**Frequently Asked Questions About the LPES Program**

**How long will it take for me to complete the program?**

Two years if you take the classes as offered in the listed sequence.

**Can I take classes outside of the program and will they count towards my degree?**

Yes, you make take other graduate classes from NDSU or another institution, but you will need to have them approved by your committee before they may be added to your Plan of Study.

**Do I have to do a thesis or final paper?**

No, but a thesis or a final paper are program options. However, due to this being an on-line distance program most students opt not to complete a thesis or final paper.

**If I don’t have to do a thesis or final paper what do I do for a culminating experience?**

You must prepare a professional portfolio that includes resume, reflection paper, and various artifacts that is presented to your committee. You will meet with your committee to present your portfolio as a final defense.

**Is the final defense held on campus or can I do it from a distance?**

Since this is a distance based program you can hold your final defense on campus or from a distance via Skype. This is your decision and your committee will accommodate your personal situation.

**Must I have completed all of my course work before I defend the final portfolio?**

You will defend you portfolio during your final semester of course work. Your defense can be held fall, spring, or summer semester.

**Are the classes on-line or on campus?**

All classes are offered on-line and some classes may have occasional periods where all class members need to be on-line simultaneously for an instructor presentation or group discussion.

**Can I enroll in LPES classes if I am classified as a non-degree student?**

No, LPES courses are restricted to LPES admitted and conditionally admitted students only.

**If I begin as a non-degree student and complete 9 graduate credits can I apply for admission into the LPES program?**

Yes you can; however, there is no guarantee that you will be accepted and the courses you have completed may not be accepted into the program.

**How competitive is the admission process for this program?**

The program is limited to approximately 20 students and screening begins April 1.

**Does this program prepare me for a career in sports management?**

This program is not a sports management master's program; however, elements of sports management are addressed in this program.  This program educates individuals who want to become head coaches, master physical education teachers, high school athletic directors or assistant athletic directors, athletic department head, or collegiate-level assistant coaches.

**Can I use the credits for this program for licensure renewal or pay scale increases?**

We encourage you to check with your licensing agency or school district prior to enrolling in these courses to ensure they will be accepted for licensure renewal or pay scale increases. It often depends on your license type and how flexible your school district is.