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Master of Arts in Curriculum and Instruction Now Offered Fully Online

Shepherd University is now offering its first fully online master's degree program—the Master of Arts in Curriculum and Instruction. Program coordinator, Dr. Belinda Mitchell expressed that there was a great need for an online graduate program, “We were losing so many great students to other online programs.” Now with a fully online program, there are no limitations on classroom space, and students from anywhere can join the program. “We are excited to have our first online degree. Dr. Mitchell provided great leadership to ensure success for the students who enrolled” said Dr. Richard Stevens, dean of graduate and professional studies.

The program is designed to help educators enhance their professionalism, improve the quality of their instruction to all student

populations, and better prepare them for leadership roles within their school districts or other education settings. By integrating theory, practice, and research, the Master of Arts in Curriculum and Instruction emphasizes leadership and provides teachers and other professionals with educational responsibilities, opportunities to enhance their levels of professional knowledge, and discover innovative and effective approaches to teaching and learning.

In the second year of the program, students focus on writing a thesis that can cater to each individual's professionalism needs, and students are able to do action research in the schools and classrooms. ■

Fall Campus Info

The novel COVID-19 pandemic promulgated changes to the academic calendar as well as some campus policies for the fall 2020 semester. The fall semester began Monday, August 24 as scheduled, and in-person classes will end on Tuesday, November 24, with Thanksgiving break beginning Wednesday, November 25. Students will not return to campus following Thanksgiving break. The week following Thanksgiving will be a flex week conducted remotely for students to complete final assignments and for faculty to grade and hold review sessions remotely. Final exams will be conducted remotely during the established time frame of December 7-11.

Shepherd conducted **mandatory COVID-19 testing** the week prior to classes beginning.

A COVID-19 dashboard has been created and will be updated with cases every weekday. The dashboard can be found at: www.shepherd.edu/covid-19-dashboard.

Face coverings that cover the nose and mouth are required everywhere on campus.

Faculty and students are required to wear face coverings in the classroom. The only places where face coverings are not required are in private vehicles with a single occupant, personal office spaces, and a student's personal residence hall room.

To stay up to date on COVID-19 information, please visit www.shepherd.edu/covid-19. ■

School of Graduate and Professional Studies

Byrd Science Center Room 212
Shepherd University
P.O. Box 5000
203 North King Street
Shepherdstown, WV 25443
304-876-5313
www.shepherd.edu/graduate-studies

From the Dean

The last few months have been a whirlwind of changes as Shepherd moved to virtual learning for the spring and summer semesters 2020. The fall began with a variety of learning modalities for our graduate students.

The university worked tirelessly to create a safe environment for those coming to campus and enhance training for faculty who are teaching online. We have been very successful in all areas based on the ongoing cooperation and vigilance by all members of the community.

While COVID-19 has been a focus of many efforts on campus, the School of Graduate and Professional Studies continues to work to increase opportunities for current and new graduate students. We approved two

non-degree certificates in the Management Information Systems (MIS) and Foundation in Higher Education. We approved a new M.B.A. concentration in MIS. We approved the first fully online degree in Curriculum and Instruction and finalized an online application for graduate studies.

We know that for some of you, your graduate experience is different from what you expected but know that graduate faculty and staff are here to assist. Reach out early to set yourself up for success as you move through the fall semester. ■

Best wishes,
Dr. Richard Stevens
rstevens@shepherd.edu



Cecelia Mason



Dr. Mary J.C. Hendrix in the School of Graduate and Professional Studies virtual celebration of graduates

Commencement Highlights

The May 2020 Commencement for the School of Graduate and Professional Studies was canceled due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. A virtual ceremony included welcoming remarks from President Mary J.C. Hendrix as well as guest speaker Dr. Jim Denova and Dean Richard Stevens. Dr. Denova is vice president of the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation and has primary responsibility for the Foundation's education agenda in West Virginia and Southwestern Pennsylvania. Denova, a Doctor of Education Honorary Degree recipient, spoke

on character, ethics, and education. He gave students a call to action to move forward after the pandemic and do the right thing. Sixty-two degrees were conferred virtually to master's and doctoral candidates. The Graduate Faculty Award, given annually, was awarded to Dr. LeAnn Johnson in the School of Education. The official 2020 commencement ceremony has been tentatively scheduled for May 2021. The Commencement program can be viewed online [here](#) and the virtual ceremony can be viewed [here](#). ■

BOG Establishes Office for Diversity and Equity

The Shepherd University Board of Governors at its June 11 meeting passed a resolution directing Shepherd's president to establish and maintain as a direct report an administrative Office for Diversity and



Equity. The Board, in consultation with the President, found that a commitment to tolerance, social justice, and diversity is essential to the educational mission of Shepherd University. Board chair Eric Lewis also announced the creation of a Board of Governors Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. This committee will work closely with Shepherd's Executive Leadership Team and other campus committees. ■



