



MASTER OF EDUCATION IN CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

Early Elementary Pedagogy Concentration

July 2026–June 2028

The of Education is proposing to offer a Master of Education Curriculum cohort with a focus in Early Elementary Pedagogy for qualified in-service educators and administrators beginning in the summer of 2026. This program will advance the capabilities of graduate students to offer exceptional educative experiences to young students in multi-ability, possibly multi-aged contexts in public schools. This degree supports increased recognition of the importance of the early years in preparation for lifelong success.

Graduate students will be required to participate in one in-person face-to-face (**F2F**) course as part of the two-week residency period at the initial Summer Institute at the StFX campus in Antigonish, Nova Scotia. Campus accommodations information can be viewed here: [Master of Education Accommodations July 5-17, 2026](#). All other courses will be taught online (**OL**), primarily via a synchronous online format. The first summer courses are condensed over two-week blocks (July 6–16; July 20–30) with a start time of 8:30 am and end time of 3:30 pm, Atlantic Time. Most often, weekday synchronous online courses will be offered from 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm, Atlantic time (Teams, Collaborate, and/or Zoom).

Note, this is the first 10-course MEd concentration cohort (previously, MEd degrees at StFX required 12 courses). This means that two July periods now have coursework (rather than three July periods).

The **tentative** schedule of courses is included below:

Summer 2026	Fall 2026	Winter 2027	Spring 2027	Summer 2027	Fall 2027	Winter 2028	Spring 2028
534 (F2F) 505 (OL)	512 (OL)	532 (OL)	520A (OL)	520I (OL) 521I (OL)	521G (OL)	508 (OL)	533 (OL)

Information and Admission Procedures

Applications for this program will be accepted until February 15, 2026.

The application information can be found at [How to Apply](#)

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

For additional inquiries specific to this concentration, please contact Allison Tucker at atucker@stfx.ca

***Please note on the application that you are applying to the Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction—Early Elementary Pedagogy Cohort**

Course Descriptions

Course	Course Description
EDUC 534	EDUC 534—Introduction to Foundations of Education (core course; instructor TBA) Students are asked to critically examine their own practice and its context. Issues of power and privilege as they operate in the field of education are central unifying themes of the course. The investigative approach includes ethical reasoning, autobiographical reflection, arts and aesthetics, deconstruction, and sociological analysis.
EDUC 505	EDUC 505—Introduction to Educational Research (core course; instructor TBA) This introductory course covers reading and understanding educational research. Students will explore research issues and critically interpret the main types of research, including descriptive research, qualitative research, case studies, