WMU’s Evaluation, Measurement and Research (EMR) Doctoral Program

The EMR Doctor of Philosophy program is designed to prepare students to be an evaluator, assessment specialist, or researcher for leadership and teaching positions in schools, non-school organizations, institutions of higher education, and government. The doctoral program in evaluation, measurement, and research is interdisciplinary in nature and is designed to expose future academics, researchers and evaluators to practice linked learning in a world-class environment of excellence. The faculty advising and teaching in these programs are nationally and internationally recognized in their fields.

EMR’s Vision

We equip graduates with the knowledge and skills for lifelong pursuit of inquiry as a mechanism for improving the human condition.

EMR’s Mission

We develop scholars, evaluators, and leaders who have a comprehensive understanding and ability to integrate and utilize inquiry methods from multiple ontologies / epistemologies / paradigms to address research and evaluative questions directed towards understanding and solving pressing problems and contributing to the knowledge base that informs practice.

EMR’s Values

- Ethics
- Diversity
- Tolerance for ambiguity
- The process of inquiry
- Scientific methods

EMR Core Faculty

Brooks Applegate, Ph.D.
Texas A&M University, 1986
Professor, CEHD 2015 Outstanding Alumni, TAMU
brooks.applegate@wmich.edu

June Gothberg, Ph.D.
Western Michigan University, 2012
Assistant Professor
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Gary Miron, Ph.D.
Stockholm University, 1994
Professor, 2016 CEHD Distinguished Scholar, WMU
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Jessaca Spybrook, Ph.D.
University of Michigan, 2007
Professor, 2016 Emerging Scholar, WMU
jessaca.spybrook@wmich.edu

Patricia Reeves, Ed.D.
Western Michigan University, 2004
Professor, 2018 Distinguished Research and Creative Scholar, WMU
patricia.reeves@wmich.edu

Ya Zhang, Ph.D.
University of Pittsburgh, 2017
Assistant Professor
ya.zhang@wmich.edu

Affiliated Faculty

Jianping Shen, Ph.D.
University of Washington, Seattle, 1995
The John E. Sandberg Professor of Education

Fen Yu, Ph.D.
Louisiana State University, 2007
WMU Director of Institutional Research

Please visit our website for more information:
wmich.edu/leadership/academics/emr/doctor
Deadlines
Applications are reviewed twice a year and must be submitted by January 15 for potential admission the following fall or summer semester, or by October 1 for potential admission the following spring semester. Applications for Graduate Assistantships occur only once yearly. The deadline is February 15.

Apply Online
Applications must be submitted online through the Western Michigan University Graduate College’s online application found at the following address: wmich.edu/apply/graduate

Within the online application applicants must include the following:

1. A professional resume or curriculum vita
2. General GRE scores (WMU code: 1902)
3. Three letters of recommendation
4. A written personal narrative
5. Education history information including an official transcript from every higher education institution attended (except WMU)
6. English language proficiency scores (for international applicants only)

For more details about these requirements, visit: wmich.edu/leadership/academics/emr/doctor/doctor-app-reqs

Why Choose Our Program?

- You will work with nationally and internationally recognized faculty.
- You can take advantage of opportunities to engage in grant-funded research.
- You will engage in cutting-edge coursework and be exposed to the latest advances in evaluation, measurement and research.
- You will feel supported in a small program with faculty interested in individualizing and maximizing your experiences.
- You will have opportunities to present research and evaluation studies at national conferences.
- You will be encouraged and supported to prepare publications with faculty or on your own.

As an EMR doctoral student, I was introduced to such a wide span of opportunities previously unrealized that my professional interests evolved into a completely new and unexpected direction. One of the program’s greatest assets is its flexibility. Although housed in the College of Education and Human Development, the students are truly interdisciplinary. The program can be tailored to complement a wide array of disciplines and the individual’s focus can be narrow or broad, as desired. The faculty encourage and support exploration and provide the tools necessary for continued growth well after completion.

- Tammy Russell, Ph.D., 2016
  Director of Institutional Effectiveness & Research, Glen Oaks Community College

Admissions Information

Doctoral Core (15 credits)
- EMR 6510: Advanced Application of Measurement Methods
- EMR 6520: Evaluation Practicum
- EMR 6550: Experimental and Quasi-Experimental Design for Applied Research and Evaluation
- EMR 6580: Qualitative Research Practicum
- EMR 6650: Data Analytics II: Correlation Studies

Advanced Seminar in Concentration Area select one course (3 credits)
- EMR 6600: Advanced Seminar in Research
- EMR 6610: Advanced Seminar in Measurement
- EMR 6620: Advanced Seminar in Evaluation

Professional Field Experience (9 credits)
- EMR 7120: Professional Field Experience
- EMR 7120: Professional Field Experience, 6 credits

Dissertation Research (15 credits)
- EMR 7300: Doctoral Dissertation, min. 15 hours

Electives (9 credits approved by advisor)
- EMR 6680: Qualitative Research: Computer Aided Data Analysis
- EMR 6750: Applied Multivariate Statistics
- EMR 6710: Structural Equation Modeling
- EMR 6850: Special Topics (topics change each term-e.g., Hierarchical Linear Modeling, etc.)

Cognate (18 credits)
- Previous coursework approved by advisor

TOTAL: 93 credits (post Bachelors)