



# Master of Education

## Curriculum Design

The University of San Diego's online Master of Education (M.Ed) program is designed for practicing K-12 teachers with a minimum of two years of teaching experience in a wide variety of classroom settings, including public district, charter, private, independent and non-traditional schools. This 100% online program provides asynchronous coursework, so projects can be completed on your own schedule while still meeting deadlines. Please note, this program does not confer graduates with a teaching credential nor an admin credential for those pursuing the School Leadership specialization.

This 30-unit program can be completed in five terms where students complete six units per term, focusing on one course at a time. Applications are accepted all year round. Students may start the program in either the Fall, Spring or Summer. Program courses will prepare students with the knowledge and skills they need to enhance their teaching with an emphasis on 21st century skills, equity and social justice, classroom inquiry and a professional response to the Common Core Standards.

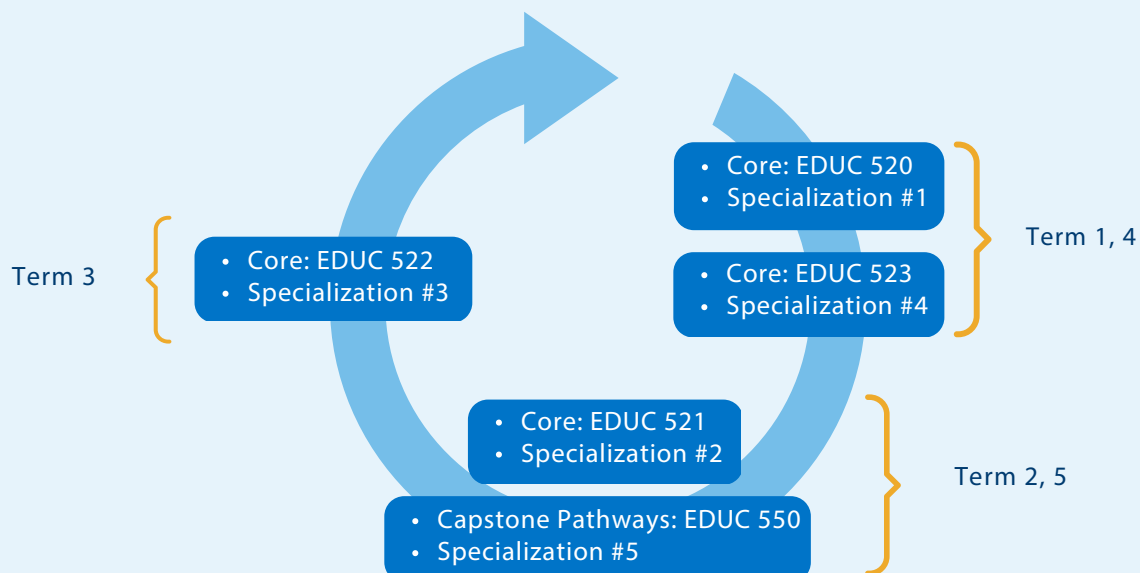
### CONTACT US

**Learn more at**  
[MEDOnline.SanDiego.edu](https://medonline.sandiego.edu)

**Call**  
 (619) 260-4580 or  
 (888) 832-0239

**Email**  
[medonline@sandiego.edu](mailto:medonline@sandiego.edu)

### Foundational, Specialization and Capstone Courses



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## SPECIALIZATIONS

Along with five foundational courses, each Master of Education student will take five courses from their chosen specialization (15 units). For detailed descriptions of specialization courses, please reference the separate brochure for each respective specialization or review them on our website at [medonline.sandiego.edu](http://medonline.sandiego.edu).

### CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

### INCLUSIVE LEARNING: SPECIAL EDUCATION AND UNIVERSAL DESIGN (UDL)

### SCHOOL LEADERSHIP

### STEAM (SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, ARTS AND MATHEMATICS)

### TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION

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## CORE COURSES

The foundation of the Master of Education online program consists of five core courses including a capstone action research project. The five core sources (15 units) are:

#### **EDUC 520 - Social Justice and Educational Equity**

Analysis of the American educational system with a particular focus on issues of diversity, inequity, conflict and social justice within a school context. Historical case studies, contemporary policies and practices and international comparisons compel consideration of the social construction of education.

