TEACHING AND CURRICULUM

Graduate Program Head | Mark Kiselica
Program Code | TC
Campus(es) | Harrisburg (M.Ed.)
Degrees Conferred | Master of Education (M.Ed.)
The Graduate Faculty

The Master of Education in Teaching and Curriculum is designed to enhance the skills of teachers for public and private schools. The program focuses on three essential components — curriculum, instruction, and assessment — that contribute to the organization's philosophy of learning. The Teaching and Curriculum program is unified by its vision of critical thinking, democracy, diversity, lifelong learning, nurturance, and scholarship. Courses are designed to reflect the standards of the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) and the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS). The program is offered at Penn State Harrisburg and other selected Penn State campuses.

Specifically, the goals of the program are to develop in students:

1. the ability to communicate effectively either with school-age students and their parents or with co-workers and/or clients;
2. the ability to conduct an instructional program that provides a sound intellectual and emotional climate for learning;
3. competence in a variety of teaching methods and in the utilization of materials and content appropriate for an effective instructional program;
4. the ability to interpret and to evaluate educational literature and research; and
5. the ability to describe and to evaluate major issues and current trends in instructional curriculum practice and development.

Certification programs are also available in the areas of early childhood education, English as a second language, and principalship.

Admission Requirements

Applicants apply for admission to the program via the Graduate School application for admission (http://gradschool.psu.edu/prospective-students/how-to-apply). Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-300 Admissions Policies (http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies).

The M.Ed. Program in Teaching and Curriculum has four important admission requirements.

First, applicants must have achieved an overall junior/senior grade point average of 3.00 or higher. For applicants applying for admission who have completed credits beyond the baccalaureate degree, we will evaluate the last (approximately) 60 credits completed.

Second, applicants must submit two letters of recommendation. These letters must be from former professors or professionals who can attest to the academic ability and potential of the applicant.

Third, applicants must submit a 200-300 word personal statement that addresses their career goals and reasons for pursuing a graduate degree.

Fourth, applicants must submit test scores from one of the following: Graduate Record Examination, Miller Analogies Test, or Praxis examinations completed for certification.

The language of instruction at Penn State is English. English proficiency test scores (TOEFL/IELTS) may be required for international applicants. See GCAC-305 Admission Requirements for International Students (http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-300/gcac-305-admission-requirements-international-students) for more information.

Degree Requirements

Master of Education (M.Ed.)

Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-700 Professional Degree Policies (http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies).

Students must maintain a minimum 3.00 grade point average in courses approved by the program, satisfactorily complete all required key assessments, attain a grade “C” or better in all required core courses. Students who do not make satisfactory progress will be notified in writing noting the specific deficiencies and requesting that they meet with the program coordinator to develop a remediation plan. Failure to meet or to satisfactorily complete the remediation plan will result in termination from the program.

In compliance with the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) requirements, all persons enrolled in Teacher Education Programs at Penn State Harrisburg are expected to demonstrate the professional dispositions that are aligned with the unit’s vision statement. The faculty shall evaluate the approved dispositions demonstrated by the students in class and during field experiences. Students may be rated as exemplary, acceptable, or unacceptable. Students are expected to attain acceptable or exemplary ratings in order to graduate.

The Master of Education degree in Teaching and Curriculum provides students with two alternatives to meet the required culminating or capstone experience:

1. course work with a master’s project (EDUC 587)
2. course work that includes a capstone course (EDUC 591).

Students may complete the degree requirements for either of the two alternatives with the approval of their adviser.

A total of 30 credits must be completed: 18 credits in core courses and 12 credits in electives. At least 18 credits must be at the 500 or 800 level. A minimum grade-point average of 3.00 for work done at the University and acceptable or higher ratings on the professional dispositions are required for graduation.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EDUC 520</td>
<td>Learning Theory for the Classroom</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUC 506</td>
<td>Curriculum Development and Instructional Design (early childhood only)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or EDUC 403</td>
<td>Curriculum for Early Childhood</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUC 539</td>
<td>Educational Assessment (early childhood only)</td>
<td>3</td>
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or EDUC 404  Young Children's Behavior: Observation and Evaluation
EDUC 505  Curriculum Foundations 3
EDUC 586  Educational Research Designs 3

Electives
Students are required to take up to 12-15 credits of elective course 12-15 work. Students may take all of those credits in education or, with the approval of their adviser, select up to 9 credits of electives in a field other than education.

Culminating Experience
Select one of the following two alternatives for the culminating experience:

- Master’s Project (EDUC 587)
- Capstone Course (EDUC 591)

Total Credits 30

Credits earned at other institutions but not used to earn a degree and credits earned as a non-degree student prior to admission to the graduate program may be applied toward the requirements for a graduate degree, subject to restrictions outlined in GCAC-309 Transfer Credit (http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-300/transfer-credit).

Language Arts Option
The goal of the language arts option is to provide students an in depth understanding of:

• how research in theory in the language arts are related to language acquisition and growth;
• the knowledge and skills necessary for conducting informal assessments in the language arts and required to implement a variety of instructional procedures for the language arts;
• and an awareness of the role that literature can have in an effective language arts program at any level.

Mathematics Education Option
The objective of the mathematics education option is to provide courses that will emphasize current research and curriculum shifts related to the teaching of mathematics in K - 12 classrooms. This option requires completion of four EDMTH courses (a total of 12 credits) in addition to the other program requirements:

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<tr>
<td>EDMTH 441</td>
<td>Geometry and Measurement Across the K-12 Curriculum</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDMTH 442</td>
<td>Algebra and Functions Across the K-12 Curriculum</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDMTH 443</td>
<td>Data Analysis and Probability Across the K-12 Curriculum</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDMTH 444</td>
<td>Numbers and Operations Across the Curriculum</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Credits</td>
<td></td>
<td>12</td>
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Student Aid
Graduate assistantships available to students in this program and other forms of student aid are described in the Tuition & Funding (http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-funding) section of The Graduate School's website. Students on graduate assistantships must adhere to the course load limits (http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gsad/gsad-900/gsad-901-graduate-assistants) set by The Graduate School.

Courses
Graduate courses carry numbers from 500 to 699 and 800 to 899. Advanced undergraduate courses numbered between 400 and 499 may be used to meet some graduate degree requirements when taken by graduate students. Courses below the 400 level may not. A graduate student may register for or audit these courses in order to make up deficiencies or to fill in gaps in previous education but not to meet requirements for an advanced degree.

Education (EDUC) Course List (https://bulletins.psu.edu/university-course-descriptions/graduate/educ)

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Program Website