an Advanced Topics course is not guaranteed. Requests for substituting an Advanced Topics course for one of the courses in the management or human resource management track should be submitted to the MSM Coordinator before the start of the academic term in which the advanced topics course is offered. The MSM Coordinator will consult with the MSM Committee to review and approve/disapprove the request.



# **ADMISSION**

Admission standards are set at the University and program levels. While the University sets overarching minimum standards, specific graduate programs will often set additional admissions requirements. Accordingly, please carefully read the standards for both University and MSM program admissions.

The Master of Science in Management program is only admitting students into the 1-year track in which fall 2023 start students will complete the program from fall 2023 to summer 2024, and spring 2024 start students will complete the program from spring 2024 to fall 2024.

Completed applications for admission should be filed with the Admissions Office before the deadlines noted below:

Program Start and Completion Dates		
	Fall 2023 Start	Spring 2024
Admission Deadline	August 14 <sup>th</sup>	January 8 <sup>th</sup>
Graduation Deadline	July 2024	December 2024

# **Notice of Program Termination**

The Master of Science in Management program will terminate at the conclusion of the fall 2024 term. Students who wish to complete the MSM degree must have all program requirements successfully completed by the end of the fall 2024 term. As such, it is important for all students to pay special attention to their program progression to ensure this timeline is met. Please reach out to the MSM Coordinator if you have any concerns about your ability to complete the program by the end of the fall 2024 term. The timeline in this notice supersedes any other timelines noted throughout this handbook.

# **Regular Admission**

University Regular Admission Requirements for Graduate Students: A student has a conferred bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university recognized by Missouri Southern State University AND has an undergraduate cumulative GPA of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale; OR a combined score of 300 on the verbal and quantitative sections of the Graduate

Records Examination (GRE) or a minimum score on the Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT) of 450 (Business students only); AND meets specific departmental admission requirements for the program/certificate.

**MSM Program Regular Admission Requirements**: The Master of Science in Management is open to students holding a bachelor's degree in any discipline from a regionally accredited college or university or recognized equivalent international university, with a cumulative 2.75 GPA (or higher) on a 4.0 scale.

This degree is not designed for students with undergraduate business degrees. To apply for this program, students need to complete the online application and fulfill all requirements outlined on the Application for Graduate Admission for the Master of Science in Management. An application materials checklist is available online at management.mssu.edu. To apply to the MSM program, please complete the following:

- 1. Submit official transcripts of undergraduate work showing bachelor's degree(s) earned with a cumulative 2.75 GPA (or higher) on a 4.0 scale. Applicants who do not have a conferred bachelor's degree or applicants with a conferred bachelor's degree and a cumulative GPA below 2.75 should apply under the Provisional Admission guidelines.
- 2. Submit a current resume.
- 3. Pay the application fee.

#### **Provisional Admission**

**University Provisional Admission Requirements**: A student who holds a bachelor's degree but does not meet course prerequisites for a specific departmental program/certificate or otherwise approximates but does not meet regular admissions requirements; OR is a senior seeking admission for a subsequent semester may be considered for provisional admission. Provisional admission will be granted for up to two consecutive semesters. Regular admission will be granted upon departmental approval.

**MSM Program Provisional Admission Requirements**: Students who do not meet the University and Program Regular Admission requirements may apply for provisional admission by completing the requirements and submitting the items outlined below:

- 1. Submit a current official transcript of undergraduate work or transcripts showing earned bachelor's degree(s).
- 2. Submit a current resume.
- 3. Pay the application fee.
- 4. Submit additional documentation. Applicants who would otherwise qualify for regular admission but are applying under the provisional admission standards as a result of the applicant being currently enrolled in the last term(s) of their undergraduate degree, do not need to submit the following requirements. Applicants (1) with a conferred bachelor's

degree who do not meet regular admission requirements, or (2) applicants whose transcripts do not yet indicate a conferred bachelor's degree and do not expect to meet regular admission standards upon degree conferral must complete and submit the following additional information:

- a. Submit a written statement (500-word minimum) explaining why the student believes they can be successful in the MSM program despite not meeting the regular admission requirements. As part of the written statement, students should provide at least three specific, concrete examples that demonstrate their readiness for and commitment to the challenge of pursuing a graduate degree, despite not meeting the program's minimum requirements.
- b. Submit one of the following:
  - i. Letter or recommendation from a current/past employer or industry professional. Please include contact information for the employer/industry professional.
  - ii. Official GRE Test Scores showing the student earned, at minimum, an official combined score of 295 on the verbal and quantitative sections.
  - iii. Official GMAT Test Scores showing the student earned a minimum score of 425 (Business students only)
  - iv. Evidence of a GPA of 3.0 or higher in the last 60 hours of undergraduate course work. Applicant will need to submit, as part of their application, an excel file that provides the GPA computation of the last 60 hours of course work.

A meeting of the MSM Admission and Retention (A&R) Committee will be called to evaluate applications. Admission will be granted upon approval of the MSM Coordinator and MSM A&R Committee. Students who are admitted to the program will receive an official letter of acceptance from the MSM Coordinator or PSB leadership team.



# ADVISING, REGISTRATION, AND GRADUATION

#### **Advising**

The MSM Coordinator serves as the advisor for MSM students. In advance of the registration period, the MSM Coordinator can provide information on course scheduling, including guidance on meeting requirements for degree completion. MSM students changing advisors is not formally supported, but students may obtain additional guidance from a PSB Department Chair or MSM faculty if desired.

# **Registration/Enrollment**

All MSM students need to register for classes during the priority registration period. Each registration period, the Registrar's Office will send out a notification regarding priority registration including registration dates. Shortly before the registration period you will also receive an email from the MSM Coordinator regarding registration. For those who opted into automatic enrollment, the MSM Coordinator will automatically process your enrollment each term during the registration period. Any student who opted out of automatic enrollment will need to contact the MSM Coordinator via email with a list of any courses in which the student wishes to enroll for the upcoming term.

