

## StFX Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction with a Concentration in Early Elementary Pedagogy (P-2)

**Summer 2019 - Summer 2021**

The StFX Faculty of Education is proposing to offer a **Master of Education Curriculum cohort with a focus in Early Elementary Pedagogy** for qualified in-service teachers and administrators beginning in the summer of 2019. This program will advance the capabilities of participants to offer exceptional educative experiences to young 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 the early years in preparation for lifelong success.

This graduate cohort begins with 2 face-to-face courses offered in Halifax/Dartmouth. This face-to-face experience has proven to be a very successful part of the cohort experience, allowing the learning community to be built. The remaining 10 courses will be completed synchronously (“live”) online through (Collaborate/Moodle), with some face-to-face days in Halifax/Dartmouth. Attendance online is an option for those face-to-face days. 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 and notebooks are used.

### Proposed program sequence and outline:

| LOCATION                          | SUMMER 2019 | FALL 2019 | WINTER 2020 | SPRING 2020 | SUMMER 2020 | FALL 2020 | WINTER 2021 | SPRING 2021 | SUMMER 2021 |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Face to face<br>Halifax/Dartmouth | 534<br>505  |           |             |             |             |           |             |             |             |
| Online or blended<br>format       |             | 536       | 512         | 520A        | 527<br>520C | 544       | 532         | 508         | 522<br>518  |

### Information and Admission Procedures

**Application Deadline: February 15, 2019**

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](mailto:med@stfx.ca)

**\*Please indicate on the application that you are applying to the Master of Education in Curriculum – Early Elementary Pedagogy cohort (P-2).**

**Updated Feb. 10, 2021**

## Course Descriptions

### **1. 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 early elementary grades alongside larger issues of equity and social justice.

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

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

### **3. EDUC 536 - Program Development**

This course introduces graduate students to models of integrating curriculum, focusing on inquiry and teaching 21<sup>st</sup> century competencies in a complex, possibly multi-aged, multi-ability early elementary classroom.

### **4. EDUC 512 - Play-Based Curriculum for Lifelong Learning**

This course provides graduate students with a deep understanding of the research and practice of incorporating play into early elementary grades in public schools.

### **5. EDUC 520A - Literacy for Early Elementary Learners**

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

### **6. EDUC 527 - Principles of Learning**

This course examines theories of learning and development and their implication for instruction in the early 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 integrated inquiry projects, the development of 21<sup>st</sup> century competencies, and multi-aged, multi-ability classroom settings.

### **7. EDUC 520C - Mathematics for Early Elementary Learners**

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

### **8. EDUC 508 - Critical Research Literacy**

This course examines how to critically read, interpret, and evaluate educational research. Graduate students will have the opportunity to develop an inquiry plan into a topic of relevance to them in early elementary pedagogy. The final paper for this course will prepare graduate students for the final capping experience (EDUC 593) in the program.

### **9. EDUC 532 - Curriculum Theory**

In this course, the main ideas of major curriculum theorists will be examined and the implications of each position for program development in early elementary grades will be discussed.

### **10. EDUC 544 - Cross Cultural Issues in Education: Working with Families and Communities**

This course examines the ways that schools develop family and community partnerships to enrich 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.

### **11. EDUC 522 - Inclusion in Early Elementary Contexts**

Graduate students will explore research and practice in inclusive early elementary classrooms and relate these understandings to planning, instruction, and assessment in multi-ability, multi-aged classroom settings.

### **12. EDUC 518 - Assessment for/of/as Learning**

This course explores issues surrounding the assessment for and of learning in early elementary classrooms. Participants will gain skills necessary to evaluate 21<sup>st</sup> century competencies in non-traditional instances, such as during play, inquiry, or outdoor settings.