Master of Science in Education in Curriculum and Instruction

Programs in Curriculum and Instruction prepare students to complete advanced degrees by addressing critical issues in learning, teaching, and curriculum, from local to global levels.

The Master of Science in Education candidate completes graduate courses in Curriculum and Instruction. This provides the candidates an opportunity to:

- Develop a thorough understanding of the relationship of content and content-specific pedagogy
- Demonstrate an in-depth understanding of the content that they plan to teach and provide multiple explanations and instructional strategies so that all students learn
- Apply the ability to critique research and theories related to pedagogy and learning
- Convey an in-depth knowledge of research-based instructional strategies and technologies that help all students learn based on their own applied research in the classroom.

There are three options for completing the Master of Science in Education degree: thesis, project and examination. The thesis and project options each require a minimum of 30 graduate credit hours culminating in successful defense of a thesis or project. The examination option with a minimum of 36 graduate credit hours culminating in successful completion of a comprehensive examination.

Students who select the thesis or project options must complete at least 20 of the credit hours in regular course work, as contrasted with independent study and similar enrollments. Students who select the examination option must complete at least 26 credit hours in regular course work, as contrasted with independent study and similar enrollments.

Graduate Admission to the School of Education

Graduate programs in education are open to students with acceptable baccalaureate and graduate degrees, as specified by the admitting departments, whose academic records indicate that they can do successful work at the graduate level. Regular admission requires a grade-point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale. Departments that offer provisional admission require a grade-point average of at least 2.5. Individual departments may require additional information and may have more stringent admission and retention requirements.

Some departments may offer special provisional admission categories to students who may not qualify under traditional admission criteria. Applicants must provide evidence of ability to work successfully at the graduate level, including experience in and commitment to the profession.

Exceptions to established policies must be sought individually by petition to the Graduate Division of the School of Education.

See Admission in the Graduate Studies (http://catalog.ku.edu/graduate-studies) section of the online catalog for more information.

Each department in the School of Education sets its own application deadlines. Prospective graduate students should contact their departments for application deadlines.

Graduate Admission to the Department of Curriculum and Teaching

In addition to general requirements for admission to graduate study in the School of Education, master’s degree programs in Curriculum and Instruction require completion of an appropriate undergraduate program and, in some instances, a teaching license. Materials describing all Curriculum and Instruction programs may be obtained from the department (http://ct.soe.ku.edu).

Deadlines for the master’s application (domestic) are March 15 for summer or fall admission, July 1 for fall admission, and October 1 for spring admission.

Deadlines for the master’s application (international) are March 15 for summer or fall admission and October 1 for spring admission.

Admission to the Master of Science in Education in Curriculum and Instruction Program (Domestic Applicants)

The following materials must be submitted:

- A completed graduate application (http://www.graduate.ku.edu).
- 1 official transcript of all college records with at least a 3.0 grade-point average on a 4.0 scale.
- 3 letters of recommendation.
- A statement of career goals.
- A vita or résumé.

Admission to the Master of Science in Education in Curriculum and Instruction Program (International Applicants)

The following materials must be submitted:

- A completed International Student online graduate application (http://www.graduate.ku.edu).
- 2 official transcripts of all undergraduate credit including degree conferral (1 in the original language and 1 in English translation) with at least a 3.0 grade-point average on a 4.0 scale.
- 3 letters of recommendation.
- A statement of career goals.
- A vita or résumé.
- A statement of account balance from the applicant's sponsor's bank. This statement must be on bank stationery. There must also be a letter of support from his/her sponsor if the bank statement is not in the applicant’s name.
- For students whose first language is not English, official scores on the TOEFL of a minimum 92 total (IBT) with subscale scores of at least 23 in all areas. The IELTS official score is also accepted, with an overall score of at least 7.0, and no section score lower than 7.0.
The TOEFL or IELTS scores must be achieved not more than two years prior to the semester of first enrollment. TOEFL/IELTS scores may not be required if applicant meets the verification of English proficiency requirements as specified below:

Graduation with a baccalaureate degree (or higher) earned in residence from an accredited English-medium U.S. college or university, or a college or university in the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, Ireland, English-speaking province of Canada, or an English-speaking Caribbean country, with instruction conducted in English. Degrees earned online may not be used to verify English proficiency.

Please note: Meeting minimum admission standards does not guarantee admission to the program.

Once the graduate application has been submitted online, send any application materials that cannot be uploaded with the online application to the department:

The University of Kansas
Department of Curriculum and Teaching
Joseph R. Pearson Hall
1122 W. Campus Road, Room 321
Lawrence, KS 66045-3101

Contact us: ctdepartment@ku.edu

Master of Science in Education in Curriculum and Instruction

The Master of Science in Education (M.S.Ed.) in Curriculum and Instruction is available for individuals who hold the bachelor’s degree and seek to advance their knowledge and skills in their professional areas or areas of interest. There are three options for completing the M.S.Ed. degree: thesis, project and examination. The thesis and project options each require a minimum of 30 graduate credit hours culminating in successful defense of a thesis or project. The examination option requires a minimum of 36 graduate credit hours culminating in successful completion of a comprehensive examination.


The Curriculum and Instruction M.S.Ed. degree program is designed to produce graduates who possess expertise in contemporary theories, procedures and research in curriculum and instruction, as well as in educational foundations of curriculum and instruction. A student admitted to the M.S.Ed. degree program will work closely with her/his advisor to tailor a program plan using either the 30-hour Program Plan or the 36-hour Program Plan.