The Course Catalog outlines the various degree requirements. The Catalog can be accessed at the following link: <a href="mailto:catalog.mssu.edu">catalog.mssu.edu</a>. MSM students are encouraged to log in to <a href="LioNet">LioNet</a> and review their Degree Works audit each term to assess additional degree requirements, course offerings, and enrollment accuracy. Additional information regarding your Degree Works audit, including how to run and interpret an audit, can be found at this link: <a href="massu.edu/student-affairs/registrar/degree-works.php">mssu.edu/student-affairs/registrar/degree-works.php</a>. The Schedule of Classes can be found during the enrollment period each term by accessing LioNet or at the following link: <a href="mssu.edu/academics/classes/">mssu.edu/academics/classes/</a>. Please note that the MSM program requires all students to take courses in the summer. Changes to the schedule printed at the end of this handbook are not anticipated at this time but may occur at the discretion of the Plaster School of Business. If changes occur, students will be given ample notice and provided with a new plan of study.

Dropping and/or adding courses can be completed during normal business hours through 5pm on Friday of the first week of class without accruing any late penalty. Please see the Registrar's homepage at <a href="massu.edu/student-affairs/registrar/dates.php">mssu.edu/student-affairs/registrar/dates.php</a> for further information on registration dates and add/drop information. Please consider the Academic Load Policy when selecting your courses for each term. To avoid registration delay, please also ensure no holds exist on your student account prior to the official start of the registration period.

## **Prerequisites**

While there are no prerequisites for any of the courses in this program, there is an intended sequence. Students are admitted to the program to begin 8-week courses in August and January. This practice is intentional in that it allows the students to take some of the fundamental courses during the first 8-week term of the program.

#### **Financial Aid**

Federal aid recipients will not receive a federal loan until attendance has been demonstrated in a minimum of 6-hours. In the fall and spring terms, students only taking 6-hours per semester (3-hours that span first 8-weeks, and 3-hours that start second 8-weeks), will not receive a loan disbursement until the second 8-weeks has begun and the add/drop window has ended. In this case, a student who is planning to use federal loans for living expenses (i.e., expecting a refund) would need to prepare ahead of time for disbursement after the first eight weeks. Students taking 6 hours in the first 8-week period of the semester can expect a disbursement of federal aid funds shortly after the add/drop date.

Please note that the MSM program requires all students to take courses in the summer. If you are utilizing federal financial aid at MSSU, you will need to plan for these summer course expenses and understand how these courses may impact your financial aid disbursements. If you are utilizing financial aid, it is also important to note, in measuring the timeframe required for Satisfactory Academic Progress toward a degree, federal regulations require a student to complete their degree within 150% of the length of the program. Students at MSSU must complete their master's degree within 54 attempted hours.

If you have questions about how your specific plan of study may or may not be in alignment with federal financial aid guidelines, please contact MSSU's Financial Aid Office by phone at 417-625-9325 or email at finaid@mssu.edu.

#### **Non-Attendance**

Due to federal requirements, students are required to complete a graded assignment prior to the first Thursday of the first week of classes to be considered "attending." To comply with this requirement, all MSM classes will have a graded assignment due on the first Wednesday of the class. Students who do not attempt the assignment will be considered "not attending" and will be dropped from the class. Logging into Blackboard does not constitute attendance.

#### **Graduate Readmission Policy**

The University requires students who have not been enrolled for one regular term (spring or fall) to apply to be readmitted to the program through the Office of Admissions to enroll in future courses if they are still within the degree completion time established by the graduate program. Students seeking readmission to the program should contact the Office of Admissions for guidance on the readmission process.

Students who did not complete the program or who cannot complete the program within the degree completion time outlined by the graduate program will not be readmitted under this policy. Students will need to work with the appropriate Graduate Coordinator to determine an appropriate path forward.

This Graduate Readmission Policy does not apply to students who have been dismissed from a Graduate program. Students who have been dismissed from a graduate program for plagiarism, academic integrity, or other violations constituting program dismissal, will not be eligible to apply for admission to any graduate program for a period of three years.

#### Graduation

Students must apply for graduation in accordance with the process and timeline outlined below.

How to Apply for Graduation	
* Log in to your LioNet Account	
* Select the Student tab at the top	of the page
* Select Student Menu — Student I	Records — Apply to Graduate
* Select the current term — Select the degree you are applying for	
* Select your Graduation date — Answer a few questions — Submit!	
Summer Graduate	Fall Graduate
Complete the Graduation	Complete the Graduation
Application in LioNet in the Fall	Application in LioNet in the Spring
semester BEFORE your last	semester BEFORE your last Fall
Summer Semester.	Semester.
Due Date: November 1	Due Date: April 15
Spring Graduate	
Complete the Graduation Application in LioNet in the Fall semester	
BEFORE your last Spring Semester.	
Due Date: November 1	

Once the application is submitted, the system will typically send the student an email indicating the student should contact their advisor. Students do not need to contact their advisor regarding their application as the system will send an email notification to the MSM Coordinator the next business day. From there, student applications are sent to Ms. Kelsey Bartlett, Assistant MSM Coordinator, for processing. Ms. Bartlett will promptly process your application, notify you of the completion, and send it on for additional required signatures. This process, in full, takes one to two weeks. You will be notified, via email, of deficiencies if they exist. If you do not receive feedback regarding your graduation application within three weeks of your submission, please send me an email to the MSM Coordinator.



