

Master's Degree Program Descriptions

[Department of Teaching and Learning](#)

Approved by T&L 1-26-07

The Department of Teaching and Learning in the College of Education, Washington State University, offers three Master's Degrees: the Master's in Teaching (MIT), the Education Master's (EdM) and the Master's of Arts (MA). The MIT and the EdM are available on all WSU campuses (Pullman/Spokane, Tri-Cities, Vancouver); the MA is available on the Pullman/Spokane campus only. Availability of specific courses/specializations will vary by campus.

Each of the three Master's Degrees serves a unique purpose and entails requirements specific to that degree. The chart below compares the three degrees. Endorsement/course work specializations are available in the EdM and the MA. The MIT is a cohort-based alternative teacher preparation program with prescribed and sequenced course work and requirements.

Comparison of MIT, EdM, and MA Degree Programsⁱ

	Master's in Teaching (MIT)	Education Master's (EdM)	Master's of Arts (MA)
Primary Career Intention	Positions emphasizing teaching in K-12 classrooms.	Positions emphasizing expertise in teaching, within school districts, including curriculum directors, behavior specialists, reading specialists, teacher leaders.	Positions emphasizing research and scholarship in higher education, community colleges; preparation for doctoral study.
Degree Objective	Preparation of entry-level teachers with a focus on action research/inquiry as a paradigm for practice.	Preparation of teacher leaders capable of locating, analyzing, synthesizing, and critically evaluating research to apply knowledge to problems of practice.	Preparation of entry-level educational scholars, focused on inquiry to acquire new knowledge and examine or build theory.
Knowledge Base	Critically evaluates existing knowledge base and applies knowledge to practice.	Develops new knowledge and applies knowledge to practice.	Develops theoretical and conceptual knowledge. Inquiry focus with an emphasis on understanding relationship of theory and practice.
Research Methods	Course work focused on developing a broad understanding of educational research, with skills in implementing action research/inquiry in the classroom.	Course work focused on developing a broad understanding of educational research, with skills in one area of implementation (e.g., quantitative, qualitative, action research methods, etc.)	Course work focused on developing a broad/deep understanding of educational research, including development of skills in implementing qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods/alternative methods.
Internship	Pre-student teaching and student teaching internships focused on developing entry level teaching skills and educational knowledge.	Will likely not involve an internship.	May include experience in college teaching and research. May intern with one or more professors related to research interests.
Comprehensive Knowledge Assessment	Written master's project and oral presentation. May also include portfolio assessment.	Written master's project and oral presentation; or, written exam.	Written thesis and oral presentation.
Culminating Event	Applied project using action research, descriptive research, or qualitative research methods and/or a review of the literature demonstrating relevance to some educational problem of practice.	Applied project using action research, descriptive research, or qualitative research methods and/or a review of the literature demonstrating relevance to some educational problem of practice; or written exam.	Original study with goal of building theory and/or research literature base.
Options	Endorsed for public school teaching at one of two levels: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elementary (P-8) Certification • Secondary (5-12) Certification 	State endorsements and/or concentrations of T&L course work available in <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading • ESL/Bilingual Education • Special Education • Curriculum & Instruction 	State endorsements and/or concentrations of T&L coursework available in <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading • ESL/Bilingual Education • Special Education • Curriculum & Instruction

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Modified 9-06-07 to reflect current approvals at the university level.

Comparison of MIT, EdM, and MA Degree Program Requirements

	Master's in Teaching (MIT)	Education Masters (EdM)	Master's of Arts (MA)
Graded Credits	34 credits minimum See program descriptions for detailed list of required coursework. MIT includes common course work in <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Methods • Learning Theory • Foundations/Social Context of Education • Educational Technology • Assessment of Learning • Classroom Management • Diversity (i.e., ESL, Special Education, culture) MIT includes specialized core coursework specific to each option: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elementary Education • Secondary Education 	33 credits minimum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 credits research methods • 6 credits foundations • 15-21 credits from the Dept. of Teaching and Learning • 3-9 credits in supporting area (May include Professional Certification course work or coursework from other departments.) 	21 credits minimum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 credits research methods • 3 credits foundations • 9 credits from the Dept. of Teaching and Learning
Non-Graded Credits	2 credits of T&L 600 Research Preparation and 2-3 credits of T&L 702 for Project and Oral Exam	2-3 credits of T&L 702 for Project and Oral Exam; or written exam.	9 credits of T&L 700 for scholarship leading to and including thesis development and oral defense
Internship Credits	3 credits of Pre-internship with Seminar and 10 credits of Internship with Seminar	None	Optional
Total Minimum Credits	51-52	35-36	30

ⁱ Portions adapted from Young, M. (Summer, 2006). "From the director: The M.Ed., EdD., and Ph.D. in educational leadership." UCEA Review.