

Education Studies

Graduate Program Handbook

Master's in Curriculum and Instruction
Concentrations: Early Childhood, Instructional
Coach or Reading Specialist

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION STUDIES:

Welcome to the Department of Education Studies!

Our department is part of the James I. Perkins College of Education located at the Janice A. Pattillo Early Childhood Research Center (ECRC) on the beautiful campus at SFASU.



Janice A. Pattillo Early
Childhood Research Center
2428 Raguet St.
Nacogdoches, Texas 75962

The entire upstairs is dedicated to the Department of Education Studies and where classes are held.

The school serves as a field-based center for the James I. Perkins of College of Education, providing hands-on and observational experiences with children for SFA students in various areas of study, including: education studies, kinesiology, music and school psychology.

GRADUATE SCHOOL MISSION

In its programs of graduate education, Stephen F. Austin State University seeks to afford qualified students the opportunity and a supportive environment in which to gain sufficient mastery of their chosen fields, so that, by virtue of their depth and breadth of knowledge and the extent of their expertise, they may contribute importantly to those fields.

GRADUATE PROGRAMS/DEGREES:

Our department has various graduate degrees to meet your desire to complete a master's degree.

CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION with CONCENTRATION

The Master of Education in curriculum and instruction features evidence-based research to promote expanding skills and knowledge of professionals in diverse EC-12 educational settings. A holistic approach through theory, research, and practical application allows students to develop multitiered skills within their concentration to best meet the needs of an increasingly diverse student population. This online graduate degree is designed to increase education professionals' opportunities and career option within public, private, nonprofit and corporate EC-12 educational settings.

Possible Concentration Areas Include:

- **Early Childhood – 18 hours specializing in Early Childhood to equip candidates with knowledge and skills that are focus on all early childhood educational environments. 3 hours of an elective required.**

- **Instructional Coach – 18 hours in a variety of all level curriculum and instruction courses to well prepare the candidate to effectively serve a district as an instructional coach or in curriculum development. 3 hours of an elective required.**
- **Reading Specialist – 21 hours of reading specialist courses designed to develop the candidate’s knowledge and skills and culminate in a Texas Reading Specialist certification**

If you are interested in the C&I with concentration, please send an email to Dr. Susan Reily at reilys@sfasu.edu.

OTHER MASTER PROGRAM DEGREES

This handbook will review information for the MEd in Curriculum and Instruction.

If the MEd in Curriculum and Instruction is not the pathway you would like to consider, our department provides other programs. If you are interested in one of the programs listed below, please send an email to the contact person provided for that program.

MEd in Special Education

The MEd in Special Education program offers seven different options. If you are interested in one of the options below, please contact Dr. Lindsey Kennon at jkennon@sfasu.edu or visit the SFA website for additional information.

- **MEd in Special Education (without certification)**
- **MEd in Special Education with Educational Diagnostician Certification**
- **Educational Diagnostician Certification Only Plan**

- **MEd in Special Education with Visual Impairment Concentration**
- **Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments – Graduate Teacher Certification Program**
- **MEd in Special Education with Orientation & Mobility Concentration**
- **Orientation & Mobility Graduate Certification Only**

MEd in Teaching and Learning

The MEd in Teaching and Learning program offers three different options. If you are interested in one of the options below, please contact Dr. Chrissy Cross at crossc1@sfasu.edu or visit the SFA website for additional information.

- **MEd in Teaching and Learning with ESL/Bilingual Concentration**
- **MEd in Teaching and Learning with Online Teaching Concentration**
- **MEd in Teaching and Learning with Gifted/Talented Concentration**

MA in Teaching with Teacher Certification

The MA in Teaching with Teacher Certification program prepares teachers for leadership positions in the secondary school setting. This 30-hour graduate program is designed for students who have earned an undergraduate degree but are not certified to teach. Participation in the post-baccalaureate initial certification program is required. Please contact Dr. Chrissy Cross at crossc1@sfasu.edu or visit the SFA website for additional information.

PROGRAM ADMISSION INFORMATION

If you have decided to pursue the MEd in Curriculum and Instruction, the remainder of this handbook will focus on information for that program.

