

***COUNSELING AND
EDUCATIONAL
PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT***

**Masters of Education (M.Ed.)
with an emphasis in
Educational Psychology
(37~39 credits)**

**College of Education
University of Nevada, Reno**

Note: This is an unofficial document published for the convenience of students. The UNR Catalog is the only official document on these matters.

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*Counseling & Educational Psychology (CEP) Department
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University of Nevada, Reno
Reno, Nevada 89557-0281
(775) 784-6637, FAX (775) 784-1990*

CEP Department Website: <http://www.unr.edu/colleges/educ/cep/cepindex.html>

Graduate School Website: <http://www.unr.edu/grad/>

I. EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY EMPHASIS

The M.Ed. is designed for teachers in elementary education, secondary education, and special education who wish to improve and expand classroom skills to meet the needs of an increasingly diverse population of students. The degree is also appropriate for any student wishing a master's degree with an emphasis in educational psychology.

The 37-39-credit degree includes courses in Educational Psychology, Counseling, and Information Technology in Education. Nine credits of electives also are included.

II. ADMISSION POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR THE M.Ed. DEGREE

- a. A baccalaureate degree from an accredited college with a grade point average (GPA) of 2.75 or better on a scale of 4.0, or a GPA of at least 3.0 for courses taken during the last half of the undergraduate program.
- b. Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores must be recorded within the past five years. Scores on the combined Verbal and Quantitative sections must sum to at least 750.
- c. Information on Graduate Record Exam (GRE) website <http://www.gre.org>. Test Location: Sylvan Learning Center, 940 West Moana Lane, Reno, NV (775) 829-2700, provides GRE testing services on an individual basis.

GRE Readiness Workshop: Contact Kaplan Testing Prep for times, dates, and locations for workshops at 1-800-kaptest or visit the website at <http://www.kaptest.com/index.jhtml>

- d. **Formal applications for University of Nevada, Reno admission must be made online to the Graduate School <http://www.unr.edu/grad> Graduate School mail stop/326 (Student Services Building 225, (775) 784-6869) Allow time to complete the paper work to meet CEP's deadlines.**
- e. The following information must be sent directly to:

**Admissions Committee
Counseling & Educational Psychology Department
College of Education – Mail Stop 281
University of Nevada, Reno – 1664 N. Virginia St.
Reno, NV 89557-0213
(775) 784-6637, FAX (775) 784-1990**

1. A **letter of application** that includes:
 - (i) degree choice (M.Ed.)
 - (ii) a statement of professional career goals (what do you plan on doing with your degree?)
 2. A **resume** indicating educational, career, and other experiences relevant to becoming a Master's level specialist in educational psychology.
 3. **Three letters of recommendation** from professionals assessing your potential for professional graduate level training as a specialist in educational psychology.
- f. Each applicant will receive from the graduate school notification of acceptance or rejection approximately eight weeks after application deadline.
- g. Within two weeks following notification from the graduate school, a letter from the CEP department will be sent to successful candidates informing them of a student orientation meeting and the CEP faculty member who has been assigned as each student's program advisor.

III. PROGRAM OF STUDY

(37-39 credits required for completion of the M.Ed. Students must enroll in 18 credits of 700-level courses and in six credits outside of the CEP department).

a. Educational Psychology Requirements (15 credits)

CEP 636 Cognitive Learning (3 cr.)

CEP 700 Introduction to Educational Research (3 cr.)

CEP 705 Advanced Human Growth and Development (3 cr.)

CEP 738 Learning Theories (3 cr.)

(Choose one of the following four with advisor's approval:)

CEP 640 Educational Measurements and Statistics (3 cr.) OR

CEP 740 Advanced Educational Measurements and Statistics (3 cr.) OR

CEP 741 Applied Research Design and Analysis I (nonparametric statistics) (3 cr.) OR

CEP 743 Applied Research Design and Analysis II (multivariate statistics) (3cr.)

b. Counseling Requirements (3 credits)

(Choose one of the following:)

CEP 600 Introduction to Counseling and Guidance (3 cr.)

CEP 620 Introduction to Career Counseling (3 cr.)

CEP 660 Group Dynamics (3 cr.)

c. **Information Technology in Education Requirements (9 credits)**

CEP 610 Information Technology in Education (3 cr.)

CEP 611 Computer Telecommunications in Education (3 cr.)

