



Master of Education Program Handbook

Welcome

Congratulations and welcome to the Department of Teaching and Learning!

We are delighted that you have chosen to study with us and honored that our team of faculty will be engaged in your journey of exploration, enrichment, and transformation. The Department of Teaching and Learning offers Master's degree programs noted for its research-based coursework lead by dedicated faculty who are well recognized nationally and internationally for their research and talents. Our esteemed faculty will guide and prepare you in the breadth and depth of learning that will enable you to participate in high quality work that can impact practice and policy in your various fields and career paths. We hope that you find this handbook beneficial in providing guidelines to ensure your journey is a successful and fruitful one.

All the best in your educational endeavors,

P.G. Schrader, PhD

Chair, Department of Teaching and Learning

Mission Statement(s)

The *College of Education* is committed to creating an intellectual environment that promotes quality instruction, significant research, and professional service. Particular attention is focused on preparing professionals for diverse educational settings and on contributing to educational and pedagogical knowledge through scholarly endeavors. The College provides leadership in both the art and science of educational practice. Furthermore, the College is committed to creating an inclusive learning environment that values and promotes diversity. Collaboration among students, faculty, other professionals, and community members is essential to the College in achieving its goals. Integral to the mission is a dedication to being a premier college of education that serves our dynamic and expanding community, the state, the region, and the nation.

The *Department of Teaching & Learning* holds as its central mission educational research and the preparation of educators at all levels. The department ensures that its professional education programs are based on essential knowledge, established and current research findings, and sound professional practice. Our mission is accomplished through:

- Preparing educators who empower students as active and literate participants in a democratic and global society through a focus on core academics and essential skills.
- Concentrating on Common Core State Standards that provide a consistent, clear message regarding curricular priorities.
- Establishing collaborative partnerships with schools to support the preparation of educators for diverse communities.
- Using digital technologies to provide educational opportunities throughout the region.
- Creating and applying evidence-based research to all professional teaching areas, with particular emphasis on areas of national concern such as reading, mathematics, science, and technology.

Purpose

The purpose of this handbook is to provide program specific information that is not found in the [UNLV Graduate Catalog](#). Students are responsible for understanding and following the policies and procedures delineated in this document and the [UNLV Graduate Catalog](#), as well as the NSHE Code, UNLV Bylaws, and the UNLV Student Conduct Code. Questions about policies should be directed to the Graduate College: valarie.burke@unlv.edu or emily.lin@unlv.edu

Department Graduate Faculty

A current listing of the graduate faculty can be found in the [UNLV Graduate Catalog](#). Faculty must hold either associate or full graduate faculty status to be involved in graduate education at UNLV. For up to date information regarding graduate faculty status in your department, visit the [Graduate Faculty status web page](#).

Program Information

[Master of Education – Curriculum & Instruction](#)

Contact Information

[Teaching and Learning](#)

Department

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Program Concentrations

The program offers a wide variety of program concentrations or sub-plans to accommodate educators of all levels and content areas. The Alternative Route to Licensure (ARL) subplans are designed to assist the student in earning a Master's degree while also completing some of the requirements necessary to become a licensed teacher. Subplans are also available for students who have been admitted into the Teach for America (TFA) program. Students can also earn a Master's degree in some content areas through a partnership with the Regional Professional Development Program (RPDP). For more information see [Curriculum & Instruction Plan Descriptions](#) in the [Graduate Catalog](#) and the content area information that appears below:

Degree Program Benchmarks

Culminating Experience

Master's of Education (M.Ed.) Culminating Activity

- CIG 697 Curriculum and Instruction Culminating Experience (1 credit)

CIG 697 Curriculum & Instruction Culminating Experience (1-3 credits)

The culminating experience activity provides students with the opportunity to synthesize knowledge and experience gained throughout their master's program of study. Students will demonstrate depth and breadth of knowledge in their major emphasis concentration of study. The culminating experience project (paper or e-portfolio) will focus the application of theory,

research, content, pedagogy, and standards for effective educational practices. It is recommended that students keep copies of coursework from all master's program of study classes in preparation for the culminating experience. Within the project students are required to use the American Psychological Association (APA) writing style format.

The T&L Culminating Experience is offered every Spring, Summer and Fall semesters. Eligibility for the culminating experience requires the completion of 30-36 graduate semester hours in the C&I Master of Education degree program. If you register for the culminating experience before 30-36 hours of your program have been completed, you will be asked to disenroll. An application is no longer required for the culminating experience. Once students have completed 30-36 hours of their program, they may register themselves for the culminating experience, choosing the section with the student's advisor as the instructor. Once registered, students are required to confirm with their advisor the culminating experience requirements and procedures as per each student's M.Ed. emphasis concentration program of study.

