



It has been widely understood that if the United States of America expects greater returns on its investments in education, we are going to need to put highly qualified, innovative minds in teaching and administrative positions. A Master of Arts in Education is a prerequisite for many education positions and is recognized by school districts as a valuable credential. A master's degree in education gives educators the knowledge and skills to inspire and encourage a love of learning and the techniques to handle diverse classrooms and learning styles. Master's degree programs in education prepare educators to utilize high-level teaching methodologies and provide the tools to make work in the field of education more effective and efficient.

## At Ottawa University

This program provides the skills and knowledge necessary to:

- ▶ Enhance teaching and services to students.
- ▶ Provide students with an engaging learning environment.
- ▶ Prepare and plan for change in the schools.
- ▶ Assist schools and the community to improve education for all students.
- ▶ Assess outcomes of school curricula, programs, services, and activities.
- ▶ Assume leadership roles in education.
- ▶ Engage in continued professional growth.

Concentrations are available in the following areas: curriculum and instruction, early childhood education, gifted education, education intervention, educational leadership, education technology, school guidance counseling, school psychology, and special education.

## Education and Qualifications

The traditional route to becoming a public school teacher involves completing a bachelor's degree from a teacher education program and then obtaining a certificate/license in a specific state. Those who have a college degree in other fields may meet state guidelines by completing a teacher certification/licensure program. For supervisory or other advanced education positions, a master's degree may be required.

# Graduate Master of Arts in Education

## Foundation Courses

The following represent foundation courses from all available concentrations. Each concentration requires its own unique set of program requirements in addition to the foundation courses.

### EDF 7003 EC Positive Classroom Environments

Course explores the components of positive classroom environments which address the five basic needs of children based on the Pyramid Model. Also included is a focus on health, safety, Child, family, cultural, and community relationships are also investigated. Practicum/field experience of 10 hours.

### EDF 7013 EC Special Education Strategies

Course designed to describe the characteristics and learning styles of students with various exceptional learning needs. Provides candidates with a knowledge base for the foundation of special education, including the basic procedural flow of referral, identification, instruction, and strategies for modifying the learning environment and individualizing instruction for young children Birth-PreK and K-3.

### EDF 7023 Language Development and Disorders

Course introduces the candidate to the nature and structure of language, current theories of language, normal first and second language development, language disorders, multicultural issues in language assessment, and contemporary classroom management of language deficits. Topics are examined from an educational perspective to enhance the teacher's knowledge of language and to facilitate classroom management of language deficits exhibited by exceptional children in grades PreK-12.

### EDF 7033 Special Education Service Coordination

Course focuses on the practices and problems associated with the development, monitoring, and organization of multiple school-based special education services. Course addresses how to link evaluation results to writing the Multidisciplinary report and the IEP, as well as exploring the differences in using the Individual Family Service Plan for early childhood settings.

### EDF 7043 Exceptional Children from Diverse Communities

Focus of course is to explore the impact of cultural and linguistic diversity in communication, learning and behavior. Other topics include differentiating instruction and lesson planning based on individual needs, with a focus on adaptation, accommodation and modification.

### EDF 7063 EC Assessment, Screening, Monitoring, and Evaluation

Focus on the setting up of the classroom environment in alignment with the Infant/Toddler Environmental Rating Scale-Revised (ITERS), the Early Childhood Rating Scale-Revised (EKCERS), and the School-Age Environmental Rating Scale (SACERS).

### EDF 7103 Philosophy, Accountability and Change

Contemporary and traditional philosophies of education related to diversity, school outcomes and change. Develop and assess learning programs designed to integrate a philosophy of change with beliefs about learners, teachers, schools, and communities.

### EDF 7163 Research: Assessment and Evaluation

Develop conceptual and analytical skills and knowledge to assess organizational needs and program effectiveness through the use of research methodologies.

### EDF 7203 Diverse Community of Learners

In-depth study of variability among students in schools and other educational settings from preschool to adult learning. Special focus on the identification of and programming for at-risk students.

### EDF 7303 Leadership and Management of Change

Examines the role of the leader in assessing and responding to change and techniques of change management, including consultation, site-based councils and conflict resolution. Topics also include organization, facilitation and communication for change.

### EDF 7403 School Counseling in a Changing Environment

Examination of the role of the counselor in elementary, secondary and community college settings, including counselor, advisor, educator, advocate, and consultant. Study of exemplary models of school counseling programs effective with diverse and changing populations. (Cross listed with PYC 8022)

### EDF 7703 Data-Driven Leadership Practices

Course examines how school leaders can create an atmosphere for improved student achievement based on data-driven systems. Topics include increased external accountability and data demands, as well as the ability to accurately interpret the data and implement positive learning opportunities based on the analysis of said data.

### EDF 7753 Human Relations for Leaders in Diverse Communities

Course examines skills and knowledge needed for a school leader to effectively work with others in the problem-solving process within diverse populations. Analysis and development of effective lines of communication and partnerships with decision makers outside the school community are also explored.

### EDF 8503 Master's Research Project

Prepare major culminating scholarly project directly relevant to the program of study. Approved project proposal required.

### EDC 7102 Professional and Historic Issues in School Psychology

An introduction to the field of school psychology, including its history, the roles and functions of school psychologists, professional issues, and ethics and law for school psychologists.

### EDC 7133 Counseling and the Helping Professions

Examines the counseling process, instruction and practice in communication skills in counseling, history, development, and practice of counseling as a profession, and how and where counseling is provided. (Cross listed with PYF 7132).

### EDC 7202 Social and Cultural Basis of Assessment

This course will examine issues in the assessment of bilingual students, including the appropriate use of standardized measures, non-discriminatory assessments, alternative approaches to the assessment of cognitive functioning, and social adaptive behavior of linguistically diverse students. Student will administer tests, make case presentations and write reports.

### EDC 7303 Theories of Trauma, Grief, and Loss

Examination of the dynamics of grief, loss, and trauma and the role of the counselor in elementary, secondary, and community college settings in supporting students who have experienced loss or trauma.

## Concentrations

- ▶ Curriculum and Instruction
- ▶ Early Childhood/Special Education
- ▶ Education Intervention
- ▶ Educational Leadership
- ▶ Education Technology
- ▶ Gifted Education
- ▶ School Guidance Counseling
- ▶ School Psychology
- ▶ Special Education

\*Not all concentrations available in all modalities and/or locations.