# UNIVERSITY GRADUATE SCHOOL POLICIES

This section captures relevant graduate school policies at publication date. Please note that there are University Graduate School Policies and MSM Program Policies that govern the MSM program. MSM Program Policies are often more specific than the broader University policy. Students are responsible for reading and following all Graduate School policies, including any communicated policy additions and/or changes that may be made while enrolled at the University.

## **Diversity and Inclusion Statement**

Missouri Southern prides itself on its diverse and inclusive environment. To that end, we are constantly evaluating and encouraging participation in initiatives to promote a better community.

# **Academic Integrity, Graduate Policy**

Missouri Southern State University is committed to academic integrity and expects all members of the university community to accept shared responsibility for maintaining academic integrity. Academic work is evaluated on the assumption that the work presented is the student's own, unless designated otherwise. Submitting work that is not one's own is unacceptable and is considered a serious violation of University policy. Cheating is a serious offense that invalidates the purpose of a university education. Any student, who takes credit for the work of another person, offers or accepts assistance beyond that allowed by an instructor, or uses unauthorized sources for a test or assignment is cheating. Students must be conscious of their responsibilities as scholars, to learn to discern what is included in plagiarism as well as in other breaches of University polices, and must know and practice the specifications for citations in scholarly work. When dealing with cases of academic dishonesty, the course instructor may choose to use the campus judicial system; this includes filing an incident report with the Student Conduct Office, who may act on the report by issuing a written warning or by recommending disciplinary probation, suspension or expulsion. Penalties for academic dishonesty may include a failing grade on the assignment, a failing grade in the course, an XF grade in the course, or any other course or program related sanction the instructor or program designee(s) determines to be appropriate. Faculty should report, in writing, cases of academic dishonesty to the Department Chair, Dean and Graduate Council Chair.

## **Academic Load & Transfer Credit Policy**

- 1. Student Load Status (aligns with Financial Aid Guidelines)
  - a. Spring, Fall, and Summer (hours per semester)
    - i. 9+ hours = full-time
    - ii. 7 to 8 hours =  $\frac{3}{4}$  time
    - iii. 6 hours = ½ time and is the minimum hours required to qualify for financial aid
    - iv. < 6 hours = less-than-half-time
- 2. To enroll in more than 12-hours a student requires Department Chair and Dean approval.
- 3. Transfer Credit
  - a. The University maximum number of transfer hours (from a different university) at the graduate level is nine (9).
  - b. Individual programs may determine lower maximums.
  - c. Cross-listed courses are not considered transfer credits.
  - d. Credits from another institution in which an A or B was earned may be transferred at the discretion of the department.

#### **Graduate Academic Good Standing Policy**

- 1. Graduate students are expected to maintain a cumulative 3.0 GPA in all courses completed in their graduate program. Students in graduate courses can earn grades of A, B, C, or F.
- 2. If a graduate student does not maintain a cumulative 3.0 GPA in all courses completed, the student:
  - a. Will be placed on academic probation for the semester following the one in which a student's cumulative GPA drops below 3.0.
    - i. Graduate students placed on academic probation are required to consult with their Program Graduate Coordinator, Academic Advisor or Designee.
  - b. Will be placed on academic suspension if they cannot raise their cumulative GPA to 3.0 within one semester from which they were placed on academic probation.
    - Graduate students are prohibited from enrolling in or taking courses, in their academic program, the semester following the notice of academic suspension
    - ii. Graduate students may appeal academic suspension through The Office of the Registrar no more than two (2) times. If the academic suspension appeal is approved, the student will return to academic probation status and will be allowed to enroll in the upcoming term.

- iii. Academic suspension from a graduate program does not prohibit the graduate student from seeking admittance into another graduate program.
- c. Will be dismissed from their academic program if they are unable to maintain a cumulative 3.0 GPA following academic suspension.
  - i. Graduate students may appeal dismissal from their program through The Office of The Registrar one (1) time. If the academic dismissal appeal is approved, the student will return to academic probation status and will be allowed to enroll in the upcoming term.
- d. If a student's GPA is below a 3.0 at the end of the penultimate semester, special permission must be granted to enroll in the capstone course (if applicable), including written student acknowledgement that he/she cannot graduate without a 3.0 GPA.
- 3. If a graduate student earns an F in a course, the graduate student may retake the course they earned an F in one (1) time, subject to the Graduate Repetition of Courses Policy.

# **Repetition of Courses Policy**

Each course may only be repeated once with the intent to replace the previous grade. Students may repeat courses in which grades 'F, C, or B' have been earned. When a course is repeated the highest grade will be used when computing GPAs. Once a degree is earned, a student is no longer eligible to exclude the grade of the original course in their GPA. Exceptions to this policy may be considered by the department head and dean of the college offering the course.

# **Mixed Credit Policy**

There may be circumstances in which undergraduate students are, at the discretion of the relevant department, allowed to take graduate courses before the undergraduate degree (mixed credit) has been conferred. Students seeking mixed credit will be expected to meet the demands of enhanced workload and/or grading standards required in graduate level courses.

Circumstances in which mixed credit may be applied include, but are not limited to:

Some academic programs offer courses at an undergraduate and graduate level.
 Undergraduate students accepted into a graduate program toward the end of their
 undergraduate program, may take the graduate level version of a course required of their
 undergraduate program. This course will be listed as a graduate course but will also fulfill
 the course requirement for the undergraduate degree.

Students seeking Mixed Credit at MSSU through this method will need be accepted to a graduate program accepting students seeking mixed-credit.

a. To apply, students must have:

- i. Completed a minimum of 75 credit hours.
- ii. Earned a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0.
- iii. Completed the formal graduate program application process
- 2. Undergraduate students may enroll in graduate courses and use the credit hours toward undergraduate credits in their undergraduate degree. In this instance, the graduate credit would be used to fulfill the university's 120-hour undergraduate degree requirement. The course would be listed as graduate level but would count toward undergraduate credit. Students earning credit in this way may transfer the graduate credit or may internally apply the graduate course credit toward a graduate degree program requiring the course once admitted to the program through the regular admissions process.

