

Online Master of Education (M.Ed.) in Science Education Program
Department of Mathematics and Science Education, University of Georgia

Requirements/Advising Worksheet

Revised May 2021

36 Semester Hours of graduate credit (courses numbered 6000+) are required in total.

M.Ed. students normally should already hold Clear Renewable T-4 teacher certification, either in a Secondary Science field (Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Earth/Space Sciences, “Broad Field” Secondary Science) or in Middle Grades Education with a primary current teaching assignment in science. Students with these backgrounds should qualify for an upgrade to T-5 certification in Georgia, and may do so in other states. Students wishing to earn initial certification as part of a master’s program should consider the Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.) program instead. Students with other backgrounds and interests (e.g., science teaching at the college level, in a corporate or military setting, or at an informal science education institution) may be accepted, but should realize that the focus of our ESCI master’s courses is on classroom teaching in Grades 6-12. Teachers with Early Childhood Education certification (but with a special interest in science) may be accepted but should check with Georgia (or other state) teacher certification officials (e.g., the Georgia Professional Standards Commission) about upgrade status.

1. Curriculum and Instruction in Science Education (4 courses; 12 hours total)

_____ ESCI 7040E Teaching Strategies for Secondary School Science [required]

_____ ESCI 7080E Curriculum Planning in Science Education [required]

choose at least 2 from:

_____ ESCI 6200E Science, Technology and Society [STEM Integration focus] [Fall]

_____ ESCI 6200E Science, Technology and Society [Socioscientific Issues focus] [Summer]

_____ ESCI 6230E Environmental Science Education [Spring]

2. Educational Research (1 course; 3 hours)

_____ ESCI 6990E Introduction to Research in Science Education [required]

3. Educational Psychology (1 course; 3 hours)

_____ EPSY 6010E, 6060E, or 6800E

4. Science Content (typically 3 courses; 9 hours total)

5. Electives (3 courses; 9 hours)

May be in other field(s), or additional ESCI, Science Content, or EPSY

6. Capstone Webinar Project

Each student will develop a Webinar that serves as a formal Comprehensive Examination for the degree. The specific topic may be drawn from any of those included in the ESCI courses in the program, the target audience is peers at the teacher's school or other educational institution, and the expected length is a minimum of approximately one half hour. The project is normally submitted during the semester in which the student plans to graduate, and is due three weeks before the Graduate School's deadline for reporting the results of Comprehensive Examinations. These due dates are typically the first Friday in April, July, or November, for the Spring, Summer, and Fall Semesters respectively.

Scheduling of ESCI master's-only courses:

ESCI courses required for the program are offered every other semester, and thus 3 times per 2-year time span, on the following schedule:

ESCI 6990E and 7040E:

Summer of even-numbered years, Spring and Fall of odd-numbered years

ESCI 7080E:

Summer of odd-numbered years, Spring and Fall of even-numbered years

Other ESCI courses designed primarily for students in the program are offered once per year, in a consistent semester, on the following schedule:

ESCI 6200E Science, Technology and Society [STEM Integration focus] – Fall

ESCI 6230E Environmental Science Education – Spring

ESCI 6200E Science, Technology and Society [Socioscientific Issues focus] – Summer

Substantively advanced coursework in science content fields is largely unavailable online through UGA. Therefore Online M.Ed. students most often enroll in one of the limited number of introductory courses having few or no prerequisites yet carrying graduate credit, in science fields that may be largely new to them. Such credit may also be transferred from scientific organizations offering online science content courses that carry graduate credit from other institutions (e.g., in recent years, NASA, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, American Museum of Natural History).

The most common areas for elective courses include Instructional Technology (EDIT), Middle Grades Education (EDMG), Language and Literacy Education (LLED), Educational Theory and Practice (ETAP), and the 4 EPSY courses required for the Georgia In-field Endorsement in Gifted Education, 3 of which can be counted towards M.Ed. degree requirements.

In accordance with UGA Graduate School rules:

- Transfer credit from another institution is limited to 6 hours, with grades of B or higher.
- A maximum of 9 hours of coursework initially taken on a non-degree basis at UGA may be applied to degree requirements.
- A student must be registered for at least 3 hours during the semester in which the final requirements for the degree are completed in order to graduate. These last 3 hours must be through UGA rather than transferred.
- The Continuous Enrollment Policy states that all UGA graduate degree students must register for at least 3 hours of coursework during at least two of the three semesters of each year (operationally defined as beginning in Fall and ending in Summer) until graduation – i.e., in its simplest form, it is not allowed to take consecutive semesters off from coursework.