#### **EDUC 521 - Cognition and Learning**

Explore key cognitive studies on human cognition and learning. You will critically discuss research and contemporary debates on cognitive processes, learning, memory, reasoning, problem-solving, developmental mechanism, cognitive styles, motivation and the socio-cultural foundations of learning with an emphasis on the implications for educators and educational researchers.

#### **EDUC 522 - Education Research Methodology**

Introduction to the major educational research methods and paradigms with an emphasis on reflective, practitioner-directed inquiry. The course encompasses quantitative methods, qualitative methods, mixed methods and action research frameworks. Particular emphasis is placed on action research as a reflective and collaborate inquiry for improving educational practices.

#### **EDUC 523 - Qualitative Methods in Education Research**

Applied exploration of qualitative research methodologies such as ethnography, grounded theory, case-study and cross-case comparisons, surveys, observations, document analyses, focus groups and interviews. Opportunity to learn and apply a variety of techniques to analyze data and interpret findings.

#### **EDUC 550 - Capstone Seminar**

The capstone seminar is the final course in the online M.Ed. program sequence. This course supports candidates as they engage in an action research project appropriate to their area of specialization and responsive to the needs of their classroom. The action research project is a requirement to earn a degree in this program.



# SPECIALIZATION: CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

The Curriculum and Instruction specialization course of study is the most flexible online option. It allows you to choose your specialization courses from across the School Leadership, STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) and Inclusive Learning: Special Education and Universal Design offerings. With these courses, you will focus on the design, delivery and assessment of lessons, units and programs.

## CORE COURSES

- **EDUC 520 - Social Justice and Educational Equity**
- **EDUC 521 - Cognition and Learning**
- **EDUC 522 - Education Research and Methodology**
- **EDUC 523 - Qualitative Methods in Educational Research**
- **EDUC 550 - Capstone Seminar**

## SPECIALIZATION COURSES (SELECT 5, 1 COURSE FOR EACH TERM):

*Please note: Course offerings are subject to change from term to term*

### INCLUSIVE LEARNING SPECIALIZATION COURSES

#### **EDUC 533 - Designing Learning Environments for All**

Theoretical and practical exploration of the principles of Universal Design for Learning (UDL). Investigation of brain research into recognition networks, strategic networks and affective networks with consideration of how these networks can inform instructional design decisions.

#### **EDUC 538 - Identifying and Responding to the Needs of Diverse Learners**

Examination of variability of ability and experience among students. Investigation and application of assessment tools and instructional design strategies that provide differentiated support for the success of all students.

#### **EDUC 586 - Teaching Students on the Autism Spectrum**

Exploration of our evolving understanding of autism in the research literature, educational practice and popular imagination. Examination and application of instructional strategies for supporting autistic students in communication, organization and social interaction.

#### **EDUC 587 - Co-Teaching: Collaborating in an Inclusive Environment**

Examination of research, policy and practice of co-teaching and collaboration models that support general education and special education students in inclusive classrooms.

#### **EDUC 588 - Disability in Education Policy and Law**

Investigation of the historical, philosophical, legal, political and sociological constructions of disability in education. Analysis of application of current law to classroom and school policies and practices.

### SCHOOL LEADERSHIP SPECIALIZATION COURSES

#### **EDUC 501 - Family, School and Community Partnerships**

This course will address strategies used by effective school leaders to build and sustain reciprocal family and community partnerships and explore approaches designed to leverage these partnerships to cultivate an inclusive, caring and culturally responsive school community. Targeted focus on working with stakeholder groups to support special populations including English Language Learners, Title I students and Special Education students.

#### **EDUC 503 - Instructional Leadership**

This course addresses the development, implementation, and assessment of rigorous and coherent systems of curriculum, instruction and assessment designed to promote each student's academic success. Targeted focus on effective strategies to develop the professional capacity of teachers and other school personnel through effective hiring, coaching, mentoring and accountability structures.

