Degree Requirements: Learning and Cognition MS

The master’s program in Educational Psychology: Learning and Cognition consists of 33-36 credit hours. 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 35-38 credit hours (across requirements for Core Educational Psychology Courses, Area of Specialization, Research Data and Analysis), and include 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 (9-12 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
EDF 5916  Research Proposal Writing (1 hour)—co-requisite to EDF 5481
EDF 5401  General Linear Model (4 hours)
EDF 5402  Advanced Topics in Analysis of Variance (3 hours)
EDF 5431  Classroom Assessment (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 33 credit hours. These are similar to the requirements 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) instead of 6 Thesis hours, the course-only student will complete 6 additional credits through one of the following ways: (a) 3 credits from a fifth Core Course (see listing under Thesis Track above) and 3 credits from a third Area of Specialization course, (b) 6 credits of Supervised Research/DIS hours, or (c) a combination of 6 credits from a and b.

Recommended Online Sequence:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Course Number</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
<th>Course Distinction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First</td>
<td>EDF 5481 or EDF 5442</td>
<td>Methods of Educational Research or Inquiry and Measurement for Practitioners</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Methods Requirement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SYP 5105</td>
<td>Theories of Social Psychology</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Core Option</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First</td>
<td>EDP 5935 or EDP 5216</td>
<td>Topics in Educational Psychology or Theories of Learning and Cognition in Instruction</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Core Requirement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>EDF 5400</td>
<td>Basic Descriptive &amp; Inferential Statistics</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Methods Option</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First</td>
<td>EDF 5431</td>
<td>Classroom Assessment</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Core Option</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>EDF 5461</td>
<td>Introduction to Program Evaluation</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Methods Option</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second</td>
<td>EDP 5217</td>
<td>Principles of Learner Motivation</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Core Option</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Graduate course in area of specialization</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Elective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second</td>
<td>EDF 6755</td>
<td>Theoretical and Practical Issues in Education</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Graduate course in area of specialization</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Elective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Graduate course in area of specialization</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Elective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Optional 12th course</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Elective</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>