

Master of Education in Secondary Education

Curriculum & Instruction Option

The *Master of Education in Secondary Education* degree program provides a range of opportunities for practicing teachers and other educators to develop their unique skills in order to increase teachers' impact on students. This degree has been developed to build a solid foundation of knowledge, skills, and understanding for *dedicated experienced professionals*. This program is founded on a deep respect for practicing educators and is committed to strengthening and renewing their teaching through a process of increasing knowledge and professional capacity, self-evaluation and reflection on their own practice. We seek to foster teachers who care deeply about students, create appropriate learning environments, and develop their own skills in order to nurture the greatest human potential in each learner. The graduate of this program will have a deep commitment to the professional education community, a focused association with the school community and a strong connection to educational research.

This program offers:

- Flexible scheduling for full or part time study
- Non-traditional study options organized around real school issues
- Opportunities to explore areas of interest within program guidelines
- Core courses investigating current, crucial issues of schooling
- Opportunities to demonstrate mastery of teaching skills
- Specialization areas

Learning to teach requires *ongoing authentic interactions* between the developing teacher and the sociopolitical community of students, academic content, and school context. The uniqueness of each element determines the personal, professional development pattern and process that stimulates continuous change in the teacher. Responding, initiating and reflecting in and about this learning context develops a teacher who can become a *leader* in the school community influencing not only students, but other leaders, teachers, and parents. A teacher's learning in the classroom needs to be complemented and deepened by engaging and exploring research and practice that emerge from all areas of the educational profession.

Program Goals

1. Enhance the depth of knowledge relating to the teaching and learning processes.
2. Further develop the tools of inquiry and knowledge of research methods necessary to improve their practice throughout their career.
3. Critically examine professional practice from the standpoint of effectiveness with all students.
4. Refine and develop capacity for critical thinking and investigation.
5. Construct dynamic processes and resources that promote the development of quality learning programs for all learners.
6. Develop interpersonal qualities that engage a wide range of learners and personally connect to individual students.
7. Examine and refine professional ethics so as to influence the community toward social justice and increased equity for all students.
8. Increase professional resilience and proficiency in teaching to become an accomplished teacher.

The Curriculum (Program) for the M.Ed. in Secondary Education, General Option

A. Core Requirements (12 credits)

The following core courses are required. The credit hours for each course are provided in parentheses. It is strongly recommended that they be taken in the following order and before other graduate courses:

Teacher Education (TCH ED) 6010: Examining History, Community, and Social Justice Education (3)

TCH ED 6030/Educational Psychology (ED PSY)*: Instruction, Learning & Assessment (3)

TCH ED 6020: Teacher Action, Advocacy & Leadership (3)

TCH ED/Educational Research Methods (ED REM) 6040: Teacher Research (3)

B. Curriculum & Instruction Concentration (12-18 credits)

Secondary Education (SEC ED) 6415: The Secondary School Curriculum (3)

SEC ED 6420: The Improvement of Secondary School Teaching (3)

SEC ED 6416: Curriculum Construction for Secondary Schools (3)

Electives

Students can elect hours in their teaching field or other areas of secondary education. The following are suggested:

Education Foundations (ED FND) 6421: Philosophy of Education (3)

ED FND 6422: Analysis of Educational Issues (3)

ED FND 6435: History of Western Education (3)

C. Mini-Specialization Option (6 credits if chosen)

You can follow up one of the core requirement courses with two additional courses in a specialization area, such as educational psychology, educational technology, early childhood education, etc. Obtain a handout on the options available. If you do not take a mini-specialization you should choose additional electives in "B" above.

D. Capstone Requirement (3 credits)

The M.Ed. degree is completed with a capstone project, a teacher action research project that is presented in a poster session at the conclusion of the semester. Students should begin planning their project in TCH ED 6040 and continue refining their plans in the Secondary Education Concentration courses. Students should enroll in:

TCH ED/ED REM 6910: Teacher Research Capstone (3)

Total Credit Hours Required: 33

Prospective Students:

For more information or an application, call the Graduate Education Office at 314-516-5483, come to 23 So. Campus Classroom Building on the UM-St. Louis South Campus, or e-mail gradeduc@umsl.edu. You can apply online (this is the fastest way to have your paperwork processed) from the University web site: www.umsl.edu. For a good choice of class times, apply and have transcripts sent by May 1st for the summer session, July 1st for the fall semester, and December 1st for the spring semester.

To contact faculty members who teach courses in this program, call the Teaching & Learning Division, 369 Marillac Hall, at 314-516-5791.