

MASTERS OF EDUCATION IN TEACHING AND LEARNING

Program Handbook



**STEPHEN F. AUSTIN
STATE UNIVERSITY**

Department of
Education Studies

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1. Introduction

Thank you for your interest in pursuing a graduate degree in education at Stephen F. Austin State University (SFASU). We offer several exciting and innovative graduate programs that prepare teachers for careers in the secondary school setting. By exploring the roles of teacher as researcher, scholar-practitioner, student-advocate, and community member, our Master's Programs cultivate a learning community of faculty and students through dialogue and critical inquiry.

While graduate programs can be designed to meet students' individual needs, most students choose one of the following two degree plans for the Master of Education:

Master of Education (M.Ed.) Degrees

I. Master of Education (M.Ed.) in Teaching and Learning (36 hr.)

This program is designed primarily for experienced teachers who wish to further their education and improve their teaching practice or for teachers who wish to qualify for leadership positions within their schools or districts (i.e., curriculum/instructional specialist).

Students in this program will all take an 18-hour core, which will provide them with the knowledge and skills to better serve the needs of the diverse EC-12 student population in Texas. Beyond the core, students will choose from four concentrations (i.e., ESL/Bilingual, Online Teaching, and Gifted/Talented, Content Area Specialization) in which to specialize and will be able to choose 6 hours of electives from inside or outside the College of Education to further expand their knowledge base.

Students in this degree program will complete a capstone project in conjunction with a 3-hour graduate course (SEED 5395).

2. Admission Process

M.Ed. Programs

Admission Requirements:

- Completed Bachelor's degree from an accredited university
- Minimum cumulative grade-point average of 2.5 and a grade-point average of 2.8 on the last 60 hours of undergraduate coursework (on a 4.0 scale)
- GRE not required

If you are interested in applying to this program, please follow these steps:

- 1) Apply online to the SFASU Graduate School at the following link:
<https://lumberjacks.sfasu.edu/apply/>
- 2) There will be a \$50.00 application fee charged to your account at SFASU. The Graduate School will calculate your GPA to determine eligibility.
- 3) Choose Master of Education in Teaching and Learning, and choose from one of the four concentrations:
 - Online Teaching
 - Gifted and Talented Education
 - ESL/Bilingual
 - Content Area Specialization-18 hours in specialized course content (these courses are usually only offered face to face and the sequence and offerings is unique to the department that offers them.)
- 4) Receive an acceptance or denial form and degree plan from the corresponding department.

Additional Admissions Guidelines:

Application Deadlines

For a Fall semester start: August 1

For a Spring semester start: January 1

For a Summer I start: May 15

Admission Status

You can be admitted in two different ways:

1. Clear – this means you have no conditions imposed on your admission; this is the admission status you want.
2. Probationary – You may be admitted on a probationary basis if your GPA is below the minimum. In this case, you have one semester to bring your GPA up or else you will not be allowed to continue taking classes. Being admitted on a probationary basis may keep you from receiving financial aid. Contact the Financial Aid office with questions at (936) 468-2403, finaid@sfasu.edu or <http://www.sfasu.edu/faid/>

Transfer credit

If you have taken graduate courses at another university, you may be able to transfer up to six hours of those credits to your degree plan at SFASU. Please order an official transcript and have it sent to the Graduate School.

Completion timeline

You have six years to complete your graduate program. Courses that were taken more than six years prior will not count towards your degree plan. Please plan accordingly so that you can graduate within the six year window.

Meningitis vaccination requirement

Texas state law (SB 1107) requires all Texas public college students are required to get a meningitis vaccine. Read details here: www.sfasu.edu/admissions/docs/meningitis.pdf

3. Coursework

It is your responsibility to keep track of which courses you have taken and when. We recommend that you keep track on the following checklist so that you can plan accordingly. If you are receiving financial aid the following course sequence should be followed.

MED (Online Teaching)					
	<i>Fall</i>	<i>Spring</i>	<i>Summer 1</i>	<i>Summer 2</i>	<i>Fall</i>
	SEED 5324	SEED 5323	Elective	Elective	SEED 5395
	SEED 5325	SEED 5322	SEED 5356	SEED 5358	SEED 5326
	SEED 5352	SEED 5354			
MED (Gifted and Talented)					
	<i>Fall</i>	<i>Spring</i>	<i>Summer 1</i>	<i>Summer 2</i>	<i>Fall</i>
	SEED 5324	SEED 5323	Elective	Elective	SEED 5395
	SEED 5325	SEED 5322	SEED 5368	SEED 5362	SEED 5326
	SEED 5364	SEED 5366			
MED (ESL/Bilingual)					
	<i>Fall</i>	<i>Spring</i>	<i>Summer 1</i>	<i>Summer 2</i>	<i>Fall</i>
	SEED 5324	SEED 5323	ESL course	ESL course	SEED 5395
	SEED 5325	SEED 5322	ESL course	ESL course	SEED 5326
	Elective	Elective			

M.Ed. in Teaching and Learning – 36 hr.