PROGRAM ADMISSION PROCESS

In order to be considered for admission to the Master's in Curriculum and Instruction Program and the Advanced Educator Preparation Program (EPP), applicants must at least:

- Hold a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution of higher education (TAC 239.91)
- Have a 2.5 overall GPA for their undergraduate coursework (SFA Unit Graduate Guidelines)
- Have a valid Texas Teaching Certificate (SFA Unit Graduate Guidelines)
- Reading Specialist Concentration – Teaching Service Record with at least one completed years of service required and admitted to EPP

APPLICATION PROCESS

1. First, apply to SFA's Office of Research and Graduate Studies through Apply Texas <https://www.applytexas.org/>.
2. Send transcripts to SFA's Office of Research and Graduate Studies.
3. Once the file is complete in the Office of Research and Graduate Studies, it will be routed to our department with a Notice of Admission (NOA) for program consideration.

4. The program coordinator will then determine program eligibility and will send the applicant an e-mail of acknowledgement.
5. Upon acceptance into the program, Program Admission Files will be sent to the candidate to complete and send back to the program coordinator.
6. Advising will begin once the Program Admission File is complete (TAC 227.10)

APPLICATION DEADLINES

Applications are accepted year-round. There are two entry times into the program: Fall and Spring.

Please apply the semester prior to when you would like to enter the program to allow ample time for university and program paperwork to be processed.

Paperwork that is not completed by the last day to register may delay registration for the current semester.

See important dates and deadlines provided by the Office of Registrar <https://www.sfasu.edu/registrar/registration-information/dates-deadlines>.

THREE TYPES OF ADMISSION

When an applicant's paperwork is complete with the Office of Research and Graduate Studies, an NOA is sent to the program coordinator. The NOA includes an applicant's GPA, Campus ID, undergraduate institution, and start date. The program coordinator can admit an applicant three ways:

- **Clear Admission** – the applicant is eligible to work toward a graduate degree.
- **Probationary Admission** – the applicant is eligible to work toward a graduate degree but with the provision that the student earn a B average on coursework the first 12 semester credit hours of study (or the number of hours set by the advisor). Probationary students who do not meet that objective will be placed on academic suspension.
- **Provisional Admission** – the applicant is permitted to take graduate courses for one semester only.

SENIOR YEAR OVERLAP GRADUATE PROGRAM

A SFASU undergraduate senior is eligible for the Overlap Program when at least ninety-five (95) semester hours of undergraduate credit is complete. A student with fewer than one hundred ten (110) hours of undergraduate credit must have a 3.0 GPA both overall and in the major field. A student with one hundred ten (110) hours or more of undergraduate credit may be admitted to the Overlap Program with a 2.5 GPA overall and a 2.8 GPA in the major field.

Any student admitted to the Overlap Program must reapply for full graduate admission when the undergraduate degree is completed. The student should complete the Senior Year Overlap Graduate Program form. After all approval signatures are obtained, the student should bring the form to the Graduate Office. The student must apply to the graduate school for admission at www.applytexas.org.

PROBATION, SUSPENSION, AND REINSTATEMENT

If the applicant's grade-point average falls below a B during any semester or summer session, the applicant with clear admission to graduate study will be placed on academic probation; the applicant with probationary admission will be placed on academic suspension.

An applicant placed on academic probation and failing to restore an overall B (3.0) average the following semester or summer sessions will be placed on academic suspension. The applicant will continue on academic probation until the applicant achieves good standing or is placed on academic suspension.

An applicant placed on academic suspension is denied the continuation of an academic program, as well as the privilege of registering for coursework. This suspension period is for one semester or one summer session, whichever follows the period after which the suspension occurred. To be reinstated to a degree program, the student must be recommended by the appropriate academic department and approved by the academic dean and the dean of Research and Graduate Studies. If permission is granted for the applicant to continue, the program coordinator will advise the applicant for the coming semester. If the applicant is not granted permission, the student will revert to post-baccalaureate admission status and will be permitted to take coursework not applicable toward a degree program.

If placed on probation or suspension, it is the responsibility of the applicant to meet with the program coordinator for next steps.

