

# StFX Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction with a Concentration in Literacy

## *Courses to be held in the Annapolis Valley and online*

### Spring 2020 – Summer 2022

The StFX Faculty of Education has developed a Masters of Education in Curriculum and Instruction program, with a concentration in Literacy for qualified in-service teachers in the Annapolis Valley Regional Centre for Education (AVRCE). This program will advance the capabilities of participants to offer exceptional literacy experiences to elementary students in multi-ability, possibly multi-aged contexts in public schools. This degree supports the Nova Scotia Department of Education and Early Childhood Development's increased recognition of the importance of literacy across the curriculum.

This graduate cohort involves both online and face-to-face courses offered at a central site within the area served by the AVRCE. The initial Spring 2020 course will have 2 face-to-face Saturdays and the rest online. The summer courses will be completely face-to-face in July 2020. This face-to-face experience has proven to be a very successful part of the cohort experience, allowing the development of a relational learning community. The online courses will be completed synchronously ("live") online through Collaborate/Moodle one evening per week from 6:00-9:00 pm (Atlantic Time). Some courses may be "blended" with some face-to-face instruction and some online instruction. Courses held in the winter will normally be completely online. Graduate students should ensure that they have adequate personal resources (computer and internet connections) to support distance learning. Laptops/desktop computers are preferred as it is not possible to access all the features of the online platform if tablets, notebooks or phones are used.

### Tentative program sequence and outline:

LOCATION	SPRING 2020	SUMMER 2020	Fall 2020	Winter 2021	SPRING 2021	SUMMER 2021	FALL 2021	WINTER 2022	SPRING 2022	SUMMER 2022
Fully Face-to-face		534 505								
Online or blended format	521A		538	576	532	544 536	508	527	520A	569

### Course Descriptions

#### **EDUC 521A - Current Research in Instruction: Literacy and Elementary Learners**

This course will enhance graduate students' abilities to plan, teach and assess literacy development in complex, possibly multi-aged, multi-ability elementary classrooms.

#### **EDUC 534 - Introduction to Educational Foundations**

This course provides graduate students with an opportunity to deepen their understanding and awareness of how issues of power and privilege have shaped their own and their students' lives. Educators will (re)think their pivotal role as teachers of literacy in elementary grades alongside larger issues of equity and social justice.

#### **EDUC 505 - Introduction to Educational Research**

This course introduces graduate students to approaches to educational research, particularly as it relates to literacy pedagogy. It also includes a basic introduction to graduate student writing and literature review methodology.

**EDUC 538 - The Nature of the Reading Process**

This course will examine models related to our understanding of the reading process and will explore the contributions of current literacy theories to the development of instructional practices.

**EDUC 576 - Specific Issues in Curriculum Development: Emergent and Early Literacy Foundations**

This course explores emergent and early literacy theories and practices, with a focus on current trends in supporting younger elementary students' developing literacies, linking these to recent curriculum developments.

**EDUC 532 - Curriculum Theory**

In this course, ideas of major curriculum theorists will be examined and the implications of each position for literacy programs in elementary grades will be discussed.

**EDUC 520A - Current Research in Curriculum: English Language Arts**

In this course, approaches to working with learners who are at risk in terms of their literacy development will be examined, along with strategies to support these learners.

**EDUC 536 - Program Development**

This course introduces graduate students to models of integrating literacy across the curriculum, focusing on inquiry-based learning and teaching 21st century competencies in a complex, possibly multi-aged, multi-ability elementary classroom.

**EDUC 508 - Critical Research Literacy in Education**

This course examines how to critically read, interpret, and evaluate educational research. Graduate students will have the opportunity to consider how teachers act as researchers within their own classrooms, posing questions, gathering data, drawing conclusions, and acting on their findings.

**EDUC 527 - Principles of Learning**

This course examines theories of learning and development and their implication for literacy development in the elementary years of public school. In addition to the general cognitive and behavioral theories, the course will focus on the way that learning theory supports the development of 21st century literacy competencies.

**EDUC 544 - Cross Cultural Issues in Education: Working with Families and Communities to Enhance Children's Literacy**

This course examines the ways that schools develop family and community partnerships to enrich literacy learning for all students. The course draws on the experiences of communities that have successfully built partnerships with families extending the school into the community and bringing the community into the school.

**EDUC 569 - Content Literacy**

Teachers are responsible for teaching content knowledge in subjects such as social studies, science and health. Students' abilities to acquire such knowledge can be hindered by their literacy levels. This course explores content literacy strategies to support student literacy development and improve acquisition of content knowledge.

**Information and Admission Procedures****Application Deadline: January 6, 2020**

The application information can be found at

<http://www2.mystfx.ca/masters-of-education/applications-and-forms>

For additional StFX admission inquiries, please contact [med@stfx.ca](mailto:med@stfx.ca)

**\*Please indicate on the application that you are applying to the  
Master of Education in Curriculum – Literacy\***

**Updated April 6, 2020**