

# **Graduate Studies in Education**

## **Curriculum and Instruction**

### **Core Courses**

#### **EDUC 6100 Current Issues and Trends in Education**

Identifies major problems, issues and trends affecting students, teachers, schools and society today. Content for this course will include issues related to cultural diversity, students with special needs, and legal aspects of the school in society. Students will examine additional issues in depth. Critical assessments of the total role of education in our society as well as throughout the world will challenge graduate students to become skilled in addressing contemporary concerns and problems. Portfolio introduction. *Three hours.*

#### **EDUC 6110 Exploring Learning Theories and Styles**

With new information being discovered almost daily about how learning takes place, today's classroom teacher should be well versed in past and emerging theories of learning. The teaching-learning model has changed drastically over the past few years. We know more about intelligence, effective learning environments, and behaviors that help ensure learning at the conceptual stage, as well as problem-solving behavior. This course will aid the practicing teacher in understanding various contexts of learning to be used for effective teaching and learning. *Three hours.*

#### **EDUC 6120 Educational Technology**

An overview of technology as it applies to the classroom teacher. There is room in this course for students with skills ranging from novice to expert. Cooperative learning techniques will be included to take advantage of the skill level of all participants. HyperMedia, computers, e-mail, basic spread sheets, CD-ROMs and databases will be introduced. The emphasis will be on user-friendly, classroom-applicable, technological innovations. *Three hours.*

#### **EDUC 6130 Becoming One Community in Diverse Classrooms**

The changing climate in public education has mandated both a broader understanding of culture and the acquisition of greater skills required for creating success-oriented, responsive classrooms. This course will draw upon current research and quality practices designed to address the needs of multicultural learning communities. Specific attention will be given to the realities of the professional responsibility required to teach ALL students and effective strategies and resources to support these realities in the contemporary classroom. This course will draw upon current research and successful practices on developing a caring, peaceful classroom and school environment. Specific attention will be given to the realities of conflict and violence in schools and effective programs and strategies to address these realities in the contemporary classroom. *Three hours.*

#### **EDUC 6140 Integrating Exceptional Students into Contemporary Classrooms**

An exploration of the variety of special needs in inclusionary classrooms and the provision of methodology for working with exceptional populations. Issues discussed will include the history of inclusion, legal requirements, methods of managing the inclusionary class, and planning instruction for exceptional populations. This course will provide practical techniques related to developmentally appropriate practice. Portfolio requirements. *Three hours.*

#### **EDUC 6150 Introduction to Educational Research**

The emphasis in this course will be on applied educational research. The education profession increasingly demands that practitioners not only understand educational research but that they accept the necessity for continuing the study of theory and best practice. Students will examine various types of educational research, perform basic data treatment, recognize the terminology used by researchers, become familiar with prior research, and examine current studies related to educational issues and outcomes. Participants in this course will be expected to plan, implement, and evaluate an action research project in their own classroom. *Three hours.*

#### **EDUC 6160 Developing Effective Curriculum and Instruction**

How does curriculum development affect individual teachers and their classrooms? This course will enable master teachers to give leadership to the process of change through the exploration and understanding of examine the overall construct of curriculum and best practices in curriculum development. A workshop model will provide active involvement of the teacher as an agent of change. A unit plan will be developed using current curriculum and develop improvement initiatives within the state standards guidelines. Discussion topics include practical aspects of school improvement, the emphasis on core/basic curriculum, organizing instruction to include exemplary techniques, and suggestions for participation in curriculum development. *Three hours.*

#### **EDUC 6170 Sharing Leadership in Contemporary Educational Systems**

Teachers are asked to participate in shared decision-making and site-based management without the requisite training for these new assignments. This course will involve practitioners in exercises to evaluate procedures used to interview candidates, prepare budgets, assess legal liability, define roles, create policy, secure the assistance of the community, and develop working relationships with all members of the school constituency. Portfolio completion and presentation. *Three hours.*