



UNIVERSITY OF
ARKANSAS

College of Education
& Health Professions
Curriculum & Instruction

M.Ed. in Curriculum & Instruction

Policies and Procedures – Revised 08/2020

Graduate programs in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction focus on advanced preparation of practitioners who may serve in a variety of roles in K-12 schools, higher education, business, industry and clinical settings. Some degrees and certificate programs provide initial and/or additional licensure for teaching and educational leadership in K-12 schools. This Handbook formally specifies the requirements and procedures governing the M.Ed. program in the department of Curriculum and Instruction (CIED) The Handbook supplements the regulations contained in the [Graduate School Catalog](#) and the [Graduate School Handbook](#). All graduate students should read both documents. The final responsibility for the satisfactory completion of graduate degree requirements rests with the student.

General Information – M.Ed. in Curriculum & Instruction

The Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction program is best suited for those who are seeking enhanced and advanced knowledge of the teaching and learning process. M.Ed. students are typically practitioners with teaching credentials or educators in environments where such credentials are not required. Students who complete the Master of Education program take coursework related to curriculum, instruction, social contexts of education, as well as a core group of courses in their specified area of interest.

The M.Ed. degree program is designed to provide advanced professional studies in graduate course work for persons who currently hold teaching credentials (such as those found in formal PK-12 settings) or for those with experience as educators in environments where such credentials are not required (i.e. instruction in the community college, informal educational environments such as zoos, nature centers and museums and/or private educational organizations).

The M.Ed. enables those who complete it to:

- Engage in a range of professional development opportunities providing both a general core along with a focused experience in a variety of areas
- Gain enhanced ability and practice skills and expand content knowledge both as a teacher and educational leader
- Acquire a broad and deep knowledge of and insights into curriculum models, education programs, educational standards, human growth and development and learning theories
- Earn additional licensure or endorsement (where appropriate) in fields such as Gifted and Talented Education, Middle Level and/or Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages
- Engage the teaching profession at a deeper level than possible within the initial credential program by exploring its history, nature and professional network

- Learn about, critique and demonstrate the ability to integrate research and practice
- Demonstrate leadership in the application of research and inquiry skills to analyze and evaluate trends, problems and practices
- Expand knowledge of the diversity of learners and plan instructional experience responsive to the intellectual, psychological, social and physical needs of individual learners
- Develop advanced skills that integrate the use of modern technologies in instruction

Admission Criteria

Students must apply for and gain entrance to the [University of Arkansas Graduate School](#) before being considered for admission to the Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction.

The M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction will use a variety of inputs to determine the qualifications of applicants including; (1) prior undergraduate and graduate work, (2) curriculum vita that includes related experiences, (3) writing sample from prior educational or work setting, (4) statement of purpose that addresses the fit between the applicant's educational needs and the program's learning outcomes; and (5) two letters of recommendation that address the applicant's potential for graduate study. The GRE exam will be required for applicants with an undergraduate G.P.A. below 3.0 unless applicant has already successfully completed a graduate degree.

Admission is based on the profile of applicant educational background and career objectives. Prospective students are not required to possess a teaching certificate/license for acceptance.

Departmental Application

In addition to the materials required for the Graduate School application, all applicants for the M.Ed. program in CIED will need to upload each of the following to their application:

1. **RESUME or CV:** Please provide a current resume including details of you as a professional and a scholar.
2. **WRITING SAMPLE:** Upload an original writing sample (fewer than 20 pages, please) that illustrates your ability to communicate in a clear and creative fashion. This might be a paper that you have written for a recent class, a position paper, an action plan that you may have written for your employer or a published work. The purpose of this is to give us an idea of your communication skills and who you are as a communicator. Keep in mind that quality, not quantity, is the key. Please respect the length requirement; you may need to edit something you have already written.
3. **STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:** Tell us about yourself by providing a brief personal narrative account linked to a statement of purpose regarding your future career plans. In other words, tell us why you want to earn an M.Ed. with a focus in curriculum and instruction. Do you want to advance in your present position, or do you want a career as a professor in a higher education environment? What impact would you like to make personally and professionally? What is your area of interest? For instance, are you interested in literacy education, TESOL, science, mathematics, history, technology or elementary education (to name some possibilities)? The best strategy is to find a specialty that will permit you to grow as a professional and graduate from the University of Arkansas with specific expertise.

Transfer of Credits

M.Ed. students can transfer up to 6 credits of eligible graduate work based on Graduate School Policy. Students may petition for transfer of credit using the [Request for Transfer of Credit](#) form.

Required Courses (33 hours)

Students pursuing and Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction must complete a minimum of 33 credit hours, including 24 hours of core coursework in Research Tools, Curriculum & Instruction, and Psycho-Sociological Foundations. Each student also consults with their faculty advisor to complete 9 credits (minimum) in an Area of Interest within Curriculum and Instruction. Students should also be aware of Graduate School requirements with regard to master's degrees.

Research Tools & Foundations (9 hours)

- CIED 5273 Research in Curriculum and Instruction
- ESRM 5393 Statistics in Education and Health Professions
- CIED 5313 Qualitative Research in Curriculum & Instruction

Curriculum & Instruction Foundations (9 hours)

- CIED 5423 Curriculum and Instruction: Models and Implementation
- CIED 6133 Issues and Trends in Curriculum & Instruction
- CIED 5983 Practicum in Curriculum & Instruction

Psycho-Sociological Foundations (6 hours)

- EDFD 5373 Psychological Foundations of Teaching and Learning
- CIED 6603 Research in Justice-Oriented & Multicultural Education

Interest Area (9 Credits)

Select a minimum of 9 credit hours of coursework as approved by the advisory committee.

