



**MASTER OF EDUCATION IN CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION WITH A FOCUS IN
CULTURALLY RELEVANT PEDAGOGY
Summer 2021 – Summer 2023**

The StFX Faculty of Education has developed a **Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction to prepare educators to be leaders in Culturally Relevant Pedagogy** for qualified in-service educators. This cohort aligns with the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development's goal of better serving underserved communities in Nova Scotia. As such, it advances the instructional capabilities of participants to support the learning of all students with a particular focus upon equitable learning for First Nations and African Nova Scotian learners. This program is grounded in two main purposes:

- 1) Creating a space for cohort participants to better understand and further develop their scholarly and professional knowledge and capabilities as teachers and leaders in culturally relevant pedagogy; and
- 2) To use their knowledge and capabilities to enhance the equitable learning of all students.

Courses will be presented either face-to-face, online, or in a combination of face-to-face and online, and in intensive summer school experiences. Teachers will be provided with opportunities to integrate their learning with pedagogical approaches to develop their teaching capabilities as culturally relevant teachers. With the possible exception of summer terms, graduate students will be able to complete the degree through courses online.

Proposed program sequence and outline:

LOCATION	SUMMER 2021	FALL 2021	WINTER 2022	SPRING 2022	SUMMER 2022	FALL 2022	WINTER 2023	SPRING 2023	SUMMER 2023
Antigonish StFX Campus or Online	534 505								
Online via Moodle/ Collaborate or face-to- face StFX campus		515	532	502	525 504	508	527	536	521D 569

The application information can be found here:

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

For additional StFX admission inquiries, please contact med@stfx.ca

****Please note on the application that you are applying to the MASTER OF EDUCATION IN
CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION WITH A FOCUS IN CULTURALLY RELEVANT PEDAGOGY**

Application deadline: March 20, 2021

1. EDUC 534 – Foundations of Education – This course provides students with an opportunity to examine and expand their own personal perspectives and to situate themselves with relation to social justice and equity. An anti-racist framework will be used to explore issues related to power, privilege, culture, race, cultural capital, poverty, colonization, institutional and systemic racism.

2. EDUC 505 – Introduction to Education Research – This course aims to instill in educators a teacher researcher stance which allows them to both inquire into their learning context and become more fluent in using research to inform their practice. Teacher inquiry and action research will be explored as a vehicle to introduce approaches to educational research. Literature review methodology will be explored.

3. EDUC 515 – Culturally Relevant and Relevant Pedagogy – In this course, participants will gain an understanding of culturally relevant pedagogy. Topics to be examined include: critically analyzing the root of academic failure among marginalized groups across North America; exploring how educator belief systems impact student achievement and connect to systemic racism; understanding the central role cultural plays in classroom instruction, and enacting culturally relevant instructional and assessment strategies.

4. EDUC 532 – Curriculum Theory – In this course, ideas from major curriculum theories will be examined. This course explores the relationship among the four curriculum common places: students, instructor, curriculum, and milieu in relation to teachers using a culturally relevant pedagogy. Curriculum will be explored using a culturally relevant, decolonizing, and inclusive lens.

5. EDUC 502 - Education of African Nova Scotian/African Canadian Learners 1 – This course focuses on the approaches to schooling of African Nova Scotian and African Canadian learners and examines issues, challenges and successes in providing successful schooling opportunities for these students.

6. EDUC 525 - Treaty Education – Building on the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (2015), this course uses an education *as reconciliation* framework from which to challenge Eurocentrism in schooling. Teachers will engage in unlearning Eurocentric assumptions and knowledge and relearn Indigenous knowledge, skills and attitudes that will allow them to successfully educate all students about their treaty responsibilities in support of this provincial initiative.

7. EDUC 504 - Education of African Nova Scotian/African Canadian Learners II – This course builds upon the work begun in *Education of African Nova Scotian/African Canadian Learners 1* and further explores Afrocentricity as a major construct in organizing teaching and learning. Examples of Afrocentricity in schooling within Nova Scotia and other Canadian jurisdictions will be explored and developed.

8. EDUC 508 – Critical Research Literacy in Education – This course focuses upon reading and interpreting educational research about culturally relevant pedagogy in relation to students' own educational context.

9. EDUC 527 Principles of Learning – This education course is designed to critically examine the Principles of Learning through a brain-based, Culturally Relevant perspective. The intention of this course is to explore topics including; how human's cognitively process information, the interrelationship between culture and the learning process, and the alignment of instructional and assessment practices from a student-centered approach in conjunction with a deeper understanding of the Principles of Learning.

10. EDUC 536 - Program Development – Program development in this cohort refers to the efforts made by professional practitioners at a variety of levels to develop culturally relevant educational programs for students. The term is applicable to schools implementing or improving programs, to individual teachers in classrooms developing or changing the programs they teach. Learning portfolios will be discussed as a means to examine one's own educational practice/program in order to both improve and better understand instructional practice as it relates to personal development. This class explores inquiry based/problem-based teaching, critical thinking, and culturally relevant teaching strategies.

11. EDUC 521D – Diverse Cultures: Indigenous Education Pedagogy – This course focuses on the schooling of Mi'kmaw and other First Nations learners and explores issues, challenges and successes in educating students of Indigenous heritage. A decolonization lens will be used through which to examine and enact Indigenous curriculum, teaching, and assessment.

12. EDUC 569- Culturally Relevant Leadership - This course provides students the opportunity to learn how to use the knowledge and skills gained throughout their cohort experience to implement culturally relevant pedagogy from a leader's stance. More specifically, this includes classroom leadership, school and central office leadership, and community leadership. Topics to be explored include: educational change theory, instructional leadership, and monitoring effective instruction.