

Graduate Master of Arts in Education-Gifted Education



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.

The Master of Arts in Education with a concentration in gifted education is designed for teachers interested in becoming educators and advocates for gifted education instruction. This program is designed to meet the Kansas gifted education standards and aligned to the NAGC-CEC (Council for Exceptional Children) and the Association for the Gifted (CEC-TAG) as required for Kansas licensure.

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.



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Foundation Courses

The following represent foundation courses for the Gifted Education concentration.

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 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. Topics include analysis and implementation of effective consensus-building as well as the exploration of one's own assumptions, beliefs, and practices. 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.

Concentration Courses

The following represent concentration courses that are required.

EDC 7105 Introduction and Characteristics of Gifted Learners

Course prepares the teacher with an understanding of gifted students' diverse learning needs and characteristics that support their cognitive, physical, social, emotional, and career development needs. Also explored is the development and understanding of the philosophical, historical, and legal foundations of the interrelatedness of education and gifted education.

EDC 7115 Gifted Instructional Methods and Strategies

Course prepares the teacher of students who need gifted curriculum and learning opportunities to plan and implement effective instructional methods and strategies to meet the needs of diverse gifted learners.

EDC 7153 Education Law

Examination of federal and state statutes, agencies, and court decisions in education; including administrative and teacher rights, responsibilities, relationships, and liabilities.

EDC 8103 Field Experience I: Gifted Education

Specialized work on an individual basis, consisting of knowledge and skills in practice where standards for the profession are applied. Experience must include teaching students in gifted services. Forty-five hours of supervised practicum required. Individually designed course offering opportunity to integrate course knowledge with practical experience in an educational setting. Approved written proposal required. Prerequisites: EDC 7105 Intro to Characteristics of Gifted Learners and EDC 7115 Gifted Instructional Strategies and Methods.

EDC 8203 Field Experience II: Gifted Education

Specialized work on an individual basis, consisting of knowledge and skills in practice where standards for the profession are applied. Experience must include teaching students in gifted services. Forty-five hours of supervised practicum required. Individually designed course offering opportunity to integrate course knowledge with practical experience in an educational setting. Approved written proposal required. Prerequisites: EDC 8103 Field Experience I: Gifted Education.

Elective Courses

Six credits of electives are required. Courses must be in gifted education coursework, instructional design/strategies, or differentiated instruction coursework. Advisor approval needed.