Students seeking Mixed Credit at MSSU through this method will need to submit an online application through the Office of Admissions.

- a. To apply, students must have:
  - i. Completed a minimum of 75 credit hours.
  - ii. Earned a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0.
  - iii. Received approval from the relevant department head(s) and dean(s)

Students may take a maximum of twelve (12) credits under the mixed credit policy, unless accepted into an accelerated program. However, students may take no more than six (6) credit hours, as Mixed Credit, in any single semester. Graduate credit taken as an undergraduate will expire after five years and will no longer count toward a graduate degree.

These minimum standards have been set for university-wide consideration, and exceptions to these standards must be approved by the department head and dean of the school offering the course. It is highly recommended that students who enroll in Mixed Credit courses contact the Financial Aid Office with any questions.

# **Incomplete Graduate Course Policy**

A grade of 'IN' may be reported if a student is unable to complete the work of the course within the semester for a valid reason such as illness, death in the family, an emergency, etc. It is not intended as a substitute for an 'F' and does not entitle a student to attend the class during a subsequent semester. An incomplete must be made up by the end of the next semester (excluding summers) or it will be converted to an 'F' automatically. Both credit and grade points for that course are suspended until the incomplete is converted to either a passing grade or an 'F'. A student may not graduate with an incomplete grade.

# **In Progress Graduate Course Policy**

A grade of 'IP' will be given in a situation in which a student is unable to complete the work of the course within the semester for a valid non-emergency reason, such as a research project or internship that overlaps two semesters. It is not intended as a substitute for an 'F' and does not entitle a student to attend the class during a subsequent semester. An 'IP' must be made up by the end of the next semester (excluding summers) or it will be converted to an 'F' automatically. Both credit and grade points for that course are suspended until the 'IP' is converted to either a passing grade or an 'F'. A student may not graduate with an 'IP' grade.

# Single Course Withdrawal with a Grade of 'W'

A student may initiate the withdrawal from a course in the Office of the Registrar. Deadlines cited in the Schedule of Classes apply. Withdrawn students are no longer permitted to attend the class.

#### **Total Withdrawal from All Classes**

A student who wishes to completely withdraw will initiate withdrawal in the Financial Aid Office (Hearnes Hall). A student who completely withdraws from the University prior to the last week of classes in a regular or summer semester will receive a grade of "W" in all courses in which the student is enrolled. Withdrawn students are no longer permitted to attend classes. If the last date of attendance precedes the official withdrawal date, the earliest date will be used as the separation date. A student who leaves school without officially withdrawing will receive grades of 'F' in all courses.

# **Military Withdrawal Policy**

Persons involuntarily called to active duty in any branch of the military services of the United States while enrolled as students at Missouri Southern State University will be released from their academic responsibilities without penalty. The following options are available:

- Total Withdrawal for Military Reasons: A student called to active duty may request to be withdrawn from all classes and receive a full refund of tuition paid for class enrollment. Students selecting this option will follow the normal process for a Total Withdrawal from the University. A copy of their orders must be submitted along with the Total Withdrawal form to receive a refund.
- 2. Incomplete Grade for Military Reasons: A student called to active duty may contact course instructors to explore the option of receiving an "IN" (incomplete) grade for the course. The normal procedures for an incomplete grade will apply. The approval of this option is left to the discretion of each individual instructor.
- 3. Single Course Withdrawal for Military Reasons: A student called to active duty may request to be withdrawn from a single course past the normal published deadlines so long as the active-duty orders were not received prior to the published deadline. Students are to complete the Single Course Withdrawal form. The military orders must be submitted along with the Single Course Withdrawal form to receive a tuition refund.

#### **Graduate Academic Bankruptcy Policy**

A student may petition the Graduate Academic Bankruptcy Committee to eliminate one semester of graduate work from MSSU in computing the academic record one time. Graduate Academic Bankruptcy allows one semester of recorded work to be eliminated in computing the student's grade point average. To be eligible to petition for Graduate Academic Bankruptcy the student must document the unusual conditions that justify the petition. Students may not apply for Graduate Academic Bankruptcy once a degree has been earned.

Graduate Academic Bankruptcy may not be used as a means of obtaining academic honors or athletic eligibility. Students may not apply for Graduate Academic Bankruptcy to avoid academic probation or suspension. Graduate Academic Bankruptcy cannot be applied to transfer courses. The student should contact the institution where courses were taken and ask about their policy. If grades are subsequently bankrupted at that institution a new transcript should be sent to MSSU indicating the change.

It is typically not recommended to bankrupt courses required for your program since these courses must be completed to qualify for graduation. In some cases, repeating a course may be a better option. Please review the Graduate Repetition of Courses policy to see if it better fits your needs.

# **Graduation Policy**

To graduate from Missouri Southern State University with a Master of Science in Management degree, the following items must be met:

**General Degree Graduation Requirements** 

- 1. Minimum number of hours required to obtain a master's degree: 30-hours
- 2. Minimum GPA: 3.0
- 3. Summative/Capstone Assessment
  - a. The capstone assessment, research project, comprehensive exam, etc. will be determined by the individual programs
- 4. Degree Completion
  - a. Students have a total of five\* years to complete a masters' degree from the starting semester through the semester of graduation.
    - \*Please note that the MSM program will end in the fall 2024 term. Students must complete their degree requirements by December 2024.