CEP 758 Multimedia & Presentation Technology in Education (3 cr.)

d. **Electives (9 credits)**

e. **Comprehensive Examination – CEP 795 (1-3 credits)**

IV. **ADDITIONAL PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**

a. **Complete a Program of Study Form:**

The program of study form must be submitted as soon as 12-15 credits of course work have been completed. This form can be obtained in the CEP Department or on the Graduate School web site (www.unr.edu/grad). It is completed in consultation with the advisor.

b. **Three Credit Per Semester Requirement:**

Students admitted to the M.Ed. degree must enroll in at least three credits per semester or they will be withdrawn from the graduate standing by the Graduate School.

c. **Performance Assessment**

Performance assessment of student's dispositions, knowledge and skills will occur upon acceptance to the program, midway through the program, and at program completion.

Entry Assessment – Upon acceptance to the program, students will complete a pretest consisting of (a) 100 multiple-choice questions covering program CORE course content, (b) the Defining Issues Test (DIT), a standardized measure of principled reasoning skills, and (c) the Hunt Paragraph Completion Test, a standardized measure of cognitive complexity. These measures will be administered to new students *at the beginning of their first semester of coursework after admission to the program.*

At the time of pretest activities, students will be informed of the need to maintain a portfolio that includes representative samples of items that demonstrate knowledge and skills in the six domains of advanced professional competence in Educational Psychology: (1) human growth and development; (2) cognition, information processing and human learning; (3) social and cultural diversity; (4) individual and/or group counseling; (5) research, assessment, and evaluation; and (6) information technology in education. The six domains are adapted from standards of (a) the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational

Programs (CACREP), (b) the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP), and (c) the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE).

Midpoint Assessment – Midpoint assessment occurs when students develop their formal program of study (after completion of 12-15 credits of course work). At this time, students will submit a professional portfolio for review by Educational Psychology faculty. The portfolio will contain products representative of required coursework in the program. If weaknesses are noted, faculty will meet with students to determine remedial procedures. (These may include retaking a course, writing a paper, taking additional coursework or other relevant tasks.)

Exit Assessment – (Comprehensive Examination) – After completion of all coursework, students enroll in CEP 795: Comp Exam. The Comprehensive Exam consists of a series of post test activities including (1) multiple choice exam on core course content knowledge, (2) The Defining Issues Test (to determine if gains have been made on principled reasoning scores), and (3) The Hunt Paragraph Completion Test (to determine if gains have been made on cognitive complexity scores).

Scores on the Defining Issues Test and the Hunt Paragraph Completion Test are used for program evaluation only.

Students must pass the CORE course content knowledge exam with a score of at least 70 percent. Students who do not pass the exam will be required to take either an oral or written exam over areas of determined weaknesses. The student will work with the advisor to determine the content of the written exam.

During the semester in which students take the comprehensive examination, they will submit their completed portfolio to their adviser who will arrange for review by Educational Psychology faculty. Content of the student portfolio must demonstrate competency in the six domains of advanced professional competence in Educational Psychology and will be evaluated by their advisor and other Educational Psychology faculty using a scoring rubric.

If weaknesses are noted, students may be asked to retake coursework, write a paper, or work individually with faculty. Faculty will also conduct structured exit interviews with students to determine satisfaction with their program.

For more detailed information about assessment procedures visit:

<http://www.unr.edu/educ/cep/professional.performance.assessment.m.ed.ms.doc>

Students must register for **at least** three credits each semester, **including the last semester**. Students must register for CEP 795 their last semester (1-3 credits). Arrangements to take the exam should be made through the student's advisor.

At least two months before the comprehensive examination is to be scheduled, students should meet with their major adviser.

d. Six year Program Completion Requirement:

Requirements for the M.Ed. degree must be completed in six calendar years from the date of the first course listed in the approved Program of Study Form.

e. Application for Graduation may be obtained on the Graduate School web site (www.unr.edu/grad)

V. ACCREDITATION, LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

The National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) accredits the M.Ed. in Educational Psychology. The M.Ed. is not designed to address initial or additional licensure requirements.

VI. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Prospective student meetings are held the second Thursday in January and August at 4 pm at the CEP Office (call the department, (775) 784-6637, to register for the meeting). To obtain a University of Nevada catalog, contact the ASUN Bookstore, Mail Stop 194, (775) 784-6597. A University of Nevada Graduate Student catalog can be obtained on line at www.unr.edu/grad or by contacting the Graduate School, Mail Stop 326, (775) 784-6869.

VII. EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY EMPHASIS COORDINATOR

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