StFX Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction with a focus on Transforming Learning Using Technology and Digital Resources

FALL 2015 – WINTER 2018

The StFX Faculty of Education is accepting applications to the new **Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction with a focus on Transforming Learning Using Technology and Digital Resources to begin Fall 2015**. Modern technologies afford the opportunity to personalize and transform learning experiences inside and outside our classrooms—not just for students, but also for their teachers. Research shows that through the effective use of technology, learning can be deepened and enhanced, supporting the components of 21st century learning. When ubiquitous technology supports curricular goals and when it is used to its maximum potential, student performance can be enhanced.

This cohort is designed for educators to explore technological options for teaching and learning, to consider their effective implementation, and to assess how their implementation impacts teaching and learning in today's classrooms. As blended and online teaching continues to transform learning, there is an increased need for educators who are adept at navigating virtual spaces and technology and digital tools. This degree aligns with key components of the Nova Scotia Department of Education and Early Childhood Development's commitment to preparing students for future opportunities in a digital age and will appeal to educators who wish to increase their own digital competencies and to know how to apply that learning in their classrooms. Courses will be delivered online using a combination of synchronous and asynchronous methods.

The intended audience includes classroom teachers and school administrators who wish to transform teaching practices through the enhanced use of digital technologies and resources and those teachers who wish to gain the skills to teach in a fully online environment. Through participating in online courses, educators gain first-hand experience in alternate methodologies and experiences from outside the region and potentially around the world. Administrators will develop competencies and capabilities with contemporary digital technologies and tools, thus providing the leadership necessary to transform their schools. Themes running through all courses will include equity, digital citizenship, assessment of and for learning, and connections to the curriculum.

Proposed program sequence and outline:

FALL 2015	WINTER 2016	SPRING 2016	SUMMER 2016	FALL 2016	WINTER 2017	SPRING 2017	SUMMER 2017	FALL 2017	Winter 2018
EDUC 534	EDUC 527	EDUC 569 (AT/UDL)	EDUC 536 EDUC 505	EDUC 569 (Teaching Online)	EDUC 569 (Emerging Trends)	EDUC 508 *Asynch	EDUC 532 EDUC 569 (Social Media)	EDUC 576	EDUC 593

Information and Admission Procedures
Application deadline: June 1, 2015

The application information can be found at http://sites.stfx.ca/continuingeducation/master
For additional StFX admission inquiries please contact med@stfx.ca

***Please indicate on the application that you are applying to the**
**Master of Education in Curriculum with a focus on
Transforming Learning Using Technology and Digital Resources**

Proposed Courses: Core Required and Electives

EDUC 534: Introduction to Educational Foundations

This course provides 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 using digital technologies and resources in face-to-face and virtual environments alongside larger issues of equity and social justice.

EDUC 527: Principles of Learning

In this course, students will examine theories of learning and development and their implication for instruction using digital technologies in blended environments. The course content will include universal design for learning (UDL), Bloom's revised taxonomy, personalized learning, blended learning models, Bring-Your-Own-Learning-Technology programs, and 21st century competencies through specific instructional strategies including inquiry and problem-based learning.

EDUC 569: Assistive Technology and Universal Design for Learning

This course will introduce students to principles of assistive technology (AT) and Universal Design for Learning (UDL) that enhance performance and access to learning and leisure opportunities for all students but particularly students with learning disabilities, physical, sensory (HI and VI disabilities), autism, cognitive delay, etc. The course will also introduce students to low tech, medium and high tech AT tools including the most updated and current use of mobile devices in education. Students will have opportunities to explore AT theory and apply their learning through specific activities.

EDUC 505: Introduction to Educational Research

This course introduces approaches to educational research, particularly as it relates to transforming learning with digital technologies and tools, developing personal skills in decision-making and online research tools and processes. It also includes a basic introduction to practitioner research, graduate student writing, and dissemination of results.

EDUC 536: Program Development

This course explores the relationship among the four curriculum common places: students, instructor, curriculum, and milieu in the shifting role of the teacher who effectively uses digital technologies in the learning environment, including those that include Bring-Your-Own-Learning-Technology programs. Practical skills in program development, maximizing the capabilities of learning management systems, models of instructional design (ADDIE), specific technologies for learning and assessment including Google Apps for Education will be explored.

EDUC 569: Teaching in Online Spaces

This course is an introduction to fundamental research and theory applied to effective online teaching. Synchronous and asynchronous environments will be surveyed. Learners bring a range of culturally-mediated behavioural and communication patterns to online spaces and tools and applications to scaffold learning and develop community will be explored. Other topics will include privacy, legal and copyrights considerations; learning management and content management systems; open educational resources; and cloud based computing.

Proposed Courses: Core Required and Electives

EDUC 569: Current and Emerging Trends

Students will examine current and emerging trends in technology and education and the specific regulations that govern their use in schools.

* EDUC 508: Critical Research Literacy (* *Asynchronous*)

This course examines how to critically read, interpret, and evaluate educational research related to the implementation of technology in teaching and learning spaces. Students will have the opportunity to explore and understand the research literature in relation to their particular interest with regards to learning. The questions raised in this course will form the basis of the final capping experience in the program.

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 as it relates to digital literacy and technology. Notions of emergent curriculum and experiential curriculum will be explored.

EDUC 569: Social Media

This course will focus on social media for pedagogical practice. Students will develop a sense of the pedagogical value of various social media in K–12 classrooms. With a focus on social media processes, the course will help students see the values in a wide variety of online resources to support teaching and learning. Having an interest in "playing with technology to engage students" is far more important than having any prior technology experience.

EDUC 576: Specific Issues in Curriculum Development

This course will examine selected contemporary educational controversies and explore their implications for curriculum decision-making. Students will examine current issues and problems, with a focus on acting ethically and with critical understanding while using information and communication technology in the context of local and global communities. This course will look at case studies and how to develop media literacy and digital citizenship.

EDUC 593: Directed Study: Capping Experience

Using action research, this capping experience allows graduate students to develop a deepened understanding of an area of professional interest that has relevance to the advancement of enhancing learning using digital technologies in their educational context.