Steps for applying to graduate will mirror those at the undergraduate level – see Registrar's website for instructions at <a href="mailto:mssu.edu/student-affairs/registrar/graduation.php">mssu.edu/student-affairs/registrar/graduation.php</a>

# **MSM PROGRAM POLICIES**

This document captures relevant graduate school policies at publication date. Please note that there are University Graduate School Policies and MSM Program Policies that govern the MSM program. MSM Program Policies are often more specific than the broader University policy. Students are responsible for reading and following all Graduate School policies, including any communicated policy additions and/or changes that may be made while enrolled in the program.

# **MSM Student Orientation Policy**

The MSM student orientation is a zero-credit hour, zero-cost requirement for all incoming MSM students. Admitted students are required to complete this online orientation before beginning any courses. The MSM student orientation is delivered asynchronously online before the regular semester begins. It will be made available for students to complete over a two-week period in January (for students entering the program in the spring) or August (for fall entrants). The orientation is due no later than 11:59pm on the Sunday immediately preceding the first day of the regular semester.

The orientation was strategically and thoughtfully created by MSM faculty. The different modules are all designed to provide students with essential information about the MSM program and its requirements before students begin investing time and money into this challenging and very rewarding journey! Any student who fails to complete the orientation before the deadline will be administratively dropped from all registered courses on the first day of the regular semester. The student will be provided with an additional opportunity to complete the orientation when it is offered again at the beginning of the next upcoming (fall or spring) term.

# **MSM Program Summative Assessment Policy**

Students in the MSM program are required to take a nationally normed, summative assessment in their last semester in the MSM program. The assessment provides a comprehensive evaluation of retained student knowledge associated with the MSM program learning outcomes. Administered through Blackboard, the assessment will be made available to students during the last two weeks of each fall (November-December) and spring (April-May) regular term. Summer graduates will take the exam in the spring term preceding graduation. The assessment is due no later than 11:59pm on Sunday before commencement. Graduation will be delayed for any student who fails to complete the summative assessment, and the student will be provided with an additional opportunity to complete the assessment when the assessment is offered again at the end of the next upcoming (fall or spring) term.

## MSM Code of Professional Conduct (CPC) Policy

Students in the Master of Science in Management (MSM) program are expected to demonstrate appropriate and professional behavior and communication with students, faculty, and staff. Each MSM student should, at all times, exhibit professional conduct that includes, but is not limited to:

#### 1. Demonstrating ethics, honesty, and integrity in all behavior and communication.

- a. Students who exhibit positive behaviors by valuing ethics, honesty, and integrity in behavior and communication will:
  - i. Display appropriate ethical behavior commensurate with graduate-level education.
  - ii. Act with honesty and integrity in academic matters, communication, and interactions.
  - iii. Cite sources appropriately in accordance with the University's Academic Integrity Policy and the MSM Student Orientation.

#### 2. Respecting diversity.

- a. Students who exhibit positive behaviors that align with respecting diversity will:
  - i. Interact with others respectfully and appropriately with regard to age, culture, race, religion, ethnicity, gender, and sexual orientation.
  - ii. Express professional and compassionate regard for differing values, opinions, beliefs, and abilities.
  - iii. Make every effort to prevent discrimination and harassment.

#### 3. Communicating appropriately and respectfully.

- a. Students who communicate appropriately and respectfully will:
  - i. Communicate, verbally or in writing, effectively and courteously with faculty, staff, and other students.
  - ii. Ensure written and verbal communication includes polite and professional content and tone, including the use of preferred names, pronouns, and titles. These communications should always include a salutation and signature in accordance with professional writing standards.
  - iii. Exemplify appropriate teaming behaviors in accordance with the MSM Student Orientation.

#### 4. Exhibiting positive behaviors that align with academic and workplace success.

- a. Students who exhibit positive behaviors that align with academic and workplace success will:
  - i. Appropriately manage time to meet course and program deadlines.
  - ii. Exhibit self-direction in completing work.
  - iii. Produce work in accordance with course requirements and expectations.
  - iv. Complete work on time.

- v. Display professional behavior towards faculty, staff, and students, both in the classroom environment and any other university setting.
- vi. Show regard for persons in authority and peers, both in the classroom environment and any other university setting.
- vii. Display a positive attitude when receiving constructive feedback.
- viii. Take accountability for decisions.

The following information outlines the process for addressing violations of the CPC policy observed by students, faculty, or staff.

Faculty are required to report any violation of the Academic Integrity policy (see the Academic Integrity, Graduate Policy under the University Graduate School Policies heading above) to the MSM Coordinator by completing the CPCR form linked via the QR code below.

Observers of all other CPC violations should first address the concern with the student believed to be in violation. If a successful resolution was reached, no further action is necessary. If the observer addresses the concern with the student believed to be in violation, but does not feel an

effective resolution was reached, a Code of Professional Conduct Referral (CPCR) should be completed and submitted to the MSM Coordinator. If the student, faculty, or staff member is unwilling or unable to directly contact the student believed to be in violation, a CPCR should be completed and submitted first to the MSM Coordinator, then Department Chair, or finally, the Dean of the College of Business, Communication and Technology.



Once received, the CPCR will be reviewed and a meeting of the MSM Admission and Retention (A&R) Committee will be called. The MSM A&R Committee will review the CPCR and set up a time to discuss the matter with the referred student. The meeting will provide an opportunity for the MSM A&R Committee to better understand the situation from the student's perspective. If, after two good faith efforts to reach the student over multiple weeks, the committee is unable to reach the student or the student fails to engage in setting a meeting time, the committee will decide on a recommended course of action for the student based on the evidence available. The student referred for a CPC violation will be notified, in writing, of the committee's decision. Committee decisions could be, but are not limited to, recommending remedial action, corrective action plans, a failing grade on the assignment, a failing grade in the class, or dismissal from the program.

