

Secondary Education, MEd

Department: School of Teacher Education and Leadership

College: Emma Eccles Jones College of Education & Human Services

Overview

About This Degree

The graduate program in secondary education is designed for people who desire to improve their competencies as educators. It provides teachers with opportunities to acquire additional knowledge in professional education and in their teaching specialties. The program offers courses dealing with topics of practical interest, such as classroom management, measurement and evaluation, curriculum development, and advanced teaching methods, all classes in which direct classroom application is the main focus.

Students may choose to study in an additional area:

- Gifted and talented
- ESL (MEd only)
- English/language arts
- Mathematics
- Middle school
- Reading
- Science
- Social studies

The Emma Eccles Jones College of Education and Human Services ranks in the top 2% of all graduate colleges of education nationwide, and the college is also ranked third in the nation in total research dollars received, according to "America's Best Graduate Schools," *U.S. News & World Report*.

While the **MS** and the **MA** (which includes a language requirement) are traditional master's degrees, ideal for students interested in pursuing a doctoral degree, the **MEd** is designed for students who desire to work in the field of education. This includes school personnel as well as individuals who are involved in education-related activities in industry and other areas.

Distance Education

The MEd in secondary education is available through USU's [Regional Campuses and Distance Education](#) program.

USU also partners with the Utah State Office of Education (USOE) to offer an [alternative route to licensure](#) to help hired secondary education teachers earn licensure. Students must have a bachelor's degree in a subject taught in secondary education, be determined eligible by the USOE, find employment as a teacher, and then apply to graduate school at USU. Recommendation for licensure comes from the USOE. Utah State University simply provides most of the coursework (USOE Pedagogical Knowledge Requirements) and the opportunity to earn an MEd in secondary education. Courses are delivered at various locations throughout Utah through USU's Regional Campuses.

Career Options

Graduates generally continue on in their teaching careers in schools. Additionally, graduates may also pursue leadership positions in private and public K-12 organizations.

What it takes

Admissions Requirements

Applicants must have a standard secondary teaching certificate and have completed at least one year of successful secondary education teaching. Students who do not meet those requirements, however, can pursue the department's **secondary graduate route to licensure** program. For this, they must have a bachelor's degree in a licensable area, as determined by the state. Additionally, in this program students must choose between science, mathematics, and ESL.

Application Requirements:

- Fill out the [online application](#)
- Pay the \$55 application fee
- Score at or above the 40th percentile on in the GRE or MAT
- GPA of 3.0 or higher during most recent 60 semester hours
- Provide a copy of your transcript
- Provide three contacts for letters of recommendation
- Recommendation by department screening committee

International students have [additional admissions requirements](#).

Admissions Deadlines

The secondary education program has rolling admission, meaning applications are accepted at all times, and students are admitted depending upon available space in the program.

Master's Degree Plan Options

Students receive the **MS** or **MA** by pursuing the following plan option:

- In the **Plan A** option, students complete graduate-level coursework and must write a thesis.

Students can receive the **MEd** by pursuing one of two options:

- The **Plan B** option requires the production of a paper or creative work of art and is expected to reflect equivalent scholarship standards as a thesis.
- A second option, **Plan C**, does not involve a thesis or a defense meeting and is comprised of coursework only.

Most students in the department pursue the Plan C option.

Financial Assistance

Graduate [assistantships](#) (teaching or research) for full-time graduate students are available. For the best chance to be awarded an assistantship, applicants should have their applications completed by the end of February.

A variety of additional funding opportunities are available, including [fellowships](#), [scholarships](#), [tuition awards](#), and [travel support](#). Additionally, students may be eligible for subsidized [health insurance](#) through qualifying assistantships.

Program Requirements

[Click here](#) to see course requirements for the **Master of Education**.

MEd Plan B students are required to pass an oral exam to be taken at the end of the program. Typically, half of the exam is devoted to a presentation and discussion of the student's master's project or portfolio and the other half of the exam focuses on information that every master teacher should know. If a student fails the exam, they may retake it once.

MEd Plan C students are required to pass a culminating experience which is developed by the student's advisor to meet the needs of the student from the following options:

- Culminating interview with the advisor
- Oral comprehensive examination under the supervision of the advisor
- Written comprehensive examination under the supervision of the advisor
- Another culminating experience developed by the student and advisor and approved by the department head

Contact

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Get Involved

Professional Organizations, Honor Societies, and Clubs

Under the broad discipline of education, there are many professional organizations specific to different areas of interest and expertise. Students are encouraged to become members of organizations that are relevant to their area of study.

Labs, Centers, Research

Center for Persons with Disabilities: The CPD is a nationally recognized research center that joins the expertise of researchers and faculty with community partners to address the most difficult challenges facing persons with disabilities and their families. Research addresses issues that cross fields ranging from biomedicine to education. In clinical experiences, learners join teams of professionals, family members, and individuals with disabilities to deliver services and supports.

Center for the School of the Future: The CSF is a research center dedicated to improving the quality and effectiveness of education by identifying effective educational practices and supporting their dissemination and adoption in local circumstances.