

Bring learning to life

Learn to craft exceptional learning experiences with the online Master of Science in the Learning Sciences from Southern Methodist University.

Enroll in the interdisciplinary Master of Science in the Learning Sciences (MSLS) program at Southern Methodist University (SMU), designed for career-driven professionals eager to innovate within education and learning environments. This 30-credit online program integrates cognitive science, data science, instructional design, embodied cognition, technology-enhanced immersive learning, and research-based problem solving to equip you with skills that are relevant across industries. Pursue a specialization in Learning & Technology Design, Learning Analytics, or craft your own pathway from available specialization courses. Graduates emerge as leaders, adept at designing advanced learning systems and analyzing complex educational data across various contexts—from corporate training to classrooms, ensuring successful learning outcomes in a rapidly evolving digital landscape.

SMU's online MSLS offers:

- Flexible online delivery
- Foundational core curriculum emphasizing pedagogical and research skills
- Two options for specialization: Learning and Technology Design or Learning Analytics; or customize your path
- Optional on-campus immersion experience, with no required residency

Advance your career while you work:

- 30 credit hours
 - 15 credits of core curriculum
 - 15 credits of designated specialization or electives
- Complete in as few as 2 years
- Two starts annually: fall, spring

Admissions requirements:

- Bachelor's degree from an accredited institution in the United States or proof of equivalent training at a foreign university
- Minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.0
 - Applicants whose GPA falls below 3.0 must request an exemption to the GPA requirement by attaching a letter explaining why an exception should be made such as long-term experience, expertise in a related specialized field, or Graduate Record Examination (GRE) score
- No GRE is required for students who meet the minimum GPA
- Essay response to a writing prompt
- Two letters of recommendation
- Current resume

The Curriculum

CORE COURSES (15 CREDITS)

Introduction to the Learning Sciences (3 credit hours)
Theories and Trends in the Learning Sciences (3 credit hours)
Research Methodologies in the Learning Sciences (6 credit hours)
Applied Learning Sciences Capstone Project (3 credit hours)

LEARNING ANALYTICS SPECIALIZATION (15 CREDITS)

Introduction to Learning Analytics (3 credits hours)
Data Modeling and the Learning Sciences (3 credit hours)
Data, Education and Society (3 credit hours)
Advanced Methods in Learning Analytics (3 credit hours)
Elective Course, Student Choice from other specialization (3 credit hours)

LEARNING AND TECHNOLOGY DESIGN SPECIALIZATION (15 CREDITS)

Immersive Learning Design (3 credit hours)
Embodied Learning Design (3 credit hours)
Video Games and Virtual Environments for Learning (3 credit hours)
Understanding, Representing and Analyzing Human Experiences (3 credit hours)
Elective Course, Student Choice from other specialization (3 credit hours)

BUILD YOUR OWN PATH (15 CREDIT HOURS)

Choose 15 credit hours of courses from available specialization courses in Learning Analytics or Learning and Technology Design

Join education innovators paving the way forward at SMU

At SMU, you'll learn from and collaborate with leaders in the world of the learning sciences. The MSLS esteemed faculty are not only pioneers in their respective fields but also are deeply committed to educational excellence and student success. SMU'S rich heritage in top-tier education and powerful alumni network provides substantial leverage in the form of connections and credibility as you advance in your career.

Have questions about earning your degree online?

Reach out to an admissions outreach advisor at learningsciences@smu.edu to learn more.



Use the camera app on your phone to scan the QR code and learn more about the online MSLS.