

Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction

Program Overview:

The Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction is a journey of profound personal and professional discovery. The program is individualized to Ph.D. candidates, responsive to communities, built upon the philosophy that students are agents of their own learning, and committed to fostering a symbiotic relationship between research and community. The program is structured so that parttime students receive ongoing support from their professors and peers through classes, community activities, and scholarly endeavors.

Program Mission:

This Ph.D. program distinguishes itself by a commitment to scholarship that is devoted to critical issues related to teaching and learning. Students will develop collaborative explorations and employ multiple research and disciplinary lenses to understand and address local and possibly global educational needs by working with and for the people and communities with whom they are engaged.

Program Structure:

The Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction requires a minimum of 45-credit for this post-master's degree program. Students in this part-time will complete 39 credits as well as a comprehensive exam prior to the dissertation proposal. Over the course of three years, students are expected to complete a minimum of 180 hours of field research and community engagement. Students will focus their studies in one of the four programmatic strands:

- **Teaching, Learning, and Knowing** - build on multiple, multimodal literacies that focus on socio-cultural meaning making
- **Early Childhood** - study the influence of family, community, and socio-cultural contexts on human development issues and inequalities affecting young children
- **Global Education** - examine the causes and consequences of issues affecting local and global communities
- **STEM Education** - work and play with the intersections of science, technology, engineering, math, and culture

Unique Attributes:

- Levels of ongoing mentorship
- Ongoing data collection
- Robust methods courses
- Community Immersion: working **with** and **for** people and communities
- Individualized Study supported by collaborative efforts

Possible Career Outcomes (Including but not limited to):

- University Professor
- Educational Researcher
- Curriculum Specialist
- Classroom Teacher
- Specialized Consultant
- Informal Educators and Education Specialists
- District-Level Specialist

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Admission:

Admission requirements include the following:

- (a) hold teacher certification (or equivalent)¹ and have at least three years teaching experience or the equivalent in Informal Learning Environments.
- (b) hold a master's degree before admission.
- (c) provide official transcripts from all conferred degrees.
- (d) complete the GRE, Miller Analogies Test (MAT) or complete a 30-minute analytical writing activity in lieu of the GRE.
- (e) submit three (3) letters of recommendation that indicate the applicant's value to the program and address the applicant's academic achievements and strengths.
- (f) submit a CV
- (g) complete an application, one or more essays, and an interview.

Publication & Presentations:

Our program provides strong and ongoing support for students to publish their work in peer-reviewed journals or book chapters. Students are also encouraged and guided to present their research at formal conferences outside of St. John's prior to graduation. This emphasis on scholarly engagement is sustained through high-quality data collection, research-based coursework, and continued mentorship from faculty.

Coursework:

Of the required 15 courses, 11 are dedicated to research methods/educational research. These courses are noted in blue.

- EDU 8000: Community Immersion Research Seminar I, 3 credits
- EDU 8001: Community Immersion Research Seminar II, 3 credits (*Prerequisite: EDU 8000*)
- EDU 8002: Community Immersion Research Seminar III, 3 credits (*Prerequisite: EDU 8001*)
- EDU 8003: Visions of Research I, 3 credits
- EDU 8004: Visions of Research II, 3 credits
- EDU 8005: Visions of Research III, 3 credits (*Prerequisite: EDU 8003 and EDU 8004*)
- EDU 8006: Philosophies of Education, 3 credits
- EDU 8007: Families and Communities as Partners in Education, 3 credits
- EDU 8008: Global Perspectives within Education and Educational Research, 3 credits
- EDU 8009: Critical and Historical Perspectives in Education & Educational Research, 3 credits
- EDU 8010: Dissertation Proposal Seminar, 3 credits (*Prerequisite: Chair's Permission*)
- EDU 8013: Advanced Methods in Research, 3 credits
- EDU 8014: Special Topics: Literature Review, 3 credits
- EDU 8011: Dissertation I, 3 credits (*Prerequisite: Chair's Permission*)
- EDU 8012: Dissertation II, 3 credits (*Prerequisite: Chair's Permission*)

Department Chair: Dr. Regina Mistretta

Program Coordinator: Dr. Eric Akuoko

¹ Alternate credentials will be considered. Documentation is required