Core Courses

Course	When Offered	When Taken
SEED 5322 Power and Pedagogy	Spring	
SEED 5323 Foundations of Culturally Responsive Pedagogy	Spring	
SEED 5325 Evaluating Educational Policy for Advocacy	Fall	
SEED 5324 Data Analysis for Education	Fall	
SEED 5326 Family, School, and Community Engagement	Fall	
SEED 5395 Comprehensive Synthesis Seminar	Fall and Spring	

Online Teaching Concentration Courses

Course	When Offered	When Taken
SEED 5352 Research and Innovation in Educational Technology	Fall	
SEED 5354 Designing Distance and Mobile Education	Spring	
SEED 5356 Teaching and Learning In PK-16 Virtual Environments	Summer 1	
SEED 5358 Transforming Education through Engaging Tech	Summer 2	

GT Concentration Courses

Course	When Offered	When Taken
SEED 5362 Intro to Gifted and Talented Education	Summer 2	
SEED 5364 Social and Emotional Needs of the Gifted	Fall	
SEED 5366 Curriculum for the Gifted and Talented	Spring	
SEED 5368 Programs and Problems in Gifted Education	Summer 1	

ESL/Bilingual Concentration (Offered Only in Summer 1 and Summer 2)

Course	When Offered	When Taken
ELED 5341 Foundations of ESL/Bilingual	Summer 1	
ELED 5340 ESL/Bilingual Teaching Methods	Summer 1	
ELED 5343 ESL/Bilingual Assessment	Summer 2	
ELED 5342 Language Acquisition for ESL/Bilingual	Summer 2	

6 hours of Electives- Any Ed Studies course can count as an elective

Example: ELED 5345

Content Area Concentration

Course	When Taken
Content Area courses negotiated with content areas, may or may not be online	18 hours taken as available per content area offerings, may NOT be offered online or in corresponding sequence with other MED courses.

4. Registration & Advising Procedures

Secondary Education graduate students do not need to be formally advised. See page 6 of this handbook for the courses you should take. If you have an extenuating circumstance, contact the program advisor at seed.med@sfasu.edu.

Once the course schedule for an upcoming semester becomes available, you log in and register yourself for the courses you need. For summer and fall semesters, the course schedule typically becomes available in April. For spring semester, the course schedule typically becomes available in November. Please register as soon as you can so your class will be allowed to be offered per administrative reviews and university guidelines.

If you choose to not follow the recommended course sequence, your graduation timeline may be delayed because course substitutions and/or independent studies will not be approved.

5. Official Program Assessments

The Secondary Education graduate programs use the D2L/Qclassroom data management system to collect critical assessments for students who are Perkins College of Education majors (undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral) or majors in other colleges seeking educator certification through the Perkins College of Education. Students are automatically assigned a Qclassroom account when they enroll in MySFA for course.

The table below indicates which courses include program assessments which are submitted as a part of coursework to D2L/Qclassroom:

MEd in Teaching & Learning	Assignment
SEED 5323	Culturally Responsive Teaching Portfolio
SEED 5324	Data Analysis and Impact Plan
SEED 5325	Stakeholder Policy Impact
SEED 5326	Community Research
SEED 5395	Capstone Project
SEED 5366	Gifted/Talented Program Development
SEED 5364	Social-Emotional Needs Plan
SEED 5358	Technology Design Project
SEED 5352	Campus Technology Portfolio

6. Graduation Checklist

It is the student's responsibility to apply for graduation the semester before you want to graduate. Follow the link from the Graduate School webpage for instructions:

<http://www.sfasu.edu/graduate/109.asp>

7. FAQs. I have this question. Who do I talk to?

Question	Answer
Do I need to be advised?	No. An email is sent out from the program coordinator to guide your class choices which are based on your personal work preferences and financial situation. It is recommended you follow the course sequence listed on pg. 6-8 of this document.
Which courses have prerequisites?	SEED 5395 should be taken close to the end of the program.
How do I know when courses are offered?	See the course sequence on page 6
Are the courses online or face to face?	All SEED courses are fully online. Courses have regular virtual class Meetings. If you choose the Content Area Concentration, those classes are usually offered face to face in a different department on campus.
How do I apply for graduation?	http://www.sfasu.edu/graduate/109.asp
When do I apply for graduation?	http://www.sfasu.edu/graduate/109.asp
When do I get my books?	Preferably before the semester starts.
Other questions?	Contact the program advisor at seed.med@sfasu.edu