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.
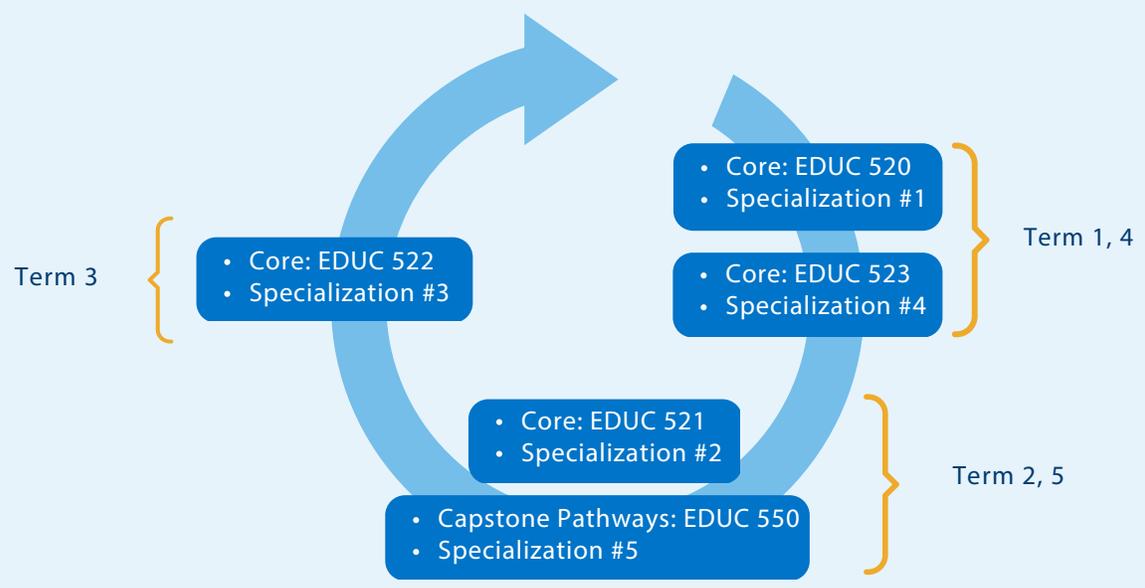
CONTACT US

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MEDOnline.SanDiego.edu

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(888) 832-0239

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Foundational, Specialization and Capstone Courses

Term 1, 4
- Core: EDUC 520
- Specialization #1
- Core: EDUC 523
- Specialization #4

Term 3
- Core: EDUC 522
- Specialization #3

Term 2, 5
- Core: EDUC 521
- Specialization #2
- Capstone Pathways: EDUC 550
- Specialization #5

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.

> ### CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

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

> ### SCHOOL LEADERSHIP

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

> ### TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION

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: SCHOOL LEADERSHIP

The School Leadership specialization is designed for experienced K-12 educators who aspire to leadership roles within their schools and communities. The School Leadership concentration features a five-course specialization sequence that addresses essential areas of school leadership including data driven decision-making, instructional leadership, professional learning communities, meaningful engagement with families and communities and ethical and professional norms. All courses are grounded in a social justice foundation and are designed to prepare school leaders who advance equity as well as excellence in their schools and communities. Please note, this specialization does not confer graduates with an admin credential.

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:

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.