If the student believes the MSM A&R Committee's decision, recommendation, or determination is inappropriate, the student may submit a written letter of appeal to the Department Chair of the Plaster School of Business. The Department Chair will select a committee of faculty, including at least two members outside the School of Business, to form an ad hoc committee to review the evidence available and speak with both the reporting party and student reported in violation to make a final determination. The student referred for a CPC violation will be notified, in writing,

of the ad hoc committee's decision. The findings and supporting documentation will be recorded in the student's permanent academic file in the office of the Dean of Students.

#### **Asynchronous vs. Synchronous Learning Policy**

Most learning in the MSM program takes place asynchronously (not at the same time). In some cases, however, the instructor may deem it necessary that students participate synchronously (at the same time). Classes with team assignments may require some synchronous team collaboration, though students will be given notice of any synchronous activity. Even when assignments are asynchronous, there are still due dates that must be met. Instructors may have different policies, both for days assignments are due, and the time frame in which students will have to complete the assignment.

## **Grade/GPA Policy**

Graduate students are expected to maintain a cumulative 3.0 GPA in all courses completed in the MSM Program as outlined in the university Graduate Academic Good Standing Policy (GAGSP). In addition to the (GAGSP) the MSM program has additional grade policies. Grades of C, and F must be addressed as follows:

- 1. **Earning a grade(s) of "C"**: Please note that students must maintain a GPA of at least 3.0 throughout the graduate program. This means a student has to have one "A" to offset each "C" earned. Students earning grades of "C" should carefully review the Repetition of Courses Policy and Graduate Academic Good Standing Policy.
- 2. Earning a grade(s) of "F": Students earning a "F" in any class who also have a GPA below a 3.0, will not be allowed to take any new MSM courses until the student successfully retakes the course(s) in which the grade(s) of "F" was/were earned. Students earning grade(s) "F" should carefully review the Repetition of Courses Policy and Graduate Academic Good Standing Policy. A student may appeal this policy through the MSM Coordinator who will submit the appeal to the MSM Admission and Retention Committee for review.

# **MSM Academic Grievances and Appeals Processes**

Students who wish to file a grievance or an appeal for a grade should contact the MSM Coordinator for further guidance as to the specific process for these matters. Academic Suspension or Academic Dismissal appeals originate from The Office of the Registrar.

Students who have received a grade they believe is inappropriate or otherwise unwarranted are provided with the option of filing an appeal with the MSM A&R Committee for review. Students seeking to appeal a grade earned in a single course should first address the concern with the

professor or instructor of record for the course. If a successful resolution is reached, no further action is necessary. If the student addresses the concern with the faculty member and does not feel an effective resolution was reached, the student should follow the steps outlined below to submit a written statement to the MSM Coordinator requesting a formal appeal.

Any communication regarding the appeal must be documented in email or other written form. All documents pertaining to the appeals process will be recorded in the student's permanent academic file in the office of the Dean of Students.

Any student seeking to file an appeal will contact the MSM Coordinator to initiate the appeals process. The initial appeals communication sent to the MSM Coordinator will include all the following:

- A concise, written description of the situation leading to the appeal. No information
  presented verbally, through Teams, or any other non-written form will be considered. If
  the student is appealing a grade received in a single course, evidence must be provided
  that the professor or instructor of record has been contacted by the student in
  accordance with the process outlined above.
- 2. Any policy or policies from the MSM Student Handbook the student believes are relevant to the case, including references to specific page numbers and how the policy or policies apply.
- 3. A statement as to why the student believes the situation should be granted an appeal in light of the stated policy. Supporting documentation or other evidence must be attached.
- 4. Any additional information the student believes would help the MSM A&R Committee to make an informed decision regarding the appeal.

Once the initial communication is received, the MSM Coordinator will confirm the student's intent to continue with the formal appeals process. If the student wishes to continue with the appeal, all documentation provided to the MSM Coordinator will be distributed to the MSM A&R Committee. The committee will review all evidence submitted by the student regarding the appeal. If the appeal relates to a specific course or faculty member, the committee may reach out to that faculty for additional documentation regarding the situation. Once the committee has reviewed all materials, a meeting will be called to make a final recommendation as to whether the appeal should be granted. The student will then be notified, in writing, of the MSM A&R Committee's decision. All appeals initiated during regular fall and spring terms will receive notice of final determination within 30 days of the original filing of the appeal (excluding holidays and official University breaks).

If the student believes the MSM A&R Committee's decision regarding the appeal is inappropriate, the student may submit a written letter of appeal to the Dean of the College of Business, Communication and Technology. The Dean will select at least two members outside the School of Business to form an ad hoc committee to review the evidence already submitted for the appeal to make a final determination. The student initiating the appeal will be notified, in writing, of the

ad hoc committee's decision. The findings and supporting documentation will be recorded in the student's permanent academic file in the office of the Dean of Students.

If the issue cannot be resolved within the School of Business, students may appeal to the Graduate Council. Please check your MSSU Student Handbook for current policy and procedure.

#### **Internal Transfer Credit Policy**

In some instances, it may be possible for students to apply up to six (6) graduate credit hours from another graduate program at Missouri Southern to the MSM program requirements. Please note that decisions will be handled on a case-by-case basis, and approval requires consent from both the MSM Coordinator, as well as the School of Business faculty member responsible for teaching the equivalent required course.

## **External Transfer Credit Policy**

The MSM Program may accept a maximum of six (6) transfer credits toward the MSM degree for students seeking to transfer graduate credits from another university or college. To count toward the MSM degree requirements, MSSU must have an equivalent course in the MSM program, and a grade of "C" or better must be earned in the transferred course. Cross-listed courses are not considered transfer credits.

