

The Master of Education Online Program

The Master of Education Online Program was first offered in spring 2011. The program is designed to challenge practicing educators to reflect on their current practices, expand their knowledge and skills to increase student learning, and to apply research-based practices in their educational setting.

The Master of Education Degree Program Application Requirements:

- Completed Graduate Admissions Application form online or on paper
- Baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university
- Submit all official transcripts of baccalaureate and graduate course work;
- Cumulative GPA of 2.8
- Submit a completed Master of Education essay
- Submit two Graduate Recommendation forms from educational professionals, submit copy of current teaching license if applicable
- Interview with the M.Ed. Program Director (if necessary)

Monitoring of Admission

The admissions process to the M.Ed. program requires applicants to submit multiple documents that exhibit areas of professional performance and professional goals in order to be admitted to the program. **The program director and a school of education faculty member review all applications to the M.Ed. program. A scoring rubric is used to assess the applicant against the admission requirements.** The chair of graduate education programs serves as a third reviewer if there is a discrepancy in the reviewers scoring of the applicant. In addition, a phone interview with the program director is conducted for applicants who might need a more thorough review of their application.

Monitoring of Student Progress

The program provides students a **full time academic advisor** to assist students with the demands of graduate school. The advisor assists the program director in development and facilitation of the **program orientation** students are required to complete. The orientation is offered to students after admission to the program to introduce students to the course management system, Blackboard, introduces students to the online learning environment at The College of St. Scholastica, and review resources available to the student as a distance education learner. In addition, the students are required to **meet with the program advisor to complete their academic program plan.**

The program can be completed in two years including summers. The program uses the **cohort model** where program participants move through the core program courses together. A host of technologies have been implemented to help bridge the gap between the computer and the classroom. In addition, students are encouraged to work together, and some assignments will require collaboration with colleagues.

The faculty and advisor understand the power of a community of learners. **Our program allows for professionals to engage and collaborate with one another maximizing current technologies.** In

In addition, participants progress through the program core classes together as a cohort and have an assigned advisor that remains active and engaged throughout the program.

M.Ed. Curriculum

Candidates complete the professional core courses as a cohort and select courses from **three possible elective options: an Educational Technology Certificate, a Certificate in Online Instruction, or Professional Studies**. In addition, as part of the core courses, candidates complete an action research or applied project. As part of the research requirement, **students are expected to disseminate their research both internally and externally**. The internal dissemination requires students to present their final research to faculty and cohort peers. The external dissemination requires student to present to a school board, parent committee, conference presentation, and/or publication submission.

Student Support:

- We provide 24/7 technical support
- All students have an advisor assigned from the beginning of the program through completion where academic progress is monitored to ensure timely completion of degree
- We cap our cohort admission at twenty five students
- All students are provided access to the writing center and the distance education librarian for additional academic support
- Online tutoring is available to students 24/7

M.Ed. 2012 Exit Survey Results:

- 90% of program completers “strongly agree” the program provided opportunities to apply educational research & inquiry to improve student learning
- 94% of program completers “strongly agree” they learned how to apply new teaching strategies to increase student learning
- 80% of program completers “strongly agree” they better understood issues that impact schools
- 88% indicate the program added to their ability to think critically about diversity

Verify Identity of Students:

We verify the identity of our students in our program through a variety of technologies and admission components.

- Admission GPA and official transcript submission
- Live webinar sessions using webcams
- Students are required to log in to the course management system using a username and password