LEARNING SCIENCES AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT - MASTER OF ARTS (MA)

The Learning Sciences and Human Development Department’s master’s program focuses on research, theory and professional knowledge, with an emphasis on learning and teaching in K–12 educational settings. The program is structured in accordance with a scientist-practitioner model, with primary emphasis given to academic study and research.

Learning Sciences and Human Development Department faculty members and students collaborate to facilitate the development of research, theory and professional knowledge with an emphasis on learning and teaching in K–12 educational settings. All students develop an academic foundation that prepares them for further study at the PhD level, work in K–12 education or employment in the private sector. In addition, faculty advisors and students build programs of study that meet both the program goals and the student’s interests.

Requirements

Prerequisites
Minimum of two upper-level undergraduate courses related to learning and human development. For example, courses in psychology, sociology or education that touch on topics such as how people learn, cognition and the social and cultural contexts of development including the study of culture, race, ethnicity, gender or linguistics would be relevant.

Minimum of two courses related to learning in the disciplines in one of the following areas: literacy, history, mathematics, science or engineering.

General 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 develop a degree plan (Plan I or Plan II) 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.

Transfer 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. Students who have transfer credits must complete the transfer of credit paperwork.

The maximum amount of work that may be transferred from another accredited institution to CU Boulder is 9 credit hours, and is accepted only after approval of the department chair/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 6 credits of graduate-level coursework as a degree-seeking student on the CU Boulder campus with a 3.0 GPA.

Suggested Electives

Learning and Development
EDUC 8358 Seminar: Human Learning
EDUC 8348 Seminar: Human Development

Curriculum and Instruction
EDUC 5105 Teaching for Understanding and Equity

Learning and Technology
See special topics courses.

Foundations
EDUC 7055 Philosophy of Education

Additional Electives
The following are courses offered through the School of Education that provide opportunities to learn about learning and teaching in schools:
EDUC 5065 Curriculum Theories
EDUC 5235 Language and Literacy Across the Curriculum
EDUC 5205 Elementary Mathematics Theory and Methods
EDUC 5315 Perspectives on Science
EDUC 5316 Nature of Social Studies and Social Studies Education
EDUC 5317 Perspectives on Mathematics

Degree Plans

Plan I: Thesis Option
In addition to the required courses above, students choosing Plan I must take an additional 6 credit hours of electives, to be chosen in consultation
with their advisor, and complete 4 credit hours of EDUC 6954 Master’s Thesis.

Plan II: Comprehensive Examination Option
In addition to the required courses above, students choosing Plan II must take an additional 9 credit hours of electives, to be chosen in consultation with their advisor, and complete a 4-credit-hour written comprehensive examination during their last term of study for the MA degree. The examination covers the content of all work in the program. Students transferring coursework from other institutions to this program (up to nine credit hours may be taken at other approved institutions) are responsible for the same knowledge as those whose work has been taken entirely at CU Boulder.

Time Limit
The master’s degree must be completed within four years.