

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

The Learning Sciences & Human Development (LSHD) 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.

The LSHD 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.

Required Courses

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Core Requirements		
EDUC 5716	Basic Statistical Methods	3
EDUC 5726	Introduction to Disciplined Inquiry	3
EDUC 6318	Psychological Foundations of Education	3
EDUC 6328	Advanced Child Growth and Educational Development	3
Core Electives		
Choose at least 9 additional credit hours of courses at the 5000 level or above from within the School of Education, to be chosen from the following categories in consultation with your advisor. ¹		9
Learning and Development		
Curriculum and Instruction		
Learning and Technology Foundations		
General Electives		6-9
Thesis Option		4
EDUC 6954	Master's Thesis	
Total Credit Hours		31-34

¹ GRTE courses may not count toward a master's degree.

Suggested Electives

Code	Title	Credit Hours
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.