# **Transferring Core Courses Policy**

For approval of required course transfer credits, the student requesting the transfer must have all other coursework completed before the next time the required course is offered at Missouri Southern State University. The proposed course to be transferred must be preapproved by the MSM Coordinator before the end of the semester prior to the semester the student intends to take the transfer course. The course must be taken at an ACBSP or AACSB accredited institution and cannot duplicate courses that have already been taken. The student will provide the name of the university, a course number, course name and description, and the most recent syllabus for the course prior to course registration. The PSB faculty member responsible for teaching the required MSM course will be consulted as to whether the proposed course is of equivalent content and rigor/quality.

# **GRADUATE SCHOOL EXPECTATIONS**

This program was carefully designed by the MSM faculty to provide you with a well-rounded graduate level education in the field of management. All course material is in the curriculum for a reason. Please take each course seriously, and fully engage in the virtual classroom and with the material.

Course material is cumulative and should not be viewed as discrete modules or topics that can be forgotten after each quiz or exam. You will be expected to remember and retain course information in order to complete the summative assessment as outlined in the MSM Program Summative Assessment Policy. More specifically, you will be expected to:

- Actively participate in the virtual class. This includes demonstrating an interest in learning about the field of management by asking and answering questions about course material.
   To be a successful graduate student, you must also be willing to disagree with text material or your peers' or professor's views. Embrace these differences in opinion and discuss using a calm, respectful, and mature manner to provide reasoning and support for your viewpoint.
- Prepare. Complete all assigned readings and provide thoughtful and logical responses to the readings when asked. Prepare questions about those topics or issues that you have found confusing, unclear, or with which you disagree, and ask your classmates and/or professor for additional clarification.
- 3. Give your best effort on all course assignments. Submit all deliverables on time. Edit your assignments carefully before you turn them in. Remember that spelling and grammar are important in the business world. Organization and clarity matter. Consider all of these factors as you strive for excellence in your virtual graduate program.
- 4. Be professional in all interactions. Seek help if you are confused, fall behind, or are uncertain about content. Contact the professor regarding your questions as soon as possible. Eight-week classes move quickly, so please do not wait even a few days to seek explanation/clarification.

Faculty are here to help you learn. Each faculty member has office hours (documented in the course Blackboard site) in which that faculty member is solely dedicated to helping students in your course. However, please keep in mind that the faculty are also busy with additional university activities unrelated to your course. Make your best effort to use both their and your time wisely.

# **Acquiring Research Material**

School of Business faculty expect the use of reputable and reliable sources in academic writing. Accordingly, MSM students will need to be familiar with the library website, including how to search the various business-related electronic databases to which the library subscribes (e.g., ProQuest, EBSCO, Lexis Nexis, ABl/Inform, Google Scholar, and Business Source Premier). For more helpful information regarding online research, please visit the library website at: https://libguides.mssu.edu/librarydiy or contact a staff librarian.

# **Formatting Papers**

Academic writing is an expectation for each MSM course. Accordingly, your MSM graduate faculty expect you will write each submission in accordance with American Psychological Association (APA) standards. This format is the most common style used for writing in the business field. Although you can purchase a copy of the Publication Manual of the APA (it is expensive!), there are free online resources that will provide you with the basics needed to be successful in your MSM journey.

If you are unfamiliar with APA format, the Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL) is a reputable and free source for learning the rules of APA writing. It may be accessed at this link: <a href="mailto:owl.purdue.edu/owl/research">owl.purdue.edu/owl/research</a> and citation/apa style/apa style introduction.html. Please take care to always utilize the most recent edition.

#### **Citing Research Material**

In academic writing, proper citation is critical. Citation is the means through which we attribute credit to others' work. Whether using a direct quote, summarizing, and/or paraphrasing another's idea, proper citation is essential. APA format has specific guidelines on formatting requirements for citation. Please consult the sources noted above for further clarification regarding exact style requirements.

Failing to properly cite, or give credit, for the thoughts and ideas presented by others poses a significant plagiarism issue and violates the MSSU Academic Integrity Policy. To avoid sanctions, students must understand APA rules for citation and references and use it consistently when presenting ideas, work, or other intellectual property that belongs to others (please also see the Academic Integrity Policy).

## **Skills and Research Methodology**

If assigned a research project, students should determine, in collaboration with the faculty member, what methodology is most appropriate for the assignment. In addition to proper research design, make sure to use and interpret statistics appropriately. Students will be expected to employ quantitative skill sets to analyze, interpret, and utilize results in a productive and meaningful way. It is also important that all MSM students communicate effectively, both verbally and in writing. Please consider each written and verbal communication as an opportunity to perfect your communication skill set.

# **CAREER PLACEMENT**

Students should utilize the services of the MSSU Career Services office for help with interviews and resumes. In addition, students should attend the University's Career Fair to actively obtain information on available internships and relevant job postings. More information is provided at: mssu.edu/student-affairs/career-services/.

#### **Networking**

MSM students are expected to create a <u>LinkedIn</u> account and connect with the MSSU Plaster School of Business - MSM Students and Alumni Group. All MSM degree candidates, alumni, faculty, and staff from the School of Business are encouraged to join this group to expand their networks. Once you graduate, you should also join the Missouri Southern State University Alumni group on LinkedIn.

When networking opportunities arise, students should try to engage in the event to the greatest extent possible. Beyond these events, students should use every class as an opportunity to meet and network with other students who undoubtedly have different work, life, and industry experience. This networking may be advantageous when pursuing career development opportunities post-graduation.

