

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) about MESA Related Jobs

This FAQ list was created by Dr. Ev Smith and updated by Dr. Yue Yin in February 2015. Please contact Dr. Yue Yin at yueyin@uic.edu if you discover any discrepancies, receive any conflicting information, find any broken links, or have other questions/concerns, so that the document can better serve our students. Thank you!

(Note: The links included in this document cannot be clicked open directly. To use these links, please copy and paste the address in your web browser)

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MESA Job Related Information

Q: Where do MESA graduates work?

A: MESA graduates work anywhere that quantitative and qualitative knowledge and skills are needed. MESA-prepared students would be qualified for positions with research/consulting/evaluation firms, in assessment offices for school districts, in research offices that are housed in various types of institutions of higher education (e.g., community colleges, teaching universities, Research I universities), in licensure and certification organizations, and in large testing companies such as ACT, ETS, College Board, and Pearson Vue, etc.

Below is a list of organizations in which current and former MESA students work. Note that this list includes students who may have received their PhD in a non-MESA field but also received a MEd in MESA.

- AIR

- American Medical Technologists
- American Nurses Credentialing Center
- Arizona Department of Education
- Berlitz Deutschland GmbH - Language school, Stuttgart, Germany
- Carnegie Mellon
- Chicago State University
- Classified Ventures, LLC
- Colorado Mesa University
- Concordia University
- Dental Assisting National Board, Inc.
- DePaul University
- DeVry University
- eBay
- Elgin Community College
- Educational Consultants and Research Associate Group, Inc.
- Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern University
- Governors State University
- Harrison School District Two Colorado Springs
- Houston Methodist Hospital
- Illinois College
- Indiana University School of Medicine
- Institutional Research at Colorado Mesa University
- Kaplan University
- K12
- LIS Curriculum Research
- Loyola University Chicago
- Measurement Incorporated
- Northern Kentucky University
- Northwest Evaluation Association
- Montgomery County (MD) Public Schools
- National Academy of Education
- National Association of Boards of Pharmacy
- National Board of Certification and Recertification for Nurse Anesthetists
- Nova Scotia Department of Education
- Pacific Metrics
- Pearson Vue
- Peirce College
- Private consultant
- PSI Online
- Riverside | Houghton Mifflin Harcourt
- RMC Research
- Roudebush VA Medical Center
- Savannah College
- Siriraj Hospital

- St. Philip's College
- Stetson University
- The American Board of Family Medicine
- Urban Gateways - Center for Arts Education
- US Department of Education
- US Navy
- University of Chicago
- University of Illinois Foundation
- University of Illinois Office of Testing Services
- University of Illinois School of Continuing Studies
- University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
- Westat
- Wilkes University

Q: Where can I get internship and network opportunities locally?

A: There are several local “communities of practice” for the fields. For example,

- Assessment: Chicago Area Assessment Group (CAAG) - www.chicagoassessment.org
- Institutional Research: Illinois Association for Institutional Research (IAIR) - prpa.illinoisstate.edu/iair
- Evaluation: The Chicagoland Evaluation Association (CEA) - www.evalchicago.org

These are great opportunities for students to get involved in the fields and network. Students should not be afraid to approach these groups to inquire about membership. IAIR and CEA are also officially tied to national professional organizations--American Institutes for Research (AIR) and American Evaluation Association (AEA), respectively. Involvement with these organizations may also provide students who don't have time for internships, etc. an opportunity to begin engaging in these fields.

Q: Where can I find employment opportunities?

A: Below is a list of sites that you may find helpful. Also, consider subscribing to the listservs listed later in this FAQ. Many of these listservs post job opportunities on a regular basis.

Associations

Organization	Link
American Educational Research Association (AERA)	http://careers.aera.net/home/index.cfm?site_id=557
American Evaluation Association (AEA)	http://www.eval.org/p/cm/ld/fid=87
American Psychological Association (APA)	http://www.apa.org/careers/
American Statistical Association (ASA)	http://www.amstat.org/jobweb/
Association for Institutional Research (AIR)	https://www.airweb.org/Careers/Pages/Jobs.aspx
Association for Psychological Science (APS)	http://www.psychologicalscience.org/index.php/employment

Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD)	http://www.ascd.org
Association of Test Publishers	http://www.testpublishers.org/career-center
International Society for Bayesian Analysis	http://bayesian.org/forums/jobs
National Council on Measurement in Education (NCME)	http://ncme.org/resource-center/career-center/
Psychometric Society	https://www.psychometricsociety.org/careers

Testing Company

Organization	Link
ACT	http://www.act.org/aboutact/careers/index.html
College Board	https://www.collegeboard.org/about/careers
Educational Testing Service (ETS)	http://ets.pereless.com/careers/
Pearson	http://home.pearsonvue.com/About-Pearson-VUE/Careers/Job-opportunities.aspx

Major Media or Job Search Sites

Organization	Link
CareerBuilder or other more general and local job search engines	http://www.careerbuilder.com/ Note: Search with keywords like 'measurement', 'testing', 'evaluation', 'statistics', 'assessment', along with the field in which you wish to work.
Chronicle of Higher Education	https://chroniclevitae.com/job_search/new Note: It will occasionally include jobs requiring a Masters degree, although most of the postings there will require a PhD
Inside Higher Ed	https://www.insidehighered.com/
Versatile PhD	VersatilePhD.com Note: UIC has subscribed to this service

