

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN EDUCATION: CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION**Rationale**

The M.S.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction is a degree offered cooperatively by the Department of Early Childhood, Elementary, and Middle Level Education and the Department of Secondary Education and Foundations. The program takes advantage of the experience and expertise of faculty from two departments, and is designed for teachers who are currently in full-time teaching positions in public and private schools, in all grade levels (early childhood, elementary, middle level, and high school) and across all content areas. The program is aligned with the Illinois Professional Teaching Standards and is designed to advance the professional practice of teachers through foundational, disciplinary, and research and practice coursework. All courses are designed to promote the integration of theoretical knowledge with practical application in the classroom; course assignments, experiences, and assessments are designed to allow adequate choice and flexibility to accommodate the grade level and content area interests of all students. The program is offered in a 100% online format, with no requirement for on-campus courses. This feature promotes accessibility and affordability for full-time professionals, especially those who work and live some distance from a university campus. Each course is offered in an asynchronous, paced format to promote student accountability and success. Once fully implemented, this program will replace two current, separate graduate-level programs: the M.S.Ed. in Elementary Education (Department of Early Childhood, Elementary, and Middle Level Education), and the M.S.Ed. in Master Teacher (Department of Secondary Education and Foundations).

Design (36 semester hours)**Foundations (10 semester hours)**

All students will complete the same 10 semester hours in Foundations: EDF 5500 (Curriculum Development); EDF 5510 (Social Foundations for Educational Practice); EDF 5530 (Philosophy for Educational Practice); and EDF 5540 (History for Educational Practice).

Discipline Options (18 semester hours)

Each student will select from one of three program options, each of which is 18 semester hours: (a) General; (b) Reading Instruction; (c) English as a Second Language.

Research and Practice (8 semester hours)

Each student will complete EDU 5000 (Seminar: Professional Practice) and EDU 5200 (Introduction to Educational Research, and will complete either ELE 59003 (Applied/Action Research in Education) or ELE 59503 (Thesis).

Program Need

This program is designed to promote access and completion of a graduate education degree for full-time teachers who would benefit from completing a high-quality program without the need to travel to a campus for courses. As practicing educators, the students in this program face many demands in their careers and families, so the asynchronous, paced format of the program will allow each student to schedule his/her learning activities flexibly, but in a manner that promotes course completion, rigor, and academic accountability. The most recently available data from the Illinois State Board of Education revealed that approximately 53,000 practicing teachers in Illinois had not yet earned a graduate degree; of the 53,000 teachers, 30,000 were teaching in counties that did not have a public university presence.

The convenient format, combined with EIU's low tuition rate and high reputation for education programs, should prove attractive to a substantial number of students.

Potential Student Population

This program is designed for currently employed full-time teachers who wish to enhance their teaching with current best practices, discover new learning theories and apply these ideas within their current professional context. The degree is targeted for 100% online delivery to enhance accessibility for teachers throughout the state, especially to those whose professional setting makes it challenging to engage in attendance in a traditional campus setting. Students will be able to complete the course work in two years (six semesters). The goal is to enroll 40 new students in the first semester, to graduate in two years (6 semesters with 2 courses every term). Due to targeted population of full-time teachers, it is expected that 100% of the students would be enrolled in the program part-time (enrolled in fewer than 9 credits per semester)

Program Mission

The Graduate Program in Curriculum & Instruction advances scholarly preparation by providing opportunities for developing quality teaching and promoting excellence in research/creative activity for graduate students to exemplify best teaching practices for children from Pre-K through 12. The program is designed to meet the needs of practicing teachers who wish a planned program of study focusing on Curriculum & Instruction. Students will be challenged to link theory and practice as they develop the skills required for ethical and effective collaboration and communication within the local school community and a culturally diverse, technologically advanced global environment.

Admission Requirements

To be admitted to this program, an applicant must meet the general admission requirements for admission to the Graduate School. In addition, applicants should have a cumulative undergraduate GPA of 3.00 or higher for admission; however, applicants may seek authorization to register for graduate classes through provisional admission with a lower GPA. All applicants must submit a letter of application to address professional and educational goals related to the learning outcomes associated with the program, a current professional resume, a copy of an active teaching license, and at least one professional reference.

Degree Audit

The graduate plan of study is the EIU Degree Audit, which is generated automatically in the Degree Audit Reporting System (DARS) at the time of degree or certificate candidacy. Modifications of the standard EIU Degree Audit are submitted by the graduate coordinator to the certification officer in the Graduate School at the time modifications are approved. The Degree Audit serves as an unofficial summary of requirements for the program. Degree and certificate candidates are advised to review the comprehensive summary of the Degree Audit process specified on the "Requirements for All Degree and Certificate Candidates" section of the Graduate Catalog. Individual programs may require candidates to submit plans of study in addition to the Degree Audit, candidates should consult with the program coordinator

Degree Requirements

Degree requirements include those outlined for a Master of Science in Education degree by the Graduate School. To earn a Master of Science in Education degree, the student must:

- Successfully complete all Foundations, Research and Practice, and one Discipline option (36 semester hours) while maintaining a 3.00 GPA;
- Obtain approval for Thesis after completion of 4 courses
Or
- Obtain approval of Action Research project by close of semester prior to ELE 5900.

M.S.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction (36 semester hours)

Foundations (10)

EDF 5500 – Curriculum Development (3)

EDF 5510 – Social Foundations for Educational Practice (3)

EDF 5530 – Philosophy for Educational Practice Education (2)

EDF 5540 – History for Educational Practice (2)

Research and Practice (8)

EDU 5000 – Seminar: Professional Practice (2)

EDU 5200 – Introduction to Educational Research (3)

ELE 59003 – Applied/Action Research in Education (3) or ELE 59503 – Thesis (3)

Discipline Options (18) Select one option

General (18)

EDU 5680 – Educational Assessment (3)

EDU 5300 – Educational Technology (3)

EDU 5100 – Professional Learning Communities (3)

ELE 5520 – Supporting High Quality Instruction (3)

ELE 5270 – Content Area Literacy Instruction (3)

ELE 4890 – Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Students/ELL: Instructional Methods (3)

Reading Instruction (18)

ELE 5260 – Advanced Developmental Reading (3)

ELE 5600 – Diagnosis of Reading Problems (3)

ELE 5610 – Remediation of Reading Problems (3)

ELE 56201 – Remedial Reading Practicum (3)

ELE 5270 – Content Area Literacy Instruction (3)

One of:

ELE 4880 – Diagnostic-Prescriptive Reading Instruction (3)

ENG 4903 – Young Adult Literature (3)

ENG 4905 – Studies in Youth Literature (3)

ELE 5400 – Special Issues in Children’s Literature (3)

ELE 5990 – Independent Study in Children’s Literature (3)

English as a Second Language (18)

EDF/ELE 5310 – Foundations: ESL-Bilingual Education (3)

ENG 5091B – Studies in Language, Linguistics, and Literacy (3)
ELE 48551 – ESL Clinical Experience (1-3)
EDF 5320 – Cross-Cultural Education (3)
ELE 4890 – Cultural and Linguistically Diverse Students/English Language Learners (3)
EDP 5400 – Assessment of the Bilingual Student (3)
Choose One: (If Needed)
 CMN 5530 – Intercultural Communication (3)
 EDF 5550 – Comparative and International Education (3)
 ELE 5400B – Special Issues (3)

Approvals:

Early Childhood, Elementary, and Middle Level Education: March 31, 2017
Secondary Education and Foundations: March 31, 2017