# **APPENDIX A: MSM COURSES AND DESCRIPTIONS**

#### FIN 550 Applied Managerial Finance (Demand) 3 hrs. cr.

This course is a study of the financial operating environment of a firm. Students will learn how to interpret and evaluate financial performance; how to analyze capital budgeting decisions, including cash flows, financing options, cost, and risk; how to forecast and develop financial plans; and how to manage the growth of a firm. Prerequisites: None

#### IB 510 International Management (Demand) 3 hrs. cr.

This course examines the skills and strategies related to global management. Students will study the global business environment with special emphasis on managing the cultural, political, economic, legal and technological environments. This course examines management issues for small and large international organizations in the areas of formulating and executing strategy, management across boundaries, building of capabilities, international market entry, and management of activities. Prerequisites: None

#### MGMT 501 Law and Ethical Leadership (Demand) 3 hrs. cr.

This course examines the interpretation and application of law to business leaders. It incorporates the study of ethical issues that arise in contemporary business settings, including professional conduct and corporate social responsibility. This course covers some areas of legal regulation to which businesses are subject, including tort liability, employment and labor law, and financial regulation. Emphasis is placed on active, experiential application of legal reasoning and analysis and on the global and comparative dimensions of legal and ethical issues. Prerequisites: None

#### MGMT 520 Managerial Communication (Demand) 3 hrs. cr.

Emphasizes the importance of interpersonal relations and professional writing and presentation skills. Organizational communication theories specifically pertaining to management will be covered. A variety of interpersonal communication issues will also be covered. Prerequisites: None

#### MGMT 521 Data Analysis for Managers (Demand) 3 hrs. cr.

A course designed to introduce the student to the analysis of problems for business decision making. The course covers data analysis, business modeling and simulation of complex problems. Students will utilize Excel for analysis, modeling and simulation. Prerequisites: None

#### MGMT 541 Organizational Behavior (Demand) 3 hrs. cr.

This course introduces the principles of organizational behavior used by leaders to manage people to create effective organizational outcomes. It stresses understanding human behavior in organizations, team dynamics, management practices, and organizational structure. Prerequisites: None

#### MGMT 550 Contemporary Management (Demand) 3 hrs. cr.

This course is a study of management principles. Students will discover the history of management. The pillars of planning, organizing, leading, and controlling are explored as a basis for managing limited resources to achieve organizational goals. Students will also be exposed to general environmental and legal factors of modern business and their impact on managing people and processes. This course also generally discusses leadership, team dynamics, and individual and group behavior. Prerequisites: None

#### MGMT 552 Strategic Management (Demand) 3 hrs. cr.

This course introduces the key concepts, tools, and principles of strategy formulation and competitive analysis. Case analysis is used to gain understanding of an organization's current conditions so that appropriate strategic actions can be recommended within a firm's vision and mission. Prerequisites: None

#### MGMT 631 Operations and Resource Planning (Demand) 3 hrs. cr.

The course is designed to introduce you to some of the problems, models and solution methodologies in the field of Operations and Resource Planning. The course is broadly divided into two sections: i) System design, and ii) System operations and control. System design usually deals with strategic decisions requiring long-term commitments. Some examples are planning the location of the facility, process selection and capacity planning, and planning the layout of a facility. System operations and control address medium and short-term issues to keep the facility running smoothly. Some examples are inventory and supply chain management, total quality management, materials requirement planning, scheduling, aggregate planning, etc. Prerequisites: None

#### MGMT 643 Recruitment and Retention (Demand) 3 hrs. cr.

This course explores the staffing function of organizations to investigate how businesses attract, deploy, and retain the workforce needed to achieve organizational goals. Students will be exposed to a variety of different staffing activities associated with the recruitment and selection of employees, while learning to use the information gathered from these activities to make staffing decisions and utilize retention management strategies. Prerequisites: None

#### MGMT 645 Compensation and Rewards (Demand) 3 hrs. cr.

This course examines the financial and non-financial reward systems of organizations. Students will be exposed to a variety of theoretical and legal perspectives in compensation, and will explore the many functions of compensation administration, including job analysis and job evaluation, wage surveys, different pay bases, internal and external pay equity, benefits administration, and determining the compensation strategy. Prerequisites: None

#### MGMT 647 Training & Development (Demand) 3 hrs. cr.

This course focuses on the assessment of human performance problems in contemporary organizations. Students will become familiar with the principles of adult learning and the influence of business and market conditions on training and employee development. The course also covers needs analysis and the resulting design, development, implementation and evaluation of training programs. Prerequisites: None

#### MRKT 572 Marketing Management (Demand) 3 hrs. cr.

This course requires students to understand and utilize the principles of strategy and marketing to create organizational value. Lectures and cases will be used to acquaint the student with strategy and marketing concepts. A final project integrating these concepts is required. Prerequisites: None

#### MGMT 698 Advanced Topics in Management (Demand) 3 hrs. cr.

For graduate level students. Topics to be announced each time the course is offered. Prerequisite: Admission to the Master of Science in Management program or permission. Prerequisites: None

# MSM COURSE SCHEDULE\*

#### Summer 2023 (First week in June to last week in July)

FIN 550 MGMT 631 MGMT 645

#### Fall I 2023 (First Eight Weeks) Fall II 2023 (Second Eight Weeks)

MGMT 501	MGMT 521
MGMT 520	MGMT 552
MGMT 541	MGMT 647
MGMT 550	MRKT 572

#### Spring I 2024 (First Eight Weeks) Spring II 2024 (Second Eight Weeks)

MGMT 501	IB 510**
MGMT 520	MGMT 521
MGMT 550	MGMT 552
MGMT 541	MGMT 643*

#### Summer 2024 (First week in June to last week in July)

FIN 550\*\* MGMT 631\*\* MGMT 645\*\*

#### Fall I 2024 (First Eight Weeks) Fall II 2024 (Second Eight Weeks)

MGMT 501**	MGMT 521**
MGMT 520**	MGMT 552**
MGMT 541**	MGMT 647**
MGMT 550**	MRKT 572**

<sup>\*</sup>Changes may occur at the discretion of the Plaster School of Business.

This program will terminate at the conclusion of the fall 2024 term.

<sup>\*\*</sup> This is the last semester in which this course will be taught.

# **CONTACT US**

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