MASTER'S FOR PRACTICING TEACHERS

Program Description

Building on a long-standing dedication to quality teacher education, St. Catherine offers three online Master of Arts in Education (MAED). Students choose a focus area--Technology Integration, STEM, or Curriculum and Instruction--and design their individual program of study using courses from one or all three programs.

Our graduate programs are a balanced blend of scholarship, research and application. Graduates become more effective educators and leaders in their communities.

St. Kate's understands that working adults need professional development that accommodates their busy schedules. Our online and hybrid programs provide focus and flexibility to meet teacher needs. The program can be completed in five consecutive semesters, including summers, or extended to a longer duration to accommodate coaching needs, babies, life! An individual program of study is completed with the program director prior to beginning the program. This ensures students a clear scope and sequence to their program completion but can be adapted as needed with an easy phone call or email. Teachers wishing to join the program together can do so (provided they are accepted into the program) and will be able to submit work they complete collaboratively.

Each program begins with one-day of instruction on campus. Subsequently, online 7-week courses are organized around clearly-articulated weekly expectations and delivered through Brightspace/D2L. Students and faculty participate in lively discussions throughout the week related to integrating and transferring the new content or sharing their experiences of trying the new materials in their classroom.

Faculty are accessible, supportive, and dedicated to helping teachers' improve their practice. Learning is designed to be iterative and foster critically reflective practice. Our dedicated faculty bring classroom-based expertise and design courses to facilitate meaningful learning. Course activities and resources foster meaningful improvements in teacher skills and student outcomes.

Classes are asynchronous, so students can choose to work when it fits with their schedules. Typically a course requires 10-12 hours of work a week, distributed over at least three separate days. Most students check in daily and then reserve a few days a week to do a deeper-dive into the new content. Synchronous virtual meetings--with instructors and peers--happen at student convenience to provide just-in-time support or facilitate meaningful dialogue around the content.

Degree Requirements

The Master of Arts in Education degree in Curriculum and Instruction, Technology Integration, or STEM is conferred upon candidates who have met the following requirements:

- successful completion of required courses for a chosen major;
- successful completion of a total of 31 graduate level credits;
- attainment of a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.

Time to Complete the Program

All EDUC courses are 7-weeks long, and are offered in a first-half/second-half of the semester format. In the Fall and Spring semesters, students take just one course at a time, completing 6 credits per semester. We do not have classes in January. During the summer, courses begin the first week of June and last through the third week of July. Most students take two classes simultaneously during the summer session.

Students in our programs may complete a certificate within one year and a master's degree in five terms (inclusive of summer). Or, they can choose to extend their program of study over a longer period of time. There are three start times throughout the year--summer, fall and spring.

The degree program must be completed within seven years, beginning with the first coursework in the program.

Transfer Credits

With Program Director approval, up to nine graduate credits (minimum grade of B) completed at a regionally accredited institution may be transferred to the MAED program.

The University of St. Thomas Engineering Education Certificate may be transferred in full into the program (12 credits).

Up to seven Education Extension (EdEx) credits offered by our approved partners may be transferred into the MAED.

Progression Policy

In order to remain in good standing, students must fulfill the following:

- maintain an overall 3.0 grade point average
- successfully complete the Action Research project, with requisite approval for their planned study by the Institutional Review Board
- adhere to the department's criteria for professional/ethical behavior, integrity, honesty, personal behavior, respect for others and the Minnesota code of ethics for teachers.

Conditions for Probation

Students will be placed on probation for one term by the Graduate Education Program for any of the following reasons:

- lack of attendance and participation
- overall GPA is less than 3.0
- earn a grade below B– in a graduate course
- unprofessional or unethical behavior
- violations of the Minnesota code of ethics for teachers
- violation of the university's policy on academic integrity
- violation of the university's policy on student conduct

Note: St. Catherine expects all students and faculty to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity. Any act of academic dishonesty threatens the value of all scholastic endeavors.

In the event that a student receives a grade below a B-, but has a GPA above 3.0, the student may continue to take courses but will be on academic probation. Failure to get grades above B- in the following term would result in termination from the program under normal condition. For other conditions, failure to meet the conditions for academic probation, or to bring the grade point average to 3.0 by the end of the term on
probation, will result in automatic suspension from the program, under any circumstances.

Under extraordinary circumstances, students may petition in writing to repeat a course, but may not take the next courses in sequence unless the petition has been approved and the conditions for continuance agreed upon.

**Removal from Probation**

In the event that a student is on probation for violating professional/ethical or academic integrity codes, readmission to the program would be considered if conditions of probation have been fully met according to review by the Program Director.

For grade related probation, students must complete the next segment of the program with grades of B- or better. Or, removal from probation may occur when an incomplete, or grades below B-, are converted to grades of B- or better.

At the end of a probationary period, students may be removed from probation, placed on extended probation or dismissed.

**Conditions for Program Dismissal**

Program dismissal will result if conditions for removal from probation are not adequately met. Program dismissal may also happen for violations of the university policy of academic integrity.

**Conditions for Readmission to the Program**

Students who have discontinued program coursework—for any reason (academic disqualification or personal reasons) -- must contact the Office of Graduate Admission to complete the readmission process. In addition, readmission to the program will occur when the following conditions have been met:

- Readmission has been approved by the Program Director
- A reasonable study plan has been made and mutually agreed upon by the student and Program Director

Readmission may not be possible after violation(s) of the department’s criteria for professional/ethical behavior, integrity, academic integrity, honesty, personal behavior, respect for others or violations of the Minnesota code of ethics ([https://www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us/arule/8700/7500.html](https://www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us/arule/8700/7500.html)) for teachers.

**Master’s Degrees**

- Education: Curriculum and Instruction - MA ([http://catalog.stkate.edu/graduate/humanities-arts-sciences/education/post-licensure/curr-instr/](http://catalog.stkate.edu/graduate/humanities-arts-sciences/education/post-licensure/curr-instr/))
- Education: STEM - MA ([http://catalog.stkate.edu/graduate/humanities-arts-sciences/education/post-licensure/tech-integ/](http://catalog.stkate.edu/graduate/humanities-arts-sciences/education/post-licensure/tech-integ/))
- Education: Technology Integration - MA ([http://catalog.stkate.edu/graduate/humanities-arts-sciences/education/post-licensure/tech-integ/](http://catalog.stkate.edu/graduate/humanities-arts-sciences/education/post-licensure/tech-integ/))