

Degree Requirements: Learning and Cognition MS

The master's program in Educational Psychology: Learning and Cognition consists of 30-35 credit hours minimum, depending on the track. Students develop their program of study in conjunction with their advisor and follow one of two tracks: Thesis-track or Coursework-track. The Thesis-track is geared toward students who want more practical research training or would like to pursue a PhD. The Thesis-track MS is a residential program that takes approximately 3 years to complete. The Coursework-track MS takes less than 2 years to complete and may be completed entirely online. The requirements for the MS degree include the following (courses other than those listed below may also qualify; please consult with your advisor and your supervisory committee):

Thesis Track

Students develop their program of study in conjunction with their advisor (i.e., major professor). The thesis track Master's program in Educational Psychology, majoring in Learning & Cognition (L&C) consists of the following 35 credit hours (across requirements for Core Educational Psychology Courses, Area of Specialization, Research Data and Analysis), and includes 6 Thesis hours:

1. Core Educational Psychology Courses (minimum 12 hours)

(Content courses offered by our department or others may also qualify; please consult with your advisor and your supervisory committee.)

EDP 5300	Motivation and Emotion (3)
EDF 5935	Educational Psychology (3)
DEP 5068	Lifespan Development (3)
EDP 5216	Theories of Learning and Cognition in Instruction (3)
SYP 5105	Theories of Social Psychology (3)
EDP 5285	Group Processes in Instruction (3)
EDF 5431	Classroom Assessment (3)
EDF 6937	Seminar in Special Topics (3): Critical Thinking, etc.
EDH 5305	College Teaching (3)
EDF 6683	Family Support for Learning (3)
EXP 5508	Cognition and Perception (3)

2. Area of Specialization (6 hours)

Students develop their area of specialization in conjunction with their advisor. For example, an elementary teacher or secondary teacher who is interested in studying children's learning as a teacher-researcher might select courses from programs in early childhood, elementary or secondary education, instructional systems, multicultural/multilingual education, reading, special education, or other relevant fields of study. In contrast, a program supervisor from a state agency might select courses from adult education, educational leadership, human services, management, psychology, social work, or sociology. Students on the Thesis track are required to take a minimum of two related courses in their chosen area of specialization.

3. Research and Data Analysis (11-12 hours, at least 3 courses)

(Research courses taught in this and other departments may also qualify; please consult with your advisor and your supervisory committee.)

EDF 5400	Basic statistics (4 hours), REQUIRED
EDF 5481	Methods of Educational Research (3 hours), REQUIRED

Degree Requirements: Learning and Cognition MS

EDF 5916	Research Proposal Writing (1 hour)—co-requisite to EDF 5481, REQUIRED
EDF 5401	General Linear Model (4 hours)
EDF 5402	Advanced Topics in Analysis of Variance (3 hours)
EDF 5461	Introduction to Program Evaluation (3 Hours)
EDF 5462	Evaluation of New Programs (3 Hours)
EDF 5464	Qualitative Evaluation (3 Hours)
EDF 6937	Seminar in Special Topics (3): Grounded Theory, etc.

4. Master's Thesis (6 Hours)

Students will defend a prospectus of the thesis study, conduct the study, and defend the final write-up of the thesis before their supervisory committee. Those who are considering a doctoral program are strongly encouraged to complete the Thesis-track to best prepare them for the research requirements of the PhD.

Coursework-only Master's Track

Students electing to take the course-only option for their master's studies must complete a minimum of 30 credit hours. The requirements are similar to those for the thesis track master's degree with two exceptions: (1) course-only students are not required to take the Research Proposal Writing co-requisite to EDF 5481 (Research Methods), and (2) course-only students will complete one extra Core Educational Psychology course for a minimum of 15 credit hours. Online students should consult with their advisor about courses that are regularly offered online.

1. Core Educational Psychology Courses (minimum 15 hours)

- a. Must take either EDP 5216 (Theories of Learning and Cognition OR EDF 5935 Educational Psychology)
- b. Must take EDF 5431 Classroom Assessment
- c. Must take EDF 6755 Theoretical and Practical Issues in Education
- d. Core 4 and Core 5 are open to choice from our list above or you can request consideration for a different class if it fits well

2. Area of Specialization (6 hours)

Students develop their area of specialization in conjunction with their advisor. Students on the course-only track are required to take a minimum of two related courses in their chosen area of specialization.

3. Research and Data Analysis (9-10 hours, at least 3 courses)

Course-only students are required to complete 3 methods courses from the list above (EDF 5481 and EDF 5400 are recommended but also can take a less statistical route with EDF 5442 and Program Evaluation courses).

Recommended Online Sequence:

Semester	Course Number	Course Title	Credit Hours	Course Distinction
First Fall	EDF 5481 or EDF 5442	Methods of Educational Research or Inquiry and Measurement for Practitioners	3	Methods Requirement
	SYP 5105	Theories of Social Psychology	3	Core Option
First Spring	EDP 5935 or EDP 5216	Topics in Educational Psychology or Theories of Learning and Cognition in Instruction	3	Core Requirement

Degree Requirements: Learning and Cognition MS

	EDF 5400	Basic Descriptive & Inferential Statistics	4	Methods Option
First	EDF 5431	Classroom Assessment	3	Core Requirement
Summer	EDF 5461	Introduction to Program Evaluation	3	Methods Option
Second	TBD	Graduate course in area of specialization	3	Elective
Fall	TBD	Graduate course in area of specialization	3	Elective
Second	EDF 6755	Theoretical and Practical Issues in Education	3	Core Requirement
Spring	DEP 5068	Lifespan Development	3	Core Option