Master of Education in Elementary Education
Early Childhood Education Emphasis

The Master of Education in Elementary Education degree program provides a range of opportunities for practicing educators to develop their unique skills in order to increase their 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 and seek 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
- Access to world-class, full-time faculty experts

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. 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. Increase content and pedagogical knowledge about teaching/learning processes.
2. Develop professional dispositions and culturally and linguistically responsive strategies to engage all learners, recognizing inequalities in education opportunity.
3. Construct curriculum that demonstrates the knowledge and disposition to differentiate instruction.
4. Design instruction that integrates technology, and varied formative and summative assessment tools to inform practice.
5. Critically examine professional practice through systematic, reflective inquiry that can improve learning opportunities for all students.
6. Utilize character and citizenship education principles in decision-making and classroom management.
7. Cultivate leadership, student advocacy and community outreach knowledge and skills.
8. Renew commitment to ethical professional teaching and increase resilience through engaged dialogue with faculty and peer colleagues.
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Required Core Below (offered on line and on campus):

- **Tch Ed 6010**
  - Examining History, Community, & Social Justice In Education (3)

- **Tch Ed 6020**
  - Teacher Action, Advocacy & Leadership (3)

- **Ed Psy 6030**
  - Instruction, Learning & Assessment (3)

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### Early Childhood Education Concentration (12-18 hours)

**Four Courses Required (offered on line only):**

- ECH ED 6412 Foundations of Early Childhood Education
- ECH ED 6413 The Educational Role of Play (fulfills curriculum requirement for M.Ed.)
- ECH ED 6415 Organization and Development of Early Childhood Programs
- ED PSY 6215 Psychology of Early Childhood Development

**Choose** 6 hours of the following electives or a mini-specialization:

- ECH ED 6321 Parent & Community Resources in Early Childhood Education
- SPC ED 6492 Practicum in Special Education (3-6 hrs)
- SPC ED 6463 Curriculum, Methods, & Materials for Early Childhood Special Education
- ECH ED 6490 Internship (1-10)

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### Mini-Specialization Option (6 hours)

You can follow up one of the core courses on the left with two additional courses in a specialization area, such as educational psychology, educational technology, etc. Obtain a handout on the options available. These courses may or may not be on line.

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### Required Exit Sequence

- **Tch Ed 6909**
  - Teacher Action Research I (3) (replaces 6040 Fall 2011)

- **Tch Ed 6910**
  - Teacher Action Research Capstone (3)

To be taken (a) fall then spring, or (b) 6909 in spring or summer then 6910 in fall (6910 not offered summer)

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For more information, call the Graduate Education Office at 314-516-5483, come to 123 So. Campus Classroom Building on the UM-St. Louis South Campus, or e-mail gradeduc@umsl.edu. You can apply online by going to [www.umsl.edu/admission/](http://www.umsl.edu/admission/) then clicking under “Graduate Students.” To contact faculty about the courses in this curriculum, call the Teaching & Learning Division, 369 Marillac Hall, at 314-516-5791. 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 spring semester.