



COLLEGE OF
EDUCATION

Curriculum Studies
M.Ed. and Ph.D.

Curriculum Studies at TCU

Curriculum Studies is interdisciplinary and draws upon multiple perspectives including social foundations, cultural studies, critical theory and education to study curriculum, individuals, societies and interdisciplinary themes, while critically examining educational issues and policies. The field values community building and social actions honoring diversity. Curriculum studies arises from a 1970s reconceptualization of curriculum and is concerned with understanding curriculum more so than developing and evaluating curricula. Curriculum Studies addresses questions such as:

- » What is knowledge and what knowledge is most worth knowing?
- » How does knowledge affect lives?
- » What does it mean to educate and to be educated?
- » What are the relationships between learning and teaching, curriculum theory and practice?
- » How is curriculum culturally, politically, and economically situated?

Graduates specializing in Curriculum Studies pursue varied professional positions in schools, non-profit agencies, and other community organizations. While curriculum studies students' backgrounds and goals are diverse, they share an interest in understanding the intersections of individuals and sociopolitical contexts.



Traditional and Accelerated Master's Program

Master's Program of Study

Curriculum Studies is a specialization in the Curriculum and Instruction master's degree program designed for teachers and other educational professionals interested in improving their instruction, preparing for positions of leadership, or enhancing their abilities to support learning in K-12 schools or other educational settings. The program offers graduate students knowledge related to content and knowledge that helps them contribute to scholarship. The degree is designed for students to choose a content specialization and either a research emphasis, or a teaching and learning emphasis. The objectives of the program are to:

- » Provide a rigorous master's degree program that prepares graduate students to work with children, adolescents, and families in a variety of educational settings.
- » Provide graduate students with the knowledge and skills necessary to enhance their teaching and research abilities.

"This program moves beyond classroom and pedagogy preparation into personal growth. We must think through, digest, and react to the realities of the world and consider where we fit into future change."

-Cassidy Booe, Accelerated Master's Student

The Accelerated Master's option is available to TCU undergraduates obtaining a baccalaureate degree and teacher certification in early childhood, middle school, or secondary education. This option allows students to complete a bachelor's degree with the Master of Education (M.Ed.) in five years.

Master's Program Requirements

The traditional Master of Education (M.Ed.) is a 36 credit hour program that provides a solid knowledge base and background in the theoretical and practical aspects of Curriculum Studies.

- » Curriculum and Instruction Core Requirements (9 hours minimum)
- » Additional Research (3 hours minimum)
- » Curriculum Studies Requirements (15 hours minimum)

For the Accelerated Master's, students complete up to 12 semester hours of the M.Ed. program during the fourth year of undergraduate study. At the end of the fourth year, assuming all other graduation requirements are met, the student earns the baccalaureate degree. During the fifth year, the student completes the remaining semester hours toward their M.Ed. degree in summer, fall and spring semesters.



Doctoral Program

Doctoral Program of Study

The Ph.D. in Educational Studies: Curriculum Studies is a distinctive program that prepares students who are qualified to engage in high-quality original scholarships, to assume faculty positions at the college and university levels, to take leadership positions at district and state-level education agencies, to assume curriculum positions in informal learning environments and to take on positions of influence in educational advocacy.

Doctoral Program Requirements

As a research degree, the Ph.D. is awarded for demonstrating competence in research by successfully defending a doctoral dissertation. The emphasis is on developing knowledge and skills in curriculum studies that result in conducting original research. Students are required to take a suitable number and variety of graduate courses and research apprenticeships to prepare them for the qualifying examination and for the writing of the dissertation. The program requires 51-60 hours after acceptance into the program.



“I appreciate the small, supportive community at TCU. The faculty cares about our success and guides our progress through coursework, exposure to current scholars in our field, academic conferences, and teaching. The culture built between faculty and students feels like colleagues working together for a common goal.”
-Jayna McQueen, Doctoral Student

About the College

Teaching to Change the World is more than the title of the statue outside the College of Education. It captures the intention of faculty, staff, and students to fulfill Texas Christian University's mission: "To educate individuals to think and act as ethical leaders and responsible citizens in the global community."

Graduates of our programs are prepared to meet the challenges of today's schools. They are grounded in theory and research; experienced in diverse, field-based educational settings; and dedicated to providing an equitable and excellent education for all students.

Financial Aid

Graduate Studies in the College of Education provides generous financial aid opportunities. For more details call 817-257-7661 or visit coe.tcu.edu/financial-aid.

Apply Online

Visit applyweb.com/tcug to complete the TCU Graduate Studies online application.

Questions? Contact:

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