FINANCIAL AID

SFA's Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) policy is based on federal regulatory guidance that cannot be changed. SFA's SAP policy can only consider the first Master's degree hours. In other words, SFA will only award aid based on the SAP status for that first degree. This policy was written to prevent students from over-borrowing, increasing load debt, and having possible loan defaults. If a candidate is pursuing a second master's degree, candidates can file an appeal for Financial Aid consideration. Also, financial aid is only awarded for courses that are required by the Degree Plan on file. Any coursework that is taken outside of the department would need to have a Petition filed for Financial Aid to consider coverage. If you have questions about financial aid or other types of aid available, please contact the Financial Aid Office at finaid@sfasu.edu or 936-468-2403.

TUITION COST

The cost of attendance at SFA includes both direct costs and additional costs. Keep in mind that the total cost also depends on factors such as how many credit hours the applicant is taking, textbooks, and materials required for each class. Graduate student applicants are eligible for Texas Resident Graduate rates. If you have questions about tuition and fee plans, please contact the Student Business Office at sbs@sfasu.edu or 936-468-6960.

<https://www.sfasu.edu/sbs/tuition-fees/plans-rates>

ADDITIONAL FEES

There may be additional course fees based on the area of concentration and requirements for assigned coursework.

The Reading Specialist Concentration requires an additional fee for study material to prepare for the Reading Specialist certification.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

COURSE LOAD

Graduate courses are completed in 16 weeks. Summer courses are not offered.

A full-time course load at the graduate level is 9 hours (3 courses). It is not recommended to take less than 6 hours per semester. Candidates can complete the program in two years if taking a full-time course load of 9 hours per semester.

PROGRAM COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Core Curriculum: The three concentrations require 15 hours (5 courses) of core curriculum as follows:

CIED 5300 – Foundations of Research in Educational Settings

CIED 5301 – Methods of Teaching in Diverse Educational Settings

CIED 5302 – Designing and Evaluating Curriculum for Students with Exceptionalities

CIED 5303 – Assessment, Data Analysis, and Student Support in Education Settings

CIED 5304 – Capstone Project in Educational Settings

Concentration Coursework: Each concentration has coursework specific to the concentration area:

Early Childhood Concentration: 18 hours (6 courses + elective) required

ECED 5300 – Foundations of Early Childhood

ECED 5310 – Early Childhood Play and Learning

ECED 5320 – Language and Literacy in ECH

ECED 5335 – Math and Science in ECH

ECED 5345 – Leaders and Advocates in ECH

ECED 5315 –Curriculum in ECH

ELECTIVE

Instructional Coach Concentration: 18 hours (6 courses + elective) required

CIED 5305 (formally MLGE 5390) – Becoming a Teacher Leader

CIED 5306 (formally ELED 5315) – Research and Best Practice in Social Studies Curriculum and Instruction

CIED 5307 (formally ELED 5320) – Mathematics and Technology Curriculum and Instruction

CIED 5308 (formally ELED 5321) – Science and Engineering Curriculum and Instruction

READ 5308 – Foundations of Language and Literacy

ELED 5341 – ESL/Bilingual Teaching Methods

ELECTIVE

Reading Specialist Concentration: 21 hours (7 courses) required

READ 5318 – Creating Literate Environments

READ 5328 – Practicum in Instructional Coaching

READ 5316 – Disciplinary Literacy

READ 5308 – Foundations of Language and Literacy

READ 5310 – Curriculum and Instruction

READ 5312 – Assessment, Instruction and Evaluation

READ 5314 – Professional Learning and Leadership

Electives: Two concentrations; Early Childhood and Instructional Coach require 3 hours (1 course) as an elective. Applicants may select an elective from one of the other concentrations.

FIELD BASED EXPERIENCES

Structured, field-based experiences are throughout the program. Experiences include observation, modeling, and demonstration of effective practices to improve student learning with diverse types of students, grade levels, and campuses. It is the candidate’s responsibility to secure field experience locations for observations and trainings.

GRADUATION:

The Registrar’s website includes dates that are critical for filing for graduation audits and graduation. Start watching the dates at least a year before your projected graduation so you do not incur late fees.

Prior to graduation, candidates will receive an email inquiring about a degree plan audit. Degree Plan Audits for the College of Education are automatically completed.

SFA has three graduations: May, August, and December.