

Master of Arts in CURRICULUM and INSTRUCTION

The Master of Arts in Curriculum and Instruction is designed for public school teachers and other educators whose goal is to facilitate high levels of professionalism, improve the quality of instruction, and prepare for leadership roles within educational settings. Allowing professional educators the flexibility to craft their own program of study, the M.A.-CI program provides its graduates with an enhanced level of professional knowledge.

The M.A.-CI's core coursework provides exploration and enhanced expertise in educational practice, pedagogical approaches, and current trends in the field. Electives allow students to select courses in specific areas of professional interest. In addition, research courses are designed to familiarize students with the strategies to put theory and methodology into action by completing a capstone thesis project of their own design. Throughout the program, students are encouraged to apply their learning to an in-depth examination of their own teaching practice.

The Master of Arts in Curriculum and Instruction is a 33-credit hour program of study. Students select either an individualized concentration allowing for maximum flexibility, or a concentration/endorsement in multi-categorical special education. The program includes 12 credits in educational pedagogy, nine credits in education research methodology, and additional credits in courses from a variety of subject areas. (Students in the multi-categorical special education concentration should see the specific requirements for that program.)

For more information about Shepherd University's Master of Arts in Curriculum and Instruction (MACI), contact:

Graduate Studies Office

304-876-5313 (phone)

graduate-studies@shepherd.edu

www.shepherd.edu/maci

MASTER OF ARTS IN CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

■ Admission Requirements

- **For licensed teachers:** a copy of the current teaching license. **For non-teaching educational professionals:** three letters of reference from individuals who can speak to your work in an educational setting.
- A letter of intent that describes your proposed discipline-specific content area and how you envision using the degree of Master of Arts in Curriculum and Instruction to enhance your personal and career goals.
- A 2.75 GPA in all undergraduate coursework OR a score of 40 on the Miller's Analogy Test.
- Any applicant with a GPA below 2.75 must submit a score of 149 or higher on the verbal and 146 or higher on the quantitative sections of the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) or a score of 390 or higher on the Miller Analogies Test (MAT). Required scores for GRE prior to 8/11 are 440 on verbal and 560 on quantitative sections.
- Students who do not meet all of the requirements may be considered for conditional admission.

Admission Procedure:

Applicants should fill out a graduate application, which can be downloaded at www.shepherd.edu/graduate-studies/apply-graduate or requested by phoning 304-876-5313. Please provide documentation of teacher certification with your application. The application and \$40 application fee should be sent to the Office of Graduate Admissions, Shepherd University, P.O. Box 5000, Shepherdstown, WV 25443-5000.

■ Curriculum for a Master of Arts in Curriculum and Instruction

Core curriculum, 12 hours:

- EDUC 500 - Advancing the Use of Technology in the Classroom (3 cr) *
 - EDUC 502 - Curriculum and Pedagogy (3 cr)
 - EDUC 523 - Diversity Awareness and Collaborative Practice (3 cr)
 - EDUC 504 - Structures of Effective Student Assessment (3 cr)
- *Students in the multi-categorical special education concentration should see qualifications regarding the waiver of this course.

Action Research Thesis Block, 9 hours:

- EDUC 501 - Methods of Educational Research (3 cr)
- EDUC 579 - Action Research Methodology (3 cr)
- EDUC 580 - Action Research Thesis Experience (3 cr)

Individualized Concentration, 12 hours:

In addition to the Core Curriculum (12 hours) and Action Research Thesis Block (9 hours), and in consultation with the advisor, students complete 12 credits as elective courses. Students may choose electives from any of the graduate course offerings in education or in a teaching content area, or from other degree programs such as Master of Business Administration or College Student Development and Administration. By utilizing courses and faculty in other degree programs, students can be assured of the availability of classes on a consistent basis, leading to decreased time to degree completion, increased schedule flexibility, and greater variety in curricular content.

Multi-categorical Special Education Concentration, 12-15 hours:

- EDUC 525 - Collaborative Methods in the Inclusive Classroom (3 cr)
- EDUC 560 - Survey of Exceptionalities (3 cr)
- EDUC 562 - Individualized Education Planning (IEP) (3 cr)

EDUC 564 - Advanced Methods: High Incidence Disabilities (3 cr)

EDUC 566 - Advanced Methods: Low Incidence Disabilities (3 cr)

The primary purpose of the M.A.-CI-SPED program is to advance knowledge and increase skills for education professionals in instructional or leadership contexts. The multi-categorical special education endorsement (5 courses/15 credits) will prepare educators to teach students with specific learning disabilities, emotional/behavioral disabilities, and intellectual disabilities, by creating teachers who are knowledgeable of learners with exceptionalities and their diverse needs.

The M.A.-CI-SPED endorses teachers who already hold either an elementary teacher certification or a secondary certification in an academic content area (English, math, social studies, science, or biology) in multi-categorical special education and meet the documented need for special educators in West Virginia.

Special Requirements: Students taking the five courses to receive the special education endorsement will be required to have already received the initial licensure in either elementary education or secondary education in one of five content areas (English, math, social studies, science, or biology). In addition to completing the five required courses in the concentration, students must also pass the Praxis II (Special Education: Core Knowledge and Mild to Moderate Applications).

NOTE: All students in the M.A.-CI-SPED program are licensed teachers. In order for them either to receive a teaching license or to renew their teaching license they must have completed a technology course and be up to date on technology teaching standards. Course objectives in EDUC 500 are skills and knowledge that satisfy NETS-T Standards which have been mastered as evidence of obtaining a teaching license. Students must submit documentation of completion of a credit bearing university technology course and/or documentation of a technology course used for continuing education credits toward renewal of teacher licensure which shows clear evidence that NETS-T Standards were addressed. Completion of the technology course must have taken place in the past 5 years. If proper documentation is submitted then EDUC 500 will be waived; however, if there is no documentation of the technology course requirements, then the students will be required to take EDUC 500 if pursuing the M.A.-CI-SPED degree.

■ About Shepherd University

Shepherd University, a West Virginia public liberal arts university, is a diverse community of learners and a gateway to the world of opportunities and ideas. We are the regional center for academic, cultural, and economic opportunity. Our mission of service succeeds because we are dedicated to our core values: learning, engagement, integrity, accessibility, and community.

- Educational opportunities outside of the classroom, such as internships, cooperative education assignments, and student teaching positions.
- Only 90 minutes away from the Washington-Baltimore area, Washington Gateway Program and internships combine educational opportunities with cultural and social resources.
- Located near Harpers Ferry National Park and Antietam National Battlefield, a region rich in history.