

Master of Science Degree in Curriculum and Instruction

Department of Curriculum and Instruction 11/2/2009

The Master of Science degree in Curriculum and Instruction is designed for teachers who want to further develop and advance their professional careers. This program offers candidates for the MS degree an opportunity to develop in-depth knowledge and skills in concentrations in their fields of expertise. By doing so, they will prepare themselves for positions such as lead teachers, curriculum specialists, instructional consultants, and peer coaches. As well, they may see themselves continuing in the role of teacher, but with the added responsibility of being a role-model or mentor for fellow teachers. Some candidates for the Master's degree are preparing for leadership roles within their school districts, such as curriculum director or department chairperson, while some are planning on pursuing further study at the doctoral level. The program continues to grow on campus and occasionally offers the program at off-campus sites throughout the state using a cohort format.

The mission and curriculum for the M.S. in Curriculum and Instruction has five goals which are based on the five core propositions of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. The master graduates will:

- Be committed to students and their learning;
- Know the subjects they teach and how to teach those subjects to students;
- Be responsible for managing and monitoring student learning;
- Think systematically about their practice and learn from experience; and
- Be members of learning communities.

The Master of Science degree in Curriculum and Instruction offered by the Department of Curriculum and Instruction requires teacher certification for admission. Moreover, the program does not lead to teacher certification (<http://www.coe.ilstu.edu/ci/teachcert/advisors.shtml>). Teacher certification for grades K-9, K-12, or 7-12 can only be obtained through a first or second bachelor's degree http://www.registrar.ilstu.edu/students/current/second_bachelors.shtml).

Admission Requirements (effective for admission to program for spring 2010 semester)

To be admitted to the Master of Science degree program in Curriculum and Instruction applicants must:

- Have obtained a 3.0+ GPA in the last 60 semester hours of undergraduate work
- Possess a current teaching certificate
- Have at least one year teaching experience
- Prepare a satisfactory 1-2 page Professional Goals statement
- Submit two letters of recommendation from a professional educator who is knowledgeable of their work and goals
- Complete the TOEFL exam (for international applicants only) with scores of at least: **550 paper/pencil test; 213 computer based test (CBT); or 79 Internet-based testing (iBT)**
- Complete an on-line Graduate School application at <https://www.welcome2isu.ilstu.edu/>
- Document your teaching experience (schools and dates of employment) on the on-line application
- NOTE: the GRE exam is no longer required
- Admission deadline dates: October 1 for Spring; April 1 for Summer or Fall.

Program Change

Effective for applicants after summer 2007, the program is 30 semester hours: courses C&I 401 and 402 are no longer required, but may be taken as electives. Also, the comprehensive exam will no longer be required, but will be incorporated into more rigorous courses C&I 481 and 482. See the program's Plan of Study.

Program Coordinator, Faculty Advisors, Program Planning Committee, Support Staff

Interim Coordinator: Tom Haynes

Advisors (C&I non-literacy faculty with Associate or Full Graduate Faculty status, those that have special expertise, and the Literacy Coordinator): Adel Al-Bataineh, Temba Bassoppo-Moyo, Alan Bates, Ryan Brown, Pauline Clardy, Sharon Comstock (Milner Library), Lynn Gaddis (NBPTS Resource Center), Doug Hatch, Tom Haynes, Ken Jerich, Nancy Latham, Karen Lind, Tony Lorsbach, Thomas Lucey, Greg Michie, Marilyn Morey, Vicky Morgan, Do-Yong Park, Rena

Support Staff: Maria Zamudio or Evelyn Harrison, (309) 438-5425

Important Information for Current C&I Masters Program Students

Orientation Manual for Graduate Students:

(http://www.coe.ilstu.edu/ci/graduate/documents/orientation_manual_for_graduate_students.pdf).

If you are finishing this degree program next semester, please look at the Graduate School's webpage containing important deadlines for filing your Plan of Study, degree completion application, and any other requirements at <http://www.grad.ilstu.edu/completion/>

Note: Teachers interested in the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) (<http://www.nbpts.org/>) should go to this webpage: the National Board Research Center (not affiliated with C&I): (<http://www.coe.ilstu.edu/ilnbpts/index.htm>).

Realizing the Democratic Ideal

As with the other departments within the College of Education, the Department of Curriculum and Instruction promotes and follows "Realizing the Democratic Ideal" (<http://www.teachereducation.ilstu.edu/councilforteachered/democratic-ideal.shtml>), the conceptual framework for all teacher education programs at Illinois State University.

Key Advisement Information

The following information briefly presents key advisement information that should be discussed with each master's degree candidate.

Core courses – All candidates must satisfactorily complete all core courses (C&I 407, 409, and 411, and EAF 410) before beginning C&I 481 and 482 or starting on the thesis option. **See Plan of Study presented below.**

Transfer Courses – Candidates that believe they have course work that can transfer as elective/concentration credit must consult with their advisor, follow graduate school guidelines, and complete the appropriate graduate school form. Courses that were completed prior to admission to the program and were a component of another program (degree or certification) may not be used as transfer credit. Students may transfer up to nine (9) semester hours of approved graduate coursework (described in a accredited university's graduate catalog).

Taking courses as a student-at-large – Candidates may count up to 12 semester hours of course work completed successfully at Illinois State University as a graduate student-at-large.

