



ST. FRANCIS XAVIER UNIVERSITY

MASTER OF EDUCATION IN ADMINISTRATION & LEADERSHIP WITH A CONCENTRATION IN MENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION

A Toronto Area Cohort Summer 2019 – Summer 2021

The StFX Faculty of Education is proposing to offer a *Master of Education in Leadership with a focus in Mental Health Education* for qualified in-service teachers and administrators beginning in the Summer term 2019. Mental Health Education in the Faculty of Education at StFX largely follows four pillars of mental health literacy:

- 1) To achieve and maintain positive mental health. At StFX this would include the study of topics such as social and emotional learning, resiliency, restorative practices and mindfulness in education.
- 2) To understand the signs and symptoms of mental distress and possible mental health disorders.* At StFX this would include the study of topics such as the crisis cycle and trauma-informed practices.
- 3) To decrease stigma.
- 4) To increase help and health-seeking efficacy.

Additionally, we are guided by social determinants of mental health research. Mental health education is part of a greater 'equity literacy' because of the ways in which poverty and discrimination for examples, are interwoven with mental health.

This program will advance the leadership capabilities of participants to understand and implement mental health education in public schools.

*This graduate degree program is for educators. As such the instructors in the program do not teach therapeutic/ counselling approaches or the tools and assessments used for mental health diagnosis.

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 / Online	534 511			561	567	521I		520I	
Online via Collaborate/ Moodle		509	505		573		508		533 510

Applications for this program will be accepted until March 4, 2019.

The application information can be found at:

<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 Leadership – Mental Health Education cohort (Toronto area)**

Updated February 12, 2021

- 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 leaders promoting Mental Health Education alongside larger issues of equity and social justice.
- 2. EDUC 511 - Mindfulness and Social Learning:** In this course, students will explore and engage with practices and research related to mindfulness in education. Mindfulness has been interpreted as the ongoing practice of being awake and aware to what is inside and around us in the present moment. At the same time, students will explore readings that demand our careful attention to what is also culturally and sociologically produced in current efforts to engage in mindfulness in education. This course provides an exploration of research and approaches to school-based mental health education. Students will explore the balance between supporting mental problems, illness and stigma to the positive support of mental health and inclusion in schools.
- 3. EDUC 567 - School Law: Legal Issues relating to Mental Health and Youth, Child & Family Services:** This course provides an examination of legal issues in the field of mental health and youth, child and family services as they relate to school boards, administrators and teachers. Consideration will be given to recent legislation and court decisions related to the organization, policy and administration of school districts.
- 4. EDUC 505 - Introduction to Educational Research:** This course introduces approaches to educational research, particularly as it relates to mental health education. It also includes a basic introduction to graduate student writing and literature review methodology.
- 5. EDUC 509 - Trauma Informed Practices:** In this course participants will recognize and respond to the impact of traumatic stress on children and youth, caregivers, service providers, and one another. Participants will learn to infuse and sustain trauma awareness, knowledge, and skills into their classrooms and school cultures, practices, and policies. At the same time, students will explore readings that demand our careful attention to what is also culturally and sociologically produced in current efforts to engage in Trauma Informed Practices.
- 6. EDUC 561- Leadership and Administrative Theories:** This course is an introduction to theory, research and practice in educational administration. Emphasis is placed on the evolutionary nature of administrative theory and its role on the operation of the public school system. This course will have as a focus on how to provide graduate students with theory and practice that can advance the inclusion of Mental Health Education in public schools.
- 7. EDUC 573 - Professional Development and Supervision: Positive Mental Health/Mental Health Disorders/Bullying:** This course will provide participants with an understanding of the role of instructional leadership in promoting personal and staff professional development and learning around issues of Mental Health Education within a professional learning community culture.
- 8. EDUC 521I – Current Research in Instruction: Approaches to Mental Health Education - Mental Health Literacy & Social Determinants of Health:** This course provides an exploration of research and approaches to school-based mental health education. Students will explore the balance between supporting mental problems, illness and stigma to the positive support of mental health and inclusion in schools.
- 9. EDUC 508 – Critical Research Literacy:** This course examines how to critically read, interpret, and evaluate educational research. Graduate students will also have the opportunity to explore and understand the research literature in relation to Mental Health Education.
- 10. EDUC 520I - Current Research in Curriculum – Health:** A critical exploration of recent theories and research related to current issues in curriculum with a concentration in addictions, substance abuse and trauma.
- 11. EDUC 533 – Dynamics of Change:** This course provides graduate students with a deep understanding of the personal, social, political, emotional, and historical complexities of educational change and assists them in examining their place as change leaders in relation to Mental Health Education.
- 12. EDUC 510 -Restorative Approaches in Educational Settings:** This course helps educators understand the principles of restorative approaches and the wider peace building movement in education. Educators will critically consider restorative approaches as a way to create safe, engaging and inclusive educational settings. Educators will learn how to create a school climate that is relational and restorative and takes into account the contexts and causes of situations surrounding interpersonal interactions.