- Elementary Education
- English Education
- Gifted Education*
- STEM Education
- Science Education
- Social Studies Education
- TESOL**

**Note: Individuals with a valid teaching certificate may take 9 additional credits in Gifted Education to earn an endorsement in Gifted and Talented Education. Please see advisor regarding this option.*

***Note: Individuals with a valid teaching certificate may take 3 additional credits in TESOL to earn an endorsement in English as a Second Language (ESL). Please see advisor regarding this option.*

Research Requirement for the M.Ed. Degree

Students are not required to complete a formal master's thesis but will design and carry out an action research project in CIED 5983 Practicum in Curriculum & Instruction. Students defend their project as the comprehensive exam for the degree. This project is assessed by the students advisory committee, which includes the student's primary advisor and two other graduate faculty members. For students who have the experience and desire necessary to complete a formal thesis, this option exists. In such cases, students propose, write, and defend a thesis project. The successful defense of the thesis will represent the comprehensive exam for the M.Ed. degree. Students who choose the thesis option are not required to complete CIED 5273 or CIED 5983 but must take six hours of master's thesis credit (CIED 600V) in place of these two courses.

Course Sequences

Odd Year Entry

<i>Fall Odd</i>	EDFD 5373 Psychological Foundations of Teaching and Learning Area of Interest Course (Consult Advisor)
<i>Spring Even</i>	CIED 5423 Curriculum and Instruction: Models and Implementation CIED 6603 Research in Justice-Oriented & Multicultural Education
<i>Summer Even</i>	ESRM 5013 Research Methods in Education Area of Interest Course (Consult Advisor)
<i>Fall Even</i>	CIED 5273 Research in Curriculum and Instruction CIED 6133 Issues and Trends in Curriculum & Instruction
<i>Spring Odd</i>	CIED 5313 Qualitative Research in Curriculum & Instruction Area of Interest Course (Consult Advisor)
<i>Summer Odd</i>	CIED 5983 Practicum in Curriculum & Instruction

Even Year Entry

<i>Fall Even</i>	CIED 6133 Issues and Trends in Curriculum & Instruction Area of Interest Course (Consult Advisor)
<i>Spring Odd</i>	CIED 5423 Curriculum and Instruction: Models and Implementation Area of Interest Course (Consult Advisor)
<i>Summer Odd</i>	ESRM 5013 Research Methods in Education Area of Interest Course (Consult Advisor)
<i>Fall Odd</i>	EDFD 5373 Psychological Foundations of Teaching and Learning CIED 5273 Research in Curriculum and Instruction
<i>Spring Even</i>	CIED 6603 Research in Justice-Oriented & Multicultural Education CIED 5313 Qualitative Research in Curriculum & Instruction
<i>Summer Even</i>	CIED 5983 Practicum in Curriculum & Instruction

Advisory Committees

Prior to the completion of *twelve (12) semester credit hours*, the student, in consultation with their advisor, shall select an Advisory Committee and submit the [M.Ed. Committee Form](#). The Advisory Committee will approve the Program of Study and conduct the final examination (M.Ed. Project Presentation).

Academic Grievance Procedures

The Graduate School of the University of Arkansas recognizes that there may be occasions when a graduate student, as a result of dissatisfaction with some aspect of his or her academic involvement, has a grievance. It is a declared objective of this University that such a graduate student may have prompt and formal resolution of his or her personal academic grievances and that this be accomplished according to orderly procedures. These procedures are provided in the [Graduate School Catalog](#).

M.Ed. Final Examination (Project Presentation)

The student's final examination for the M.Ed. degree will be an oral defense during which the student presents their work from CIED 5983. and responds to questions from faculty members.

- Students are *not* allowed to bring snacks, gifts, etc. to defense
- Students can defend via electronic means if approved by committee director and after providing the Graduate School a written statement (email) that he/she is defending remotely

After successful completion of the final examination, students and their faculty advisor need to send a completed Program of Study and [M.Ed. Record of Progress](#) form to the CIED Graduate Coordinator for an official degree audit and degree clearance.

Time to Complete Degree

All requirements for the M.Ed. degree must be completed within six (6) consecutive calendar years from the date of admission to the program.

Time Extension Policy

The Graduate School [provides a process](#) for students who have coursework that is out of date and/or require an extension to complete their program:

1. The student's advisor completes the [Request for Time Extension](#) form and submits it to the Graduate School.
2. The central consideration in determining whether more time can be allowed is whether the student's knowledge of the subject matter is current at the time of graduation. Therefore, as part of the request for time extension, the major advisor will be asked to explain how this will be ensured:
 - a. For the master's degree, the student's knowledge of any course work over six years old at the time of graduation must be recertified. Please see "Recertification of Student's Knowledge of Course Content," below.
 - b. For the doctoral degree, recertification of the student's knowledge of course work is not necessary, but the major advisor must explain how the currency of the student's knowledge of the field will be assessed prior to graduation.

Recertification of Student's Knowledge of Course Content: The major advisor must specify how recertification of the student's knowledge of course content will occur. By recertification, we mean that the student's knowledge of the subject matter included in the course is determined to be current at the time of graduation. There are several ways this may be demonstrated. Examples include: The student is teaching the subject matter in a separate context; the student will be examined by the current instructor of the course to determine his/her currency of knowledge; the student will be examined on the subject matter during his/her final oral defense of the thesis or during the comprehensive exam. It is not acceptable to say that the content of the course has not changed in the time since the student was enrolled, as it is the student's knowledge that is most critical. The course content does not speak to this issue.