Curriculum & Instruction

Levels of Specialization

- NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFICATION
- TEACHER LEADERSHIP
- EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY

Program Purposes
This is an applied program designed as ongoing professional development for on-the-job teachers. The program has a job-embedded professional development emphasis and holds the promise of preparing teachers in the context of current educational reform initiatives. The program is designed for the classroom teacher who may also have, or want to pursue, curricular and/or instructional leadership responsibilities. Examples of such teacher positions would include department heads, PD leaders and grade-level heads. Further, the program is intended to prepare classroom teachers for additional teaching responsibilities by increasing their curricular and instructional skills, while adding to their content background.

Certification
This program does not lead to advanced certification. However, the Curriculum and Instruction (C&I) program provides education professionals from varying backgrounds the opportunity for advanced study. As such, the program is aligned with the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) Core Propositions. Students who apply to and complete the M.Ed. degree in the C&I program with the intent of applying for National Board certification will be required to take the National Board Certification Track and produce their NBPTS portfolio as requisites for their certification application.

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Program Objectives
1. Provide candidates an opportunity to advance personal and professional growth through graduate study
2. Provide candidates an avenue to redefine and personalize their professional development through job-embedded professional development opportunities
3. Provide educators with opportunities for additional preparation to expand career options through professional tracks of specialization
4. Encourage a spirit of inquiry that will enable candidates to design and interpret classroom research leading to instructional changes
5. Enable and empower teachers to assume leadership in curriculum and instruction at school and district levels

Special Admission Criteria
In addition to Frostburg State University’s general admission requirements, applicants to the M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction program must comply with the following requirements:

1. Applicants must be certified teachers or eligible for certification.
2. Applicants must have earned a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale in their undergraduate programs.
3. Applicants must have completed a bachelor’s degree from a regionally accredited institution.
4. Applicants must have passed the Praxis II examinations. An official copy of the Praxis II scores must be submitted with the application.
5. Applicants are required to have a pre-admission interview with the graduate program coordinator, or designee.

A component of the interview includes the completion of the Curriculum and Instruction Self-Reflection Survey. The survey is based on the NBPTS Core Propositions, and is intended to provide a personal profile of academic achievement and professional growth of the candidate at the time he or she enters the program. The same survey will be administered at the completion of the capstone requirement to examine the candidate’s professional and academic growth, and to provide information about the effectiveness of the program’s operation.

Program Description
The program offers an M.Ed. degree in Curriculum and Instruction and a graduate certificate in Educational Technology. (The Graduate Certificate program in Educational Technology is described in the next section of this catalog.)

Students in the M.Ed. degree program can choose a level of specialization from three tracks: National Board Certification, Teacher Leadership and Educational Technology. Based on the track, students must complete a minimum of 33-36 credits.

The M.Ed. program requires 21 credits in the Professional Education Core and the Curriculum and Instruction Core courses. Depending upon the track, the next 12-15 credits are selected from the courses listed under the appropriate track, including the capstone course.

Professional Education Core (9 credits)
EDUC 603 Principles and Practices of Research
EDUC 606 Developmental Theory and Experiential Growth
EDUC 640 Curriculum Theory, Design and Analysis

Curriculum and Instruction Core (12 credits)
CUIN 651 Instructional Design for Understanding
CUIN 652 Assessing for Understanding
CUIN 653 Accountability in the Context of Student Learning
CUIN 654 Cultural and Technological Awareness in the Context of Global Education
Tracks and Capstone (12-15 credits)

1. National Board Certification (9 credits)
   - CUIN 604 Introduction to National Board for Professional Teaching Standards
   - CUIN 606 National Board Certification Professional Portfolio
   - CUIN 693 National Board Certification Practicum

   Capstone (3 credits)
   - CUIN 700 Research Applications in Education: Action Research

2. Teacher Leadership (9 credits)
   - CUIN 602 Becoming a Teacher Leader
   - CUIN 603 The Highly Effective Practitioner
   - CUIN 694 Teacher Leadership Practicum

   Capstone (3 credits)
   - CUIN 700 Research Applications in Education: Action Research

3. Educational Technology (12 credits)
   At least 12 credit hours must be selected from the following courses:
   - EDUC 530 Technology Specialist in Education
   - EDUC 558 Educational Technology for Teachers
   - EDUC 633 Multimedia Design and Publication for Instruction
   - EDUC 635 Evaluation and Integration of Technology in Instruction
   - EDUC 638 Online Instruction
   - EDUC 645 Advanced Instructional Design
   - EDUC 655 Design and Administration of Instructional Games

   Capstone (3 credits)
   - CUIN 700 Research Applications in Education: Action Research

Transfer/Proficiency Credit
- If you have successfully completed (grade of B or better) graduate courses at another accredited institution, you may apply for transfer credit for up to 9 credits.
- If, upon faculty assessment, the courses are deemed essentially comparable to courses in the program, you will be awarded credit toward completion of your degree. This does not apply to the two practica and the capstone course.
- All courses considered for transfer credit must meet the graduate transfer credit policy requirements including the six-year limit.
- Proficiency credit and credit by exam are not options in this program.

Special Degree Requirements

Study Plan
A study plan is required for all students. It is required to be completed at the beginning of the program at the interview with the coordinator. This is expected to occur prior to registering for the first course. Once approved, changes require the permission of the advisor and program coordinator.

Special Provision: If the student has not had extensive direct teaching experience within the last 5 years prior to applying to the program, the student will be required to complete a graduate course that includes a field-based component in the student's area of concentration. Respective supervision of a mentor teacher and a University supervisor will be assigned by the program coordinator.

Admission to Candidacy
For admission to candidacy, students must comply with the following requisites:
- Students must have completed a minimum of 15 credits and a maximum of 18 credits.
- Transfer courses are not counted toward the 15-18 credits unless they are accepted as equivalent courses. If so, the grades are not calculated in the GPA.
- Students must have completed the Professional Education Core and part of the Curriculum and Instruction Core courses.
- Students must have reached and maintained a GPA of 3.0.
- The student's application to candidacy must have the approval of the advisor and two other faculty members who have taught the student.
- The program coordinator has the right to require that a student remediate deficiencies even if that requires extra courses, or to require that a student be dismissed from the program based on the student's aptitude and professional growth and potential. If dismissed, the student has the right of appeal to the dean.

Program Regulations
To obtain the M.Ed. degree in Curriculum and Instruction, students must observe the following regulations:
- Students must be enrolled in at least one graduate course (3 credit hours) within a period of 18 months to remain in good academic standing status.
- When/if the student intends to be absent from the program for a period longer than 18 months, students must formally submit a request for a program extension, and be approved by the program coordinator and the Graduate Services Office.
- When not enrolled in the program for a period of 18 months, students must re-apply for acceptance into the program. If approved, the student's study plan will be modified according to the current graduate catalog.
- Students must complete all degree requirements within the time limitations established by Frostburg State University, or submit a request for program extension, if needed.