MASTER OF EDUCATION

Available online

Program Purpose

The purpose of the Master of Education degree program is to provide relevant educational opportunities for educators to develop as practitioners and educational leaders.

Program Description

The M.Ed. is structured into three focus areas for maximum depth, relevance, and flexibility:

1. Teaching and Learning (TL) – 30 hours
2. Instructional Leadership (IL) – 30 hours
3. Teacher Leadership (TLD) – 30 hours

The M.Ed. with a focus in Teaching and Learning (TL) provides opportunities for continuing professional development for the experienced classroom teacher in the areas of curriculum, instruction, and leadership. The TL focus is a non-licensure, fully online program that integrates iPad technology.

Financial Assistance

Financial aid information for graduate students is available on our website at www.uu.edu/financialaid/graduate/. Generally, graduate students may be eligible for Federal Direct student loans or private alternative student loans, depending on the program of study and the eligibility of the borrower. Union University is also approved by the Department for Veterans Affairs to offer educational benefits to veterans, reservists, and dependents of veterans who qualify for Veterans Benefits. Any person who qualifies for VA Benefits should check with the Office of Student Financial Planning as soon as possible after acceptance into a graduate program.

Course Descriptions: Education (EDU)

6001. Community Involvement to Improve Schools (2)
A course designed to explore methods of increasing public engagement. Community, school, student, and parental values are explored with a view toward shared accountability for school improvement. Issues related to diversity within the community, schools, and learners will be addressed.

601. Leadership, Organizations, and Change (3)
A critical examination of key theories, functions and practices involving leadership and organizations with specific emphasis on individual and organizational responses to change. In addition to traditional applications, students will analyze leadership styles and organizational case studies through multiple frameworks.

602. Technology-Rich Learning (2)
Focus of the course is the integration and utilization of current instructional technology with emphasis on student learning, including the integration of technology as a learning tool for elementary/secondary classrooms: mobile technology, Web-based teacher productivity tools, specific-use software, mobile apps, adaptive technology, presentation software, Internet, and future trends.

606. Accountability for Greater Student Learning (3)
This course views accountability as a joint effort between instructor and student. The following areas have been identified as essential factors in improving student performance: multiple methods of instruction, the use of formative evaluation, student perceptions, self-observation and critical reflection (teacher and student), and creative avenues for communicating content mastered.

608. Learning Theories into Practice (3)
This course will include an analysis of contemporary cognitive research and theories and the evaluation of how each applies to the elementary and secondary classrooms. Course topics include learning theories, brain research, constructivism, inquiry learning and educational psychology.

611. Differentiated Instruction (3)
This course views Differentiated Instruction as the development

647. Faith and Ethics in Education (3)
Study of world views and ethical thinking in the context of the school classroom. The place of faith and values in the public school arena is an issue of study.

648. Engaging Diversity in School Cultures (2)
An examination of the cultures and historical backgrounds of the major cultural (minority) groups in the United States, including but not limited to African American, Asian American, Hispanic, and Native American. Social and cultural issues will be investigated to enhance the educator's knowledge and understanding of the similarities and differences among the groups. The course will also address, in light of educational history, the concepts of immigration, racism, discrimination, and assimilation in the United States. The course challenges students to appropriately contextualize equality and decipher the corners of education where equity still doesn't exist. From both a holistic and a critical posture, students will explore ways that racial, ethnic, socioeconomic, and subcultural differences can be celebrated and engaged as a school's greatest asset.

652. Performance Exhibition (1)
Through this ongoing process and culminating event, students will compile evidence of their developing skills and knowledge, ultimately showcasing their overall growth as professional educators. Before a panel of university faculty and community leaders, students will present a concise synthesis of artifacts and video footage to demonstrate their mastery of core program standards and their significant growth as Scholars, Practitioners, and Relaters.

653. Leadership Issues I: Theories and Strategies (3)
A thorough introduction to the essential issues of educational leadership including strategic planning, the decision-making process, effective communication, managing conflict, systems perspectives and more. The course includes an overview of classic theories of leadership and how those theories have impacted schools and school systems today.

654. Legal and Financial Issues in School Governance (3)
This course focuses on areas of the law as it impacts school administrators including, but not limited to, sources of the law and the courts, students and educational personnel, desegregation and its effects, school finance issues and school district liability, federal law, and regulations involving special education.

659. Supervision (3)
This course provides an analysis of supervisory models and techniques, management techniques and group processes, staffing patterns and organizational structures to support teaching and learning.

661. Leadership Practicum Summer (1)
662. Leadership Practicum Fall (1)
663. Leadership Practicum Spring (1)
(divided into three 1-hour sections such as current Ed.S./ Ed.D. practicum)
Prerequisite: Approval from the Office of Graduate Studies in Education
The practicum for the Instructional Leadership concentration is a twelve-month, part-time mentored experience. It is the application in a workplace environment of the strategic, instructional, organizational, and contextual leadership program standards.

664. Organizational Decision-Making (3)
Theoretical approaches to understanding complex organizations are examined and applied to educational organizations, drawn from organizational theory, development, and behavior. Students develop effective solutions for interpersonal, structural, and organizational problems experienced in contemporary educational communities. Models of decision making, strategic planning for educational change, risk taking, the role of data, and the use of technology are studied.

672. Teacher Leadership (3)
This course examines practical perspectives of teacher leadership. Topics include the study of the Teacher Leader Model Standards, the Teacher Leadership Competencies, roles and responsibilities of teacher leaders, and working with principals and other administrators. Various strategies for selection and development of leaders are examined. Concepts include stewardship, servant leadership, transformational leadership, gender, and ethnicity.