
MASTER OF SCIENCE **EDUCATION**

*Educational Studies:
Individualized Interdisciplinary
Studies Candidate Handbook*

GRADUATE STUDIES

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Note: The information contained in this handbook is subject to change; students are responsible for communicating with their Graduate Committee Chair/Graduate Office to remain current in the program policies and procedures.

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EDUCATIONAL STUDIES: INDIVIDUALIZED INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES HANDBOOK

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EDUCATIONAL STUDIES: INDIVIDUALIZED INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

I. PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Master of Science in Educational Studies: Individualized Interdisciplinary Studies allows the flexibility to design a program focusing on areas of unique interest and need. In addition to foundation courses, candidates will work closely with faculty to choose coursework to customize areas of emphasis to match career aspirations. Areas of specialization include: Education, English as a Second Language, Leadership and Administration, Special Education, Sports Performance and Leadership, E-Learning, English, and Music.

Educational Studies: Individualized Interdisciplinary Studies is a program intended to provide graduates with an expansion of knowledge of education in a liberal arts sense. Students who pursue a master's degree in Educational Studies: Individualized interdisciplinary Studies will not earn initial certification, but this degree enables exploration of various careers in the educational studies field such as instructional designer, community outreach coordinator, academic advisor, athletic director or education publisher.

Graduates of the Educational Studies program will encourage and foster skills that include critical thinking, problem solving, communication, action planning, teamwork and management skills, leadership, decision-making skills, and professional presentation of ideas. Program goals are as follows:

- Candidates will develop an understanding of the interdisciplinary nature of education.
- Candidates will improve the critical thinking skills needed to apply the knowledge and skills learned throughout the program.
- Candidates will acquire and develop the knowledge, skills, and perspective to examine to act upon the ethical and social justice dimensions of education.
- Candidates will utilize research skills to investigate educational issues and challenges.

II. APPLICATION

Admission to the Educational Studies: Individualized Interdisciplinary Studies Program requires individuals to have a 2.75 undergraduate GPA, a completed graduate application, two letters of recommendation, an official transcript, and a \$35 application fee. Upon admittance, candidates will receive access to the School of Education Graduate Studies D2L shell where important correspondence, documents, and reminders can be found.

III. PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Course Name and Number	Credits
I. FOUNDATION COURSES (6 credits)	
EDER 761 Graduate Research and Design	3
EPSY 742 Psychology of Learning	3
II. SPECIALIZATION COURSES (24 Credits) Select 24 credits in consultation with graduate chair from the following areas: Education, Leadership and Administration, ESL, Special Education, Sport Performance & Leadership, English, E-Learning, and Music	
	3
	3
	3
	3
	3
III. RESEARCH OPTION (choose one)	
EDFN 788 Research Paper or Project (3) OR	3
Elective: (3)	
TOTAL CREDITS	33

IV. GRADUATE COMMITTEE

The candidate's graduate committee chair and second committee member will be assigned by the Graduate Office. The candidate's committee chair is responsible for providing direction and advisement during the program, and will work with the candidate to schedule the final presentation. The committee will read and grade the comprehensive examination and the culminating presentation. Following a passing presentation, the committee chair will collect signatures from the committee members and return to the Graduate Office. Should the candidate not pass the final presentation, the committee chair will be responsible for articulating a plan of action to the candidate that is agreed upon by the committee members.

V. COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION

The comprehensive examination is typically completed during the candidate's final semester of enrollment. Candidates are responsible for registering for this examination through the Office of Graduate Studies. Timely registration for this exam is advised, as there are limited testing dates available each term.

The comprehensive examination consists of five, randomly selected essay questions, each addressing one of the Educational Studies Critical Competencies (See Appendix A). Responses must be crafted in APA format and infused with research, articulated with in-text citations. Sources must be credible using at least three peer-reviewed articles. All sources must be correctly cited on a "References" page. Candidates will complete the exam electronically, and will be given 24 hours to develop and submit responses.

Candidates are required to successfully complete this assessment prior to program completion. The comprehensive examination is evaluated by the graduate committee chair and the second committee member. The Graduate Office will communicate the results to the candidate. If the candidate does not pass the examination, a subsequent test must be scheduled.

VI. FINAL PRESENTATION

The final presentation is typically held during the candidate's final semester of enrollment. Graduate candidates are responsible for collaborating with the committee chair to schedule a time; the presentation can be completed on campus or online. Candidates are required to successfully complete this assessment prior to program completion.

The presentation must address each of the Critical Competencies in the form of an engaging visual presentation with careful consideration of the area of specialization and evidenced with examples and artifacts from the coursework. The presentation should include research which should be cited in APA format.

Candidates should plan to electronically send the presentation to the committee members at least 24 hours before the scheduled presentation. The final presentation is evaluated by the graduate committee. The Graduate Office will communicate the results to the candidate.

VII. CONTACT INFORMATION

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APPENDIX A

EDUCATIONAL STUDIES: INDIVIDUALIZED INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES CRITICAL COMPETENCIES

CRITICAL COMPETENCIES

The Educational Studies: Individualized Interdisciplinary Studies Program provides key skills that graduates, as global citizens, should emulate before program completion as critical competencies: self-awareness, communication, academic development, leadership, and professionalism.

CRITICAL COMPETENCY 1: SELF-AWARENESS

Indicators:

- Emotional Intelligence
- Identity
- Personal and professional growth
- Resilience

CRITICAL COMPETENCY 2: COMMUNICATION

Indicators:

- Critically thinking about effective communication
- Relationships
- Collaboration
- Interpersonal Understanding

CRITICAL COMPETENCY 3: ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT

Indicators:

- Conceptualization of research and scholarship
- Initiative
- Outreach
- Critical thinking
- Problem solving

CRITICAL COMPETENCY 4: LEADERSHIP

Indicators:

- Professional ethics
- Research in leadership practices
- Evaluation and feedback
- Diverse group management

CRITICAL COMPETENCY 5: PROFESSIONALISM

Indicators:

- Flexibility
- Personal and professional planning
- Networking
- Global citizenship



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