Electives and/or Concentration – Under the direct and collaborative consultation of the advisor, the candidate will select and complete 12 hours of course work that is in line with their area of concentration. These courses can be from any department in the University. These courses must be listed in the Graduate Catalog. Only 400 level courses from the College of Education may be used, as well as any 300 or 400 level graduate courses from other colleges.

Course Offerings and Concentration Areas – The Core Courses for the MS degree in Curriculum and Instruction are offered on campus in the following pattern:

C&I 407 – Learning in Educational Settings – Spring and Summer

C&I 409 – Student Diversity and Educational Practices – Spring and Summer

C&I 411 – Curriculum – Fall and Summer

EAF 410 – Research Methodology and Statistics in Education – Spring, Summer, and Fall (It is recommended that EAF 410 be completed just before C&I 481)

Professional Research Courses are offered in this pattern on campus:

C&I 481 – Professional Research – Fall
C&I 482 – Professional Research II – Spring

The following are the current list of suggested concentration areas and aligned courses.

Early Childhood Education – C&I
446, 447, 448

Elementary Education -

Middle Level Education- C&I 421,
423

Secondary Education – methods
and curriculum courses in a subject
area

Educational Technology – C&I 401,
432, 438, 489.05, SED 379

Literacy – 461, 462, 464, 465

Bilingual Education – ENG 341,
343, 344, 345

Social Studies – C&I 435, 436

Mathematics – methods and
curriculum courses in mathematics

Science – C&I 450, 451, 453

Career and Technical Education –
methods and curriculum courses in
subject areas

Postsecondary Education – C&I
489.65, 491

National Board Certification – C&I
402, 493.13

School Librarianship – C&I 440,
442, 444, 445, 449, 454

The following general courses are commonly selected by students as electives:

C&I 401 Instructional Media and Technology; 402 Reflective Teaching Practice; 473 Mentoring Student Teachers; 477 Supervision of Instruction, 478 Evaluating Student Performance, and 489.05 Emerging Educational T11/2/2009echnologies

Choosing the Thesis Option – If a candidate is deeply interested in conducting educational research and/or is interested in pursuing a doctoral degree at some future date, it is highly recommended that they consider, with consultation of their advisor, the thesis option (six semester hours) instead of completing C&I 481 and 482. Once this decision to pursue a thesis has been made, the candidate and the advisor should review the program and Graduate School policies regarding this process (on respective web sites). In addition, the candidate, the advisor, and the program coordinator should meet to discuss the timeline, topic, and process.

Completing the Program – As the candidate progresses toward completing the program, they should keep track of their courses on a Plan of Study. A Plan of Study Audit form (on-line through the Graduate School web site) must be submitted to the program coordinator via email during the semester of the planned graduation. In other words, once the candidate has moved into their last semester of coursework, the Plan of Study Audit needs to be formally prepared. The candidate needs to meet with the advisor to review accomplishments and timeline. If all courses are completed or in process, and all requirements have or are being met, will support the Plan of Study Audit and then forward this to the program coordinator for review, and submission to the Graduate School.

Once the Plan of Study Audit has been approved by the Graduate School, the advisor, program coordinator, and the candidate will receive a copy of the approved Plan of Study Audit. At this point, the candidate may apply for graduation.

Cohorts – The program coordinator and MS in C&I program planning committee, in consultation with the Curriculum and Instruction graduate faculty and the Curriculum and Instruction chairperson, pursues arrangements to offer the program at distant locations to cohort groups. No more than two off-campus cohorts, supported by the C&I department, exist at any one time. In some instances, where grant money pays for the establishment and operation of a cohort, there may be more than two cohorts operating at one time. Program courses for cohorts are offered via on-site teaching, hybrid instruction (mixed on-line and face-to-face teaching), as well as completely on-line courses. For educational organizations interested in exploring the possibility of establishing a MS degree in C&I cohort, contact the program coordinator to discuss the possibilities.

Illinois State University
Department of Curriculum and Instruction
Plan of Study for Masters Degree (MS) in Curriculum and Instruction

Current Date: _____ Date Admitted to Program: _____
 Name: _____ UID Number: _____
 Address: _____ Home Phone: _____
 _____ Work Phone: _____
 Advisor: _____ E-Mail: _____
 Degree: M.S. in Curriculum and Instruction Expected Graduation Date: _____

Note: 300-level courses in the College of Education may NOT be used on this Plan of Study.
 Up to six hours of 300-level courses from other Colleges may be used if they appear in the graduate catalog.

TRANSFER COURSES

University	Course Number and Title	Substitute For	Hrs.	Grade	Sem/Yr

CORE COURSES - 12 Semester Hours Required

Course No.	Prev.#	Substitution	Course Title	Hrs.	Grade	Sem/Yr
C&I 407	439		Learning in Educational Settings	3		
C&I 409			Student Diversity and Educational Practices	3		
C&I 411	476		Curriculum Theory	3		
EAF 410			Research Meth. & Statistics in Education I	3		

SPECIALIZATION AND ELECTIVES – 12 Semester Hours

PROFESSIONAL RESEARCH – 6 Semester Hours

Option 1: Synthesizing Experience

C&I 481	420		Professional Research I			
C&I 482			Professional Research II			

OR

Option 2: Thesis

C&I 499			Thesis			
C&I 499			Thesis			

SUBSTITUTES

Substitute	For:	Rationale			

Total Hours (30 minimum) _____

Student: _____ Date: _____
 Advisor: _____ Date: _____
 Dept. Chair/Designee: _____ Date: _____
 Dean, Graduate School: _____ Date: _____