Curriculum and Instruction (C&I) graduate programs focus on teaching and learning in the following curricular areas: Literacy Studies (master’s and PhD), Math & Science (master’s and PhD), Humanities (master’s only) and Research on Teaching and Teacher Education (PhD only). Course work focuses on foundations of learning, foundations of education and subject matter knowledge and pedagogy. The programs prepare students to understand the complexities of classroom contexts and teaching practice.

The C&I master’s programs are closely associated with a special program in the School of Education – Partners in Education (PIE) (https://www.colorado.edu/education/academic/graduate-programs/curriculum-instruction/partners-education-program). The program allows beginning teachers to teach in K–12 schools, receive professional support in their classrooms, and concurrently earn a master’s degree.

The C&I PhD program is a research-oriented degree program that combines rigorous preparation for teaching and research in specific content areas with particular attention devoted to curriculum and instruction, cognitive and social processes, and research methodology. Specialty areas include Literacy Studies (https://www.colorado.edu/education/academic/graduate-programs/curriculum-instruction/ma-ci-literacy-studies), Mathematics Education (http://www.colorado.edu/education/graduate-programs/curriculum-instruction-ci-math-science-education), Science Education (http://www.colorado.edu/education/graduate-programs/curriculum-instruction-ci-math-science-education) and Research on Teaching and Teacher Education (ROTATE) (http://www.colorado.edu/education/graduate-programs/research-teaching-teacher-education-rotate). It is an ideal degree for those interested in the processes of instruction and learning within one of the previously mentioned content areas, and/or in the education and professional development of teachers. This degree is intended for those interested in preparing for careers in research and teaching in university settings, educational leadership and services to schools, or research and development in the private or non-profit sector.

Concurrent Degree Program: BA in Ethnic Studies + MA in Curriculum & Instruction + Teaching Licensure

The new 4+1 Ethnic Studies and Education Concurrent Degree Program offers an efficient and rigorous path toward earning a Bachelor’s Degree in Ethnic Studies and a Master’s Degree in Education in five years. The program invites highly focused Ethnic Studies students who are interested in applying their critical thinking skills and dedication to social justice to transformative careers in education.

The program consists of: MA in Curriculum & Instruction and teacher licensure for those students in Ethnic Studies who are interested in becoming licensed teachers in either Secondary English Language Arts, Secondary Social Studies or Elementary Education.

Admissions

Prospective students may apply at the beginning of their junior year or at anytime thereafter prior to completion of undergraduate studies. Applications are submitted to and reviewed by the School of Education.

Applicants must:

- have declared Ethnic Studies as a major,
- have completed all MAPS requirements, and
- have a minimum GPA of 3.0.

Applications

- Three letters of reference: two letters must come from professors teaching Ethnic Studies or Education courses; the third letter may be from a professor, instructor or supervisor in a community or educational setting
- Personal statement
- 25 hours of youth experience (for the MA in Curriculum & Instruction + teacher licensure only)

Continuation in the Program

Once admitted, students must:

- maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0, and
- complete 6 credits of graduate-level coursework by the second semester of senior year.

The BA/MA has a required 5-year time limit. Students must complete all requirements for the BA by the end of your 8th semester and complete all requirements for the MA by the end of your final 5th year.

Contact Us

Completing the 4+1 program requires careful planning. Consult an advisor early to help chart a degree plan. Contact Education advisors by email at edadvise@colorado.edu (edadvise@colorado.edu) or 303-492-6555. Contact an Ethnic Studies advisor via the Ethnic Studies website or by phone at 303-492-8852.

The School of Education and Department of Ethnic Studies have partnered to support the 4+1 degree program that reflects each unit’s commitment to educational opportunity, diversity and engaged scholarship examining how race and the interrelated categories of ethnicity, disabilities, language, gender, class and sexuality impact the lives of people locally and globally.

Master’s Degree

- Curriculum and Instruction - Master of Arts (MA) (catalog.colorado.edu/graduate/colleges-schools/education/programs-study/curriculum-instruction/education---curriculum-instruction-master-arts-ma)

Doctoral Degree

- Curriculum and Instruction - Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) (catalog.colorado.edu/graduate/colleges-schools/education/programs-study/curriculum-instruction/education-curriculum-instruction-doctor-philosophy-phd)