

ESM Faculty

[Jennifer Ann Morrow](#) (PhD, University of Rhode Island) is an associate professor. Morrow focuses her research on three main areas: higher education assessment and evaluation, effective strategies for teaching methodology, and college student development. She conducts a variety of projects evaluating higher education programs and developing effective assessment strategies. Much of her research focuses on effective strategies for training novice applied researchers. Morrow teaches courses on survey development and statistics for graduate students as well as an undergraduate first-year experience course on college student alcohol and drug use.

[Louis Rocconi](#) (PhD, University of Memphis) is an assistant professor. His research interests focus on program evaluation and assessment in higher education, college student development, and addressing methodological issues in educational research. Prior to joining UT, Louis worked as an assistant research scientist at the Indiana University Center for Postsecondary Research where he provided data analytic support to several large survey research projects including the *National Survey of Student Engagement* and the *Law School Survey of Student Engagement*.

[Gary J. Skolits](#) (EdD, East Tennessee State University) is an associate professor and the former executive director of the UT's Institute for Assessment and Evaluation (IAE). For over a decade, he led over 150 IAE external evaluation projects, managed full and part-time professional evaluators and technical staff, producing average external contract income in excess of \$400,000 per year. He specializes in teaching evaluation courses offering students substantial field experiences with community or campus evaluation clients. His research interests include the evaluation of P16/higher education change interventions, team leadership, and higher education administration and policy.



Recent Graduates

- [Patrick Barlow](#) - Assistant Professor, Tenure-Track
Office of Consultation & Research in Medical Education, University of Iowa
- [Ann Cisney-Booth](#) - Senior Administrator
Orange County Public Schools
- [Brittany Daulton](#) - Director of Curriculum Development & Research
Interprofessional Practice & Education Center, Indiana University
- [Sam Held](#) - Analyst
Tennessee Valley Authority
- [Wenshu Li](#) - Senior Statistical Analyst
Booz Allen
- [Sherry Marlow-Ormsby](#) - Interim Executive Director & Director of Measurement | University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
- [Niranji Pathirage](#) - Business Intelligence Analyst
University of Kansas Medical Center
- [Tiffany Smith](#) - Senior Evaluation Specialist
Office of Assessment, Evaluation & Research, University of North Carolina
- [Thelma Woodard](#) - Director of Assessment
Hodges University
- [Lakmal Walpitage](#) - Postdoctoral Research Fellow
University of Kansas Medical Center



Additional Information

For more information regarding the ESM program, please contact:

[Gary Skolits](#) (Program Coordinator)

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Educational Psychology & Counseling

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For up-to-date information, be sure to visit the [ESM website](#).



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL
PSYCHOLOGY & COUNSELING



Evaluation, Statistics & Measurement

PhD program at the University of Tennessee

A student-centered, applied program with one-on-one mentorship, tailored curriculum, and flexible options to benefit both part-time and full-time graduate students.



Program Description

The PhD program in Evaluation, Statistics, and Measurement (ESM) has been carefully designed to provide students with an integrated, sequenced, and experientially-based doctoral program leading to a meaningful professional career.

Located within the Department of Educational Psychology and Counseling, the program integrates evaluation, applied research methodology, measurement theory, content knowledge, technical skills, and highly relevant and meaningful field experiences to enable graduates to function as esteemed professionals, productive scholars, and leaders in their sub-fields of interest.



The overall focus of the program is to provide students with the requisite skills and experiences essential for three types of professional careers:

1. as an evaluation, applied research methodology, or assessment/measurement faculty member in higher education settings,
2. as an external evaluator or applied researcher employed by an organization providing evaluation or research services, or
3. as an internal evaluator or applied researcher serving the needs of the organization in which they are employed.

Learning outcomes include:

1. Knowledge of foundational evaluation, applied research methodology, and measurement concepts, theories, and applications.
2. Competency with research designs that include and integrate experimental, quasi-experimental, qualitative, and mixed-method approaches.
3. Extensive hands-on field experience in the application of evaluation, research, and methodologies to contemporary educational and social problems.
4. Experiences in applying evaluation, quantitative and qualitative methodology, and measurement skills and competencies in diverse social and organizational settings.

Graduate Assistantships

Assistantships (10-20 hours with stipends and tuition) are awarded to students on a competitive basis. In the past students in the ESM program have worked in GA positions in the following capacities:

Graduate Assistant Positions

- Center for Educational Leadership
- Department of Educational Psychology & Counseling
- Department of Engineering
- FUTURE Postsecondary Education Program
- Graduate School of Medicine - Medical Education, Research & Design
- National Institute for Mathematical & Biological Synthesis
- Office of Institutional Research & Assessment
- Office of Research Support

Internships

Each ESM student is required to complete at least two (though many do more) 100-hour internships (3 credit hours each) during their graduate program. During these internships students gain relevant and practical experience in the areas of evaluation, applied research methodology, and/or measurement. Students have conducted their internships in a variety of educational and community settings. Some recent examples include:

University of Tennessee, Knoxville

- Center for Transportation Research
- Division of Student Affairs
- Office of Institutional Research & Assessment
- Office of the Provost
- Teaching & Learning Innovation

Non-UT Knoxville Sites

- Centers for Disease Control
- Knoxville Family Justice Center
- Oak Ridge Institute for Science Education
- Pellissippi State Community College
- Tennessee Board of Regents
- Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology
- University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
- US Department of State - Foreign Service Institute

Curriculum

ESM Core (15 hours)

- EDPY 533 – Program Evaluation I (3)
- EDPY 534 – Program Evaluation II (3)
- EDPY 577 – Statistics in Applied Fields I (3)
- EDPY 581 – Classroom Measurement (3)
- EDPY 677 – Statistics in Applied Fields II (3)

Advanced ESM Core (12 hours)

- EDPY 651 – Advanced Seminar in Evaluation I (3)
- EDPY 678 – Statistics in Applied Fields III (3)
- EDPY 680 – Advanced Educational Measurement (3)
- EDPY 667 – ESM: Advanced Topics (3)

Applied Professional Experience (15 hours)

- EDPY 601 – Professional Seminar (1)
- EDPY 660 – ESM Research Seminar (8)
- EDPY 670 – Internship in ESM (6)

Electives (9 hours)

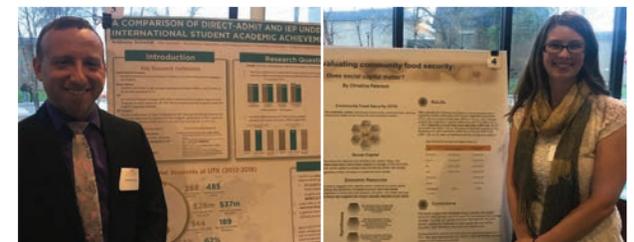
Dissertation (24 hours)

Most courses offered on weekdays after 5:00pm as well as flexible offerings (online) during summer sessions.

Application Information

Deadlines: January 1 & April 1

Applicants are encouraged to meet the January deadline. Applications received after January 1, but by April 1 will only be reviewed if space is available for the next academic year. Specific [application requirements](#) can be found on the website.



The University of Tennessee is an EEO/AA/Title VI/Title IX/Section 504/ADA/ADEA institution in the provision of its education and employment programs and services. All qualified applicants will receive equal consideration for employment without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, pregnancy, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, physical or mental disability, or covered veteran status. E01-1775-002-11.