#### **EDUC 506 - Data Driven Decision Making**

Rigorous exploration of how school leaders use data, including standardized and school-based assessments, to drive continuous improvement through site-based decision-making for the express purpose of promoting equitable and culturally responsive opportunities for all students.

### **EDUC 515 - Ethical Leadership in an Era of School Reform**

Contextualized within the evolving high stakes accountability context of public K-12 education, this course will consider the challenges and opportunities facing educational leaders. The course will examine the history and impact of national, state and local reform movements, and explore how educational leaders develop, advocate for and enact a shared mission and vision for excellence and equity within schools and districts. The course will include a focus on ethical and professional norms for school leaders and address legal rights and responsibilities.

### **EDUC 555 - Leading Professional Learning Communities**

Investigation of strategies used to build and sustain effective site-based professional learning communities. Targeted focus on how to structure school operations and leverage resources to prioritize professional learning, continuous improvement and each student's academic success and well-being.

## **—STEAM SPECIALIZATION COURSES**

### **EDUC 507 - Creativity and Innovation in STEAM**

Examination of points of convergence and divergence in the creative processes of artists, scientists, mathematicians and engineers. Students will develop a strong foundation of theoretical and applied STEAM knowledge, practical guidance in the development of their own unique STEAM toolkits, and opportunities to experience and experiment with STEAM learning in their classrooms.

### **EDUC 508 - Artistic Modeling and Representation in Science and Math Education**

An exploration of educational strategies and classroom approaches that leverage the multi-dimensional connections between artistic, scientific and mathematical knowledge, modeling and representation to strengthen K-12 students' content understanding, critical thinking skills and capacity for innovation. The course will prioritize connections to the crosscutting concepts described in the next generation of science and math standards.

### **EDUC 509 - Engineering Design Process in Math and Science Education**

Investigation of the intersection between conceptual understanding and real-world application with a focus on the engineering design process. Drawing on NASA's Beginning Engineering, Science and Technology (BEST) program, students will explore strategies for engaging K-12 students in structured inquiry learning to enhance disciplinary understanding and ensure knowledge transfer.

### **EDUC 518 - Changemaking with Technology**

Changemaking involves taking creative action to solve a social problem. This course provides students with meaningful learning experiences using technology to promote social change. Students will be challenged to think about how technology impacts our daily lives, the way we learn and how we utilize it in our day to day lives. Students will also gain understanding of how technology can be leveraged to personalize learning for all types of learners including adults.

### **EDUC 528 - STEAM and Special Student Populations**

Investigation of classroom practices that contribute to historical and contemporary inequities in learning outcomes in STEAM subjects for students based on gender, race, language and need. Exploration of how STEAM methodologies provide opportunities to increase equity and improve outcomes for all students.

## **—TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION SPECIALIZATION COURSES**

### **EDUC 517 - Digitized Learning with Technology**

This course will address virtual learning by using technology and digitized learning education material that is accessible for all types of learners. Students will learn the foundations and frameworks of educational technology. Students will learn how to use digital content via the Internet and technology tools to transform traditional instruction.

### **EDUC 518 - Changemaking with Technology**

Changemaking involves taking creative action to solve a social problem. This course provides students with meaningful learning experiences using technology to promote social change. Students will be challenged to think about how technology impacts our daily lives, the way we learn, and how we utilize it in our day to day lives. Students will also gain understanding of how technology can be leveraged to personalize learning for all types of learners including adults.

### **EDUC 519 - Instructional Design for Leaders**

This course addresses the systematic design of learning experiences and environments. Students learn about the use of instructional design (ID) models and predominant learning theories (behaviorist, cognitive and constructivist) to create effective learning experiences.

### **EDUC 524 - Universal Design through Technology**

In this course, students plan, develop, evaluate and manage the implementation of technology in various learning environments so that all students are learning at their potential. This is accomplished by exploring the "what" of learning, relating to the need to present material in multiple formats.