Due dates for CIG 697

- Spring: submit to your advisor on or before April 1st
- Summer: submit to your advisor on or before July 1st
- Fall: submit to your advisor on or before November 1st

NOTE: If due date is on a weekend or holiday, the due date will be next business day.

All culminating papers address a common CIG 697 Evaluation Rubric. While the rubric criteria may have been modified in particular content areas to align with specific expectations, the scoring scale employed is the same across content areas. Those receiving a total score of 12-18, with no ratings of 0 receive an *S (Satisfactory)* grade; those between 8 and 11 receive a *No Pass* and have the opportunity to revise and resubmit on or before the Friday of the last week in instruction. Resubmitted work must receive a total score of 12-18 for an *S (Satisfactory)* or *Pass* on the culminating experience.

When a student receives a *No Pass* grade for the culminating experience paper, he or she must retake the entire culminating experience in the following semester by following all the process described above. If requested, the Graduate Coordinator and/or the Department Chairperson will be available to meet with the student and advisor. Subject Content Area faculty may also be asked to meet with the student and advisor. If the student fails a second time, requests for a third chance will not be permitted by the Graduate College.

Program Timeline

The M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction may take anywhere from one to six years to complete. For those with full-time teaching jobs, a full course load during the fall and springs semesters is six credits per semester.

Professional Code of Ethics/Discipline Guidelines

UNLV Graduate College policy regarding academic integrity can be found in the [graduate catalog](#).

Annual Review Procedures

Each spring term, graduate students are **required** to complete the Graduate Student Annual Review form. This online form will be sent by the Graduate College to the student's Rebelmail account. The mandatory review covers the prior calendar year and assesses student progress while setting goals for the year ahead.

Additional Program Resources

- [Teaching and Learning](#)

Discipline Resources

Writing Style Guide

American Psychological Association (APA). (2019). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association (seventh edition)*. Washington, D.C.: Author. **APA Style**

[Purdue Online Writing Lab](#) (OWL) is a helpful resource for APA style

National/International Professional Organizations American

[Association of Colleges for Teacher Education](#)

[American Educational Research Association \(AREA\)](#)

[Association for the Advancement of Computing in Education \(AACE\)](#)

[Association for Career and Technical Education \(ACTE\)](#)

[Association of Teacher Educators \(ATE\)](#)

[International Reading Association \(IRA\)](#)

[International Society for Technology in Education \(ISTE\)](#)

[National Association for Multicultural Education \(NAME\)](#)

[National Association for Research in Science Teaching \(NARST\)](#)

[National Council for the Social Studies \(NCSS\)](#)

[National Council of Teachers of English \(NCTE\)](#)

[National Science Teachers Association](#)

[National Science Teachers Association \(NSTA\)](#)

University Resources

The Graduate Academy: Innovative Leadership, Professional, and Career Development

The goal of the Graduate Academy is to serve as a virtual resource providing support and many professional opportunities to UNLV graduate students. The Academy offers information about events and services such as graduate certificate programs, workshops, training sessions and career services. You can follow Academy activities via social media or look for regular updates on the website.

Alumni Engagement

With an alumni base 150,000+ strong, the UNLV Alumni Engagement offers a variety of services and opportunities in support of alumni and their families. UNLV alumni are encouraged to support the values of higher learning through advocacy, involvement, and giving.

Commencement Office

Located in the UNLV Office of the Registrar, the [commencement office](#) is the last step in the graduation process. Please check with the commencement office for information on the commencement ceremony and your diploma; for all other information about graduate student degree completion and graduation, including thesis/dissertation requirements and doctoral hooding, please contact the Graduate College. It is the students' responsibility to ensure they apply for [graduation on time](#) and submit all required forms to the Graduate College. Questions regarding thesis/dissertation should be directed to the Graduate College [Student Services Team](#) and questions regarding required forms should be directed to the Graduate College [RPC Team](#).

Office of Diversity Initiatives

The vision of the [Office of Diversity Initiatives](#) is to advocate, promote, and support the advancement of equity, inclusiveness, and empowerment of a continuously changing collegiate and global community. The mission of the Office of Diversity Initiatives is to provide leadership and support for UNLV's diversity mission: *to nurture equity, diversity, and inclusiveness that promotes respect, support, and empowerment*. This Office also handles UNLV Title IX questions, inquiries, and reporting.

Disability Resource Center (DRC)

The [DRC](#) is committed to supporting students with disabilities at UNLV through the appropriate use of advocacy, accommodations, and supportive services to ensure access to campus courses, services, and activities. The DRC is the university-designated office that determines and facilitates reasonable accommodations in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Graduate students with disabilities must disclose to the DRC in order to receive appropriate accommodations.

