

# EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATIONS, POLICY AND PRACTICE - MASTER OF ARTS (MA)

Faculty and students in the Educational Foundations, Policy and Practice (EFPP) program area focus on the interdisciplinary study of educational policy and practice. We bring together the foundational disciplines—including history, philosophy, sociology, anthropology and law—as well as critical perspectives from curriculum theory, gender studies and queer theory, to analyze pressing issues in educational policy and practice. Our program area explores the relationships between schools and the various social, political and economic forces that structure educational aims, institutions and practices.

The EFPP master's program is designed as a flexible program with a relatively small size to encourage strong relationships among students and faculty. The program prepares graduates for diverse roles as educators, advocates or policy analysts in schools, government agencies, think tanks, policy organizations, community organizations or institutions of higher education. This program also prepares graduates to pursue doctoral work.

Students in the EFPP master's program can choose to focus on two possible concentrations, each with a different focus: community-based change, and evaluation and policy analysis. In addition to these two possible concentrations, students are also able to design an individualized concentration and degree plan that reflects their academic interests and professional goals.

## Community-Based Change Concentration

Students will pursue a course of study to develop expertise in policy analysis, research methods and program evaluation, as well as specific areas of inquiry such as contemporary school reforms and partnerships between schools and communities. This strand of the EFPP MA program is specifically geared toward educators, nonprofit leaders, parents and other community members who wish to gain skills and knowledge that will assist them in becoming powerful advocates for high-quality, equitable education.

Key foundations courses in this concentration include but are not limited to: policy issues in education, philosophy of education, anthropology of education, sociology in education, history of American education, education policy and the law, international and comparative education, queer(ing) topics in education, and issues in African-American education. Students will create a specific course plan around their interests in consultation with their advisor. Research methods courses can include Community-Based Participatory Research, as well as Disciplined Inquiry, Basic Statistical Methods, or Introduction to Qualitative Methods.

## Evaluation and Policy Analysis Concentration

Students will pursue a course of study to develop expertise in policy analysis, research methods and program evaluation, as well as specific areas of inquiry such as the process of school reform and the development of more equitable education policies. The program is designed to prepare evaluators and policy analysts for careers in academic institutions and agencies at the state and federal levels.

Graduates will be able to analyze, recommend and evaluate public policies.

Key courses in this concentration include but are not limited to: education evaluation, policy issues in education, philosophy of education, education policy and the law, and theoretical issues in education policy. Students will create a specific course plan around their interests in consultation with their advisor. Research methods courses can include Disciplined Inquiry and Basic Statistical Methods, as well as advanced courses in Program Evaluation, Survey Methodology or Introduction to Qualitative Methods.

## Bachelor's–Accelerated Master's Degree Program

Students may earn this degree as part of the bachelor's–accelerated master's (BAM) degree program, which allows currently enrolled CU Boulder undergraduate students the opportunity to earn a bachelor's and master's degree in a shorter period of time.

For more information, see the Accelerated Master's tab for the associated bachelor's degree(s): Ethnic Studies - Bachelor of Arts (BA) (<https://catalog.colorado.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/programs-study/ethnic-studies/ethnic-studies-bachelor-arts-ba/#acceleratedmasterstext>).

Completing the BAM degree program efficiently requires early and careful planning. Interested students can contact education advisors at [edadvice@colorado.edu](mailto:edadvice@colorado.edu) or 303-492-6555, and Ethnic Studies advisors at [ethnicst@colorado.edu](mailto:ethnicst@colorado.edu) or 303-492-8852 at any time.

## Requirements

Students must successfully complete 30 credit hours of approved coursework while maintaining at least a B (3.0) average in *all* work attempted while enrolled. Students must also successfully pass their Capstone Course. The master's degree must be completed within four years.

For more information on requirements for the master's degree, visit the Educational Foundations, Policy and Practice (<http://www.colorado.edu/education/graduate-programs/educational-foundations-policy-practice-efpp/ma-efpp/degree-requirements/>) page on the School of Education website.

## Degree Requirements

Students develop a degree plan in consultation with their faculty advisor, typically in their first semester. The frequency of individual course offerings varies; therefore, candidates should plan ahead so that the required 30 credit hours are completed within the four-year limit set forth below.

Students select the remaining 6 credit hours in consultation with their advisors, depending on the credit distribution in the above categories.

### Required Courses and Credits

Code	Title	Credit Hours
<b>Foundations</b>		<b>15</b>
Choose at least 15 credit hours in educational foundations.		
Suggested courses:		
EDUC 5015	International / Comparative Education	
EDUC 5075	Sociology of Education	

EDUC 5085	History of American Education	
EDUC 5301	Queer(ing) Topics in Education	
EDUC 6210	Education Policy and the Law	
EDUC 6211	Education Law and Litigation Workshop	
EDUC 6220	Gender Issues in Education	
EDUC 6240	African American Education in the United States	
EDUC 6245	Latinx Education Across the Americas	
EDUC 6250	Higher Education in the United States	
EDUC 6325	Anthropology of Education	
EDUC 7055	Philosophy of Education	
EDUC 7446	Policy Issues in Education	
EDUC 8055	Theoretical Issues in Education Policy	
EDUC 8125	Seminar: Radical Education Theories	
<b>Education Research</b>		<b>6</b>
Ordinarily, entering master's-level students will take two of the following courses to meet this requirement:		
EDUC 5150	Introduction to Qualitative Research Methods	
EDUC 5716	Basic Statistical Methods	
EDUC 5726	Introduction to Disciplined Inquiry	
Those who have already taken one or more comparable courses can adjust their course of study accordingly.		
<b>Electives</b>		<b>6</b>
Students may select 6 credits of coursework in consultation with their advisor.		
<b>Capstone Course</b>		<b>3</b>
<b>Total Credit Hours</b>		<b>30</b>

## Capstone Course

During the final spring semester prior to graduation, students must enroll in the capstone course, EDUC 6945 MA Capstone Seminar in Foundations of Education. This course is only offered in the spring semester. The capstone course requires the submission of a paper or project reviewed by faculty to successfully complete both course and graduation requirements.

## Transfer of Credit

Transfer credit is defined as any credit earned at another accredited institution, credits earned on another campus of the CU system, or credits earned as a nondegree student within the CU system including the Boulder campus. Students who have transfer credits must complete the transfer of credit paperwork approval process.

The maximum amount of work that may be transferred from another accredited institution to CU Boulder is 9 credit hours. These transfer credits are accepted only after approval of the department chair or program director and under the special conditions outlined in the Graduate School Rules. All courses accepted for transfer must be graduate-level courses. A course in which a grade of B- or lower was received will not be accepted for transfer. Transfer coursework must have been completed in the five years prior to acceptance to the program. Credit may not be transferred until the student has completed six credits of graduate-level coursework, with a 3.0 GPA, as a degree-seeking student on the CU Boulder campus.

## Learning Outcomes

By the completion of the program, students will be able to:

- Understand and apply various disciplinary perspectives (sociology, history, anthropology, law, philosophy, political science, etc.) and critical theoretical lenses to analyze educational policy and practice, with a particular focus on the social, political and economic forces that structure educational aims, institutions and practices.
- Develop nuanced and sophisticated understandings of equity and justice in education, as well as the ability to evaluate how (and to what extent) various educational policies and practices advance or undermine such aims.
- Design and conduct a high-quality, research-based project that demonstrates academic skills of argument, evidence and reasoning. Present research-based and policy-relevant findings to an audience.