Coaching and Sport Education

Master Degree

The Coaching and Sport Education master's degree is designed to provide students with critical thinking and decision making skills. The curriculum focuses on the sport science, interpersonal and intrapersonal knowledge necessary to excel in high performance sports. Students will experience hands on training through applied science, sport movement analysis software, strength and conditioning coursework, internship experiences and more. The program utilizes the International Council for Sport Coaching Excellence’s International Sport Coaching Framework and professional development guidelines from coaching education and coach development industry leaders.

Students complete 39 credit hours over five semesters (fall, spring, summer, fall, and spring) with 24 hours of core classes and 15 credit hours of coursework in one of two tracks depending on their career goals. The tracks (or areas of emphasis) are:

- **Performance Coaching** which focuses on coaching collegiate or individuals at the elite level; selected courses focus on evaluating one’s coaching methods (a sport performance non-thesis track).

- **Science of Coaching** which emphasizes coaching education and the preparation of coaches; students will complete a research project or thesis depending upon the level of specialization on a given topic.

Both options provide students with a strong foundation across the interpersonal, intrapersonal and sport science knowledge areas key to athletic coaching success. Students can only begin the program in the fall.

FACULTY

**ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS**

- Kristen Dieffenbach - Ph.D. (University of North Carolina, Greensboro)
- Valerie Wayda - Ed.D. (West Virginia University)
  Chair, Coaching and Teaching Studies

**ASSISTANT PROFESSORS**

- Jason Bishop - Ph.D. (University of Virginia)
- Ryan Flett - Ph.D. (Michigan State University)

**TEACHING ASSISTANT PROFESSOR**

- William (Guy) Hornsby III - Ph.D. (East Tennessee State University)

**ADJUNCT INSTRUCTORS**

- Kathy Ginter - Ph.D. (University of Tennessee)
- Jerry Handley - M.S. (West Virginia University)

**ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR EMERITUS**

- Daniel Ziatz

Admission Criteria

The following supplemental materials will be used to evaluate applications for admission to the Coaching and Sport Education master’s program:

- Undergraduate degree grade point average (2.75 minimum for regular status) from an approved institution
- Minimum of two references (three references preferred)
- Resume emphasizing your coaching/sport experiences
- Professional goal statement (one to two pages on professional background, goals, and reasons for pursuing the master’s degree)
- TOFEL score (for international students only)

Note: Students who do not meet the 2.75 grade point average requirement may be admitted as a provisional graduate student only if their GPA is between 2.50 and 2.75. If a student is admitted as a provisional student they are required to attain a 3.0 GPA in their first 9 hours of adviser approved course work in order to remain in the program and to be reclassified as a regular graduate student.

Priority Deadline is December 15th.

Student will submit their application and application fee thru the WVU Office of Admissions GEMS web site at: www.wvu.edu. Official transcript(s) must be submitted to the WVU Office of Admissions, PO Box 6009, Morgantown, WV 26506-6009 in order to be processed. Please do not submit any hard copies of transcript(s) or letters of recommendation to the CPASS office. Your application must be processed by the WVU Office of Admission by
the priority admission deadline, December 15th. Any applications submitted after the December 15th deadline will be considered only if seats are still available in the program.

Student is required to upload their resume and goal statement to the GEMS web site. Student will list names and email addresses for letters of recommendation to the GEMS web site and the system will generate an email to each recommender to complete the required form and attach a letter of recommendation if they desire. It may take several weeks to process your application. We recommend students submit your online application at least three (3) weeks (international students, three months) before February 1 to allow your application to be processed before the priority deadline. Apply online at the WVU Admissions website (https://app.applyyourself.com/AYApplicantLogin/ApplicantConnectLogin.asp?id=wvugrad). Please note that it is the applicant’s responsibility to make sure all supplemental materials (including letters of recommendation) are submitted online to the WVU Admissions and Records Office GEMS web site to be processed. Any incomplete applications (those without all required supplemental materials) or applications received after February 1 will be considered ONLY if there are still seats available. Program will continue to accept applications until all seats are filled.

No more than twelve graduate hours may be taken toward the master's degree as a non-degree seeking graduate student.

Degree Requirements

Core Classes (24 hours)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACE 610</td>
<td>Training Theories for Coaches</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACE 630</td>
<td>Coaching Education Administration</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACE 639</td>
<td>Create Healthy Competitive Environments</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACE 650</td>
<td>Sport Movement Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACE 688</td>
<td>Coaching Techniques</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEP 620</td>
<td>Individual Interaction in Sport and Physical Activity</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEP 640</td>
<td>Psychology of Sport and Physical Activity</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SM 627</td>
<td>Legal Issues in Sport Administration</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Complete an Areas of Emphasis 15

Total Hours 39

Performance Coaching Area of Emphasis Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACE 602</td>
<td>Action-based Research for Coaching</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACE 661</td>
<td>Strength and Conditioning Methods for Coaches</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SM 660</td>
<td>NCAA Compliance and Current Issues</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select one of the following: 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACE 665</td>
<td>Strength and Conditioning Program Design Coach</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACE 663</td>
<td>Advanced Strength and Conditioning Coaching Techniques</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACE 685</td>
<td>Coaching Internship</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours 15

SUGGESTED PLAN OF STUDY

First Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Hours Spring</th>
<th>Hours Summer</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACE 661</td>
<td>3 ACE 602</td>
<td>3 ACE 650</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACE 688</td>
<td>3 ACE 610</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEP 640</td>
<td>3 SM 660</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Second Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Hours Spring</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACE 639</td>
<td>3 ACE 630</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SM 627</td>
<td>3 SEP 620</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACE 685 or 665</td>
<td>3 ACE 685 or 663</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total credit hours: 39

* Coaching internship is completed the semester when coaching a sport.
Science of Coaching Area of Emphasis Requirements

ACE 641  Positive Youth Development in Sport  3
ACE 697  Research  3
EDP 613  Statistical Methods 1  3
SEP 615  Research Methodology in Physical Education  3

Select one of the following:  3
ACE 695  Independent Study
PET 698  Thesis or Dissertation

Total Hours  15

SUGGESTED PLAN OF STUDY

First Year
Fall  Hours Spring  Hours Summer  Hours
ACE 688  3 ACE 610  3 ACE 650  3
SEP 640  3 ACE 641  3
SEP 615  3 EDP 613  3

Total  9  9  3

Second Year
Fall  Hours Spring  Hours
ACE 639  3 ACE 630  3
SM 627  3 SEP 620  3
ACE 695 or 697  3 ACE 697 or PET 698  3

Total  9  9

Total credit hours: 39

Major Learning Goals

COACHING AND SPORT EDUCATION

The goal of the program is for students to graduate with the essential skills and knowledge to work with athletes in a variety of contexts across their lifetime.

- **Content Knowledge** – Students will demonstrate knowledge and disciplinary concepts related to the pedagogy of sport coaching.
- **Reflection and Critical Thinking** – Students will demonstrate reflection and critical thinking in order to refine professional practice.
- **Programming and Assessment** – Students will demonstrate evidence-based knowledge and skills (and best practices) for assessing students needs and for designing, implementing, and evaluating practice plans and programs.
- **Professionalism and Ethics** – Students will demonstrate professional behaviors, including commitment to excellence, valuing diversity and collaboration, service to others, and techniques for lifelong learning.
- **Technology** – Students will be able to demonstrate the use of different forms of technology to assess skills and provide meaningful feedback.