Cecelia Mason

Graduate Student Resources

Help Desk

The White Hall Help Desk provides real-time assistance with writing and other courses such as accounting for all graduate students. Contact the help desk via email at cobhelpdesk@shepherd.edu or visit the website www.shepherd.edu/cob/cob-help-desk to arrange for face to face meetings following COVID restrictions or for online help from the assistants. The hours of the help desk are posted on the door in Room 213 in White Hall. ■



Tutor.com

Several graduate courses were selected to be part of a pilot for tutor.com. This resource provides tutors for students in those classes. This resource is linked to the Sakai for the course. ■

Tuition waiver due dates

- Spring 2021** November 1, 2020
- Summer 2021** March 1, 2021
(pending remaining funding)

Waiver forms

Student Tuition Waiver Form
<https://media.suweb.site/2015/04/student-waiver.pdf>

Employee or Graduate Student Researcher Tuition Waiver Form
<https://media.suweb.site/2015/04/employee-waiver.pdf>

Calendar dates to remember

- October 5-9** Midterms
- October 9** Last day to apply for May and August 2021 graduation
- October 15-16** Instructional days
- October 21** First day of academic advisement
- November 2** First day of Spring 2021 RAIL registration for continuing students
- November 23-24** Instructional days

- November 25-30** Thanksgiving break, University closed
- December 4** Last day of classes
- December 7-11** Final exams, to be delivered remotely

REMINDER

Financial aid runs from fall to summer; please plan accordingly if you plan to use aid for summer 2021 courses.



Faculty Spotlight

Dr. Belinda Mitchell Curriculum and Instruction

Dr. Belinda Mitchell is an associate professor in the School of Education and serves as the Master of Arts Curriculum and Instruction program coordinator. Mitchell is entering her 10th year at Shepherd University; she received her Ph.D. from the University of Kansas. Mitchell played an important role in moving the MACI program fully online. She said that she is most looking forward to being able to have practicing teachers enter the program because it is online and meets their needs.

At the graduate level, she teaches Research Methods, Leadership in Special Education, Advanced Curriculum and Pedagogy, as well as Thesis Completion Courses. Mitchell also said that the online degree combines the right amount of new knowledge and practical knowledge that is exciting for practicing teachers. More information on the MACI program can be found at www.shepherd.edu/maci ■

Announcements and Upcoming Events

Dr. Jeff Groff Named 2019 West Virginia Professor of the Year

Dr. Jeff Groff, chair of Shepherd's Department of Environmental and Physical Sciences, has been named the Faculty Merit Foundation of West Virginia 2019 Professor of the Year. The Foundation made the announcement via letter after its annual spring banquet had to be canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Multicultural Student Affairs Receives \$5K WVHEPC Diversity Grant

The West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission's Diversity for Equity Grant Program has renewed a \$5,000 grant to Shepherd University to support events and social justice initiatives coordinated by the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs (MSA).

Lifelong Learning is All Virtual for Fall 2020

The Lifelong Learning Program will continue online with Zoom course sessions and lectures this fall. Find a list of courses available at www.shepherd.edu/lifelonglearning

COVID-19 Surveillance Testing

- The State will facilitate surveillance testing on all campuses, statewide, each week through at least the end of the semester;
- The tentative plan by the State is to begin the week of October 5; we will begin as soon as supplies arrive;
- 10% of our campus community who are on campus (approximately 250 people including students and employees) will be tested each week;
- Names will be chosen through a random sampling, with limited stratification, and individuals will be contacted with a reasonable advance notice;
- Gov. Jim Justice/ West Virginia State DHHR will be covering almost all portions of the cost for this testing; and
- The test will be saliva-based—with PCR analysis and results expected back within 48-72 hours from the time the test is taken.

For more information visit shepherd.edu/covid-19



Connect with Us

Find up-to-date information and events

Graduate Studies

<https://www.facebook.com/SUgradstudies>

CSDA

<https://www.facebook.com/ShepherdUniversityCSDA>

Martinsburg Center

<https://www.facebook.com/MartinsburgCenter>

Graduate program contacts

Master of Arts in Appalachian Studies

Dr. Sylvia Shurbutt
sshurbut@shepherd.edu

Master of Arts in College Student Development and Administration

Dr. Ann Wendle
awendle@shepherd.edu

Master of Arts in Curriculum and Instruction

Dr. B.B. Mitchell
bmitchel@shepherd.edu

Master of Science in Data Analytics and Information Systems

Dr. Donald Mills
dmills@shepherd.edu

Doctor of Nursing Practice

Dr. Doris Burkey
dburkey@shepherd.edu

Master of Business Administration

Dr. Ben Martz
bmartz@shepherd.edu

Master of Teaching

Dr. LeAnn Johnson
ljohnson@shepherd.edu