

Master of Arts in Education

Administrative Unit

This degree is administered by the Office of Graduate Studies and Sponsored Research through the faculty of the School of Education, through the Department of Curriculum and Instruction and the Department of Leadership, Counseling, and Foundations. The faculty prepares candidates to earn a Masters of Arts degree in conjunction with or separate from coursework for advanced educator certifications.

Admission Requirement

The Master of Arts (MA) in Education can be earned in the following areas:

Bilingual/English as a Second Language
Counseling
Educational Leadership
Professional Education
Reading
Special Education

Students earning an MA in Education must complete a minimum of 36 semester credit hours following the course of study prescribed in one of the options listed above. Specific course requirements for each of the MA options are available in the School of Education office or from the area coordinator for that option. However, included in each course study are:

- at least 6 semester credit hours of School of Education “Core” Courses: EDUC 6301, 6302, 6303, 6304, 6305
- at least 18 semester credit hours of coursework in the area chosen
- a culminating experience which may consist of 3-6 semester credit hours earned through a practicum (6392), seminar (6395), research in education project (6397), master’s study (6398), or thesis (6399).

Students electing the seminar (6395) will complete, in conjunction with the faculty of his/her program, an experience that focuses on the specific competencies, integrated perspectives, and/or contemporary issues appropriate to his/her field. Students whose degree plan includes a culminating experience consisting of EDUC 6397, 6398, or 6399 will investigate, under the director of a master’s committee, a problem involving an educational issue of special interest to the student. The format for reporting the research will follow the guidelines of the UT Permian Basin Graduate Council manual, *Instructions for Preparation of Master’s Thesis and Research Project Reports*. Format issues not specific in this manual will conform to the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (most current edition). An oral defense before the student’s master’s committee may also be required.

Advanced Certifications

Advanced educator certifications can be earned in conjunction with or separate from coursework for a master’s degree. Advanced certifications offered through the School of Education are:

School Counseling
Educational Diagnostician
Principal
Superintendent
Reading Specialist
Master Reading Teacher

Admission, Retention, and Exit from Advanced Program

The following are the “gates” through which candidates must pass to successfully exit the advanced program with a master’s degree and/or advanced educator certification.

Admission to Graduate Studies

Candidates who already hold a baccalaureate degree and are preparing for educator certification, and, at the same time, working toward a master's degree, may apply to Graduate Studies for both programs simultaneously. They are admitted to Graduate Studies under the appropriate MA in Education option.

Candidates who already hold a baccalaureate degree and are preparing for educator certification, but who are not working towards a master's degree, will be admitted to Graduate Studies under the "certification" designation. For these students, no more than 6 semester credit hours may be taken under this designation and subsequently applied to a master's degree.

Admission to Advanced Program

Candidates are admitted to the School of Education under one of 3 conditions: conditional, provisional, or regular. To be admitted a candidate must:

- Be admitted to Graduate Studies
- Respond, in writing, to questions related to "What are my expectations for graduate school?"
- Participate in a one-on-one interview with area coordinator or designated program faculty member
- Complete the Candidate Disposition Progress Report (CDPR) in EDUC 6301, Philosophy of Education or EDUC 6302, Cultural Diversity
- Download a copy of Advanced Program Candidates' Handbook
- Create a Portfolio

Retention in the Advanced Program

To continue in the advanced program, a candidate must:

- Be admitted to his/her culminating project upon a decision of graduate committee member(s)
- Submit his/her portfolio for assessment #1

Exit from the Advanced Program

To successfully exit from the advanced program, a candidate must:

- If applicable, pass appropriate Texas Examination of Educator Standards (TEXES) and be recommended for an advanced educator certification
- Complete his/her culminating project
- Complete a second CDPR
- Have no more than 2 grades of "C" in graduate coursework
- Submit his/her portfolio for assessment #2

Advanced Educator Certification Preparation

A candidate seeking advanced educator certification, either in conjunction with earning a master's degree or separate from it, must:

1. Hold a bachelor's degree
2. Hold a valid Texas educator certification
3. Complete at least 21 semester credit hours of graduate-level coursework in an approved educator certification program, including 12 semester credit hours in the area for which certification is being sought, and earn the required grade point average
4. Two years of teaching experience
5. Earn a passing score on the appropriate Texas Examination of Educator Standards (TEXES)
6. Submit an application complete with appropriate fee (money order or cashier's check only) and recommendation from the appropriate School of Education faculty to the UTPB Certification Officer

Upon completion of all requirements, the UTPB certification Officer will submit the required forms to the State Board of Educator Certification.

A candidate should consult the UTPB Certification Officer or the area coordinator for the program in which he/she intends to earn certification to verify current UTPB and state requirements for that certification. State requirements are established by the Texas State Board of Educator Certification and may change more frequently than published degree requirements.