Others

Organization	Link
Career HQ	http://asi.careerhq.org/rates/?tab=1
DuPage Regional Office of Education	http://www.dupage.k12.il.us/educators/school/jobVacancies.shtml
Horizon Search	http://www.horizonsi.net/
Institute for Credentialing Excellence (ICE)	http://careers.credentialingexcellence.org/c/s

	earch_results.cfm?vnet=0&site_id=5858&str=26
Institute of Mathematical Statistics (IMS)	http://jobs.imstat.org/home/index.cfm?site_id=1847
Lake County Regional Office of Education	http://www.lake.k12.il.us/roe_sch_vac/
Math Education Job Search Resources	http://bfc.sfsu.edu/cgi-bin/hsu.pl?Math_Education_Job_Search_Resources
Top School Jobs	http://www.topschooljobs.org/

Q: May I hear about job prospects for MESA graduates from current and former MESA students?

A: Since 2011, we invited some colleagues and current/former MESA students who are in the workforce to hold a panel discussion for our MESA students. The panel talked about the types of jobs a person with a background in the MESA areas could qualify for and suggested the types of knowledge and skills that are important to master while in graduate school in order to make them competitive in the job market. Please see the online videos of the discussions.

- November 2011:
<https://uic.sharestream.net/ssdcms/i.do?u=5b5ed18df7d2452>
- November 2013:
Part I: <https://uic.sharestream.net/ssdcms/i.do?u=7cb9ebcfdd81433>
Part II: <https://uic.sharestream.net/ssdcms/i.do?u=09a09caf0bb2466>

Q: May I get some information regarding compensation for people obtaining a graduate degree in a MESA area?

A: Here is an article that provides related information: "A Snapshot of Industry and Academic Professional Activities, Compensation, and Engagement in Educational Measurement."
<http://tigger.uic.edu/~evsmith/MESA%20Documents/Salary%20by%20Job%20category.pdf>

Organizations and Listservs

Q: Can you recommend any professional organizations or listservs I can join?

A: There are many. Below are a few. Check them out to see which ones match your interests.
Organizations

Organization	Link
American Evaluation Association (AEA)	http://www.eval.org/MembershipApplication/registrationnon.asp
American Educational Research Association (AERA)	http://www.aera.net/Membership/tabid/10068/Default.aspx
American Psychological Association (APA)	http://www.apa.org/membership/student/index.aspx

American Statistical Association (ASA)	http://www.amstat.org/membership/index.cfm?fuseaction=printapp
Council on Licensure Enforcement & Regulation (CLEAR)	http://clear.wildapricot.org/
Institute of Mathematical Statistics (IMS)	http://imstat.org/membership/
National Council on Measurement in Education (NCME)	http://ncme.org/students/why-should-students-join-ncme/
Psychometric Society	https://www.psychometricsociety.org/content/membership

Listservs

Listserv	e-mail to	Text of Message
Rasch – Covers only Rasch models	mailserv@acer.edu.au	subscribe rasch
IRT – Item Response Theory, Mostly deals with non-Rasch topics dealing with latent trait models	listserv@listserv.vt.edu	subscribe IRT <FName> <Lname>
AERA-D – American Educational Research Association Division D, Covers measurement and statistics	listserv@listserv.aera.net	sub aera-d <FName> <Lname>
SPSS-X – Covers statistics with SPSS	listserv@listserv.uga.edu	subscribe spssx-L
SEMNET – covers structural equation modeling	listserv@bama.ua.edu	subscribe semnet <FName> <Lname>
MULTILEVEL – Covers hierarchical linear modeling	jiscmail@jiscmail.ac.uk	join multilevel <FName> <Lname>
DIV5 – APA Division 5, Covers measurement and statistics	listserv@lists.apa.org	subscribe div5 <FName> <Lname>
NCME – National Council on Measurement in Education	majordomo@ncme.org	subscribe ncme
NCME Graduate Student listserv	majordomo@ncme.org	subscribe grad
EVALTALK - Covers evaluation	listserv@bama.ua.edu	subscribe evaltalk <FName> <Lname>
ASSESS - Assessment	Visit http://lsv.uky.edu/archives/assess.html	
AIR-L – Institutional	listserv@listserv.vt.edu	subscribe air-L <FName>

Listserv	e-mail to	Text of Message
Researches/University Planners		<Lname>
GS-Forum – UIC Grad Student list	listserv@listserv.uic.edu	subscribe gs-forum

Q: What are some of the conferences that MESA students attend?

A: Our students (ERM, MEd, and PhD) come from a variety of fields. Below are some of the conferences that our current and former students have indicated that they attend:

Organization	Link
American Educational Research Association	http://www.aera.net/
American Evaluation Association	http://www.eval.org/
American Speech Language Hearing Association	http://www.asha.org/
American College of Surgeons	https://www.facs.org/
Council for Exceptional Children	http://www.cec.sped.org/
International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry	http://icqi.org/
International Meeting on Simulation in Healthcare	www.ssih.org/
LRP Legal Conference	http://www.lrpinstitute.com/
National Council of Teachers of Mathematics	http://www.nctm.org/
National Council on Measurement in Education	http://ncme.org/index.cfm
Research in Medical Education	https://www.aamc.org/
Sloan-C International Conference on Online Learning	http://onlinelearningconsortium.org/
National Association for Research in Science Teaching	https://www.narst.org/