Office of International Student and Scholars Services

[International Students and Scholars \(ISSS\)](#) ensures compliance with both SEVIS (Student and Exchange Visitor Information System) and federal law, so that the university can continue to be authorized by the U.S. federal government to enroll international students; host and hire international scholars; assist and advise employment eligibility and authorization relating to international students and scholars, and visa, travel, and immigration issues; provide critical and specialized services to the international students and scholars of the UNLV community; and facilitate their transition to the campus and the U.S.

The Care Center

The [Care Center](#) is committed to creating a supportive and inclusive environment for all genders through programming, services, and advocacy for the UNLV community. The Women's Center has informational resources, brochures, and flyers for a variety of on and off campus organizations to help empower and protect yourself, and learn about your options. They also provide free tampons, pads, and condoms.

The Intersection

[The Intersection](#) is a one-stop resource for UNLV's highly diverse student body — a comprehensive multicultural center grounded in the academic life of our students. As an intersecting campus resource,

the Intersection helps ensure students, particularly first-generation and students of color, successfully navigate their academic careers. Here, all members of campus can discuss their differences, discover their similarities, and build a shared sense of belonging.

UNLV Libraries

UNLV Libraries has always been more than books; they are about encouraging students and creating quality programs that elevate growth and learning. Please visit their website for important information about the services they offer to graduate students.

Graduate & Professional Student Association (GPSA)

The Graduate & Professional Student Association serves all currently enrolled University of Nevada, Las Vegas graduate and professional students. The GPSA maintains the Graduate Student Commons located in the Lied Library room 2141 and Gateway Building PDAC Room. The facility a working office equipped with a copier, fax, flatbed scanners, color laser printer, office supplies, and computers with printers and a small kitchen area. The GPSA is the graduate student governance body at UNLV; the GPSA Council consists of one graduate student representative from each graduate department, and they meet monthly. The GPSA also provides volunteer opportunities, sponsors social events, and supports graduate student research through the graduate research and travel grants program.

Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities

The Office of Student Rights & Responsibilities is a student-centered, service-oriented office located within the Division of Student Affairs. The Office of Student Rights & Responsibilities collaborates with the UNLV community to provide an inclusive system through enforcement of the *UNLV Student Code of Conduct* by:

- Promoting awareness of student rights and responsibilities;
- Establishing accountability for student choices;
- Creating opportunities for involvement in the process; and
- Striving to uphold the values and ethics that advance the common good.

Military and Veteran Services Center

The Military and Veteran Service Center is staffed with veterans and veteran education benefits-experienced staff to assist more than 1,800 veterans, dependents, active duty service members, National Guard members, and reservists attending UNLV. Their mission is to develop a welcoming, veteran-friendly campus environment that fosters academic and personal success.

The Financial Aid & Scholarships Office

The Financial Aid & Scholarships Office supports higher-education access and persistence by providing financial aid to eligible students. The office partners with student organizations, the UNLV Foundation, the Graduate College, and other external constituents to provide financial aid learning opportunities and scholarship support for graduate students.

Writing Center

This is a free service to UNLV students to help you with any writing project, from papers to creative writing, to resumes, and we can work with you at any stage of the writing process. The center can help you brainstorm, make an outline, work on your drafts, or just be a soundboard for your ideas. The center staff can assist you in person, or via the Online Writing Lab (OWL) page.

University Policies and Procedures

Graduate students are responsible for knowing and acting in accordance with UNLV Policies and Procedures. To view the most commonly referenced campus policies and procedures, you can refer to

the following websites:

- [Academic Integrity](#)
- [Activation for Military Service](#)
- [Change of Address](#)
- [FERPA/Privacy Rights](#)
- [Health Insurance - Mandatory](#)
- [Jean Clery Campus Safety and Security Report](#)
- [Proof of Immunization](#)
- [Policies and Procedures on the Protection of Research Subjects](#)
- [Rebelmail Policy](#)
- [Student Conduct Code](#)
- [Student Computer Use Policy](#)
- [Title IX](#)

To ensure compliance with Graduate College policies and procedures, please review the relevant sections of the [Graduate Catalog](#):

- [Academic Calendar](#)
- [Academic Policies](#)
- [Admission and Registration Information](#)
- [Degree Progression Policies & Procedures](#)

In addition, the [Graduate College website](#) contains additional information regarding policies and procedures.

Nothing in this handbook supersedes any NSHE, UNLV, or Graduate College policy.

Handbook Information

Last revised	Revised by	Changes summary
2-19-20	Micah Stohlmann Department approved 2-19-20 7-0-0	Updated names and contact information. Also, the 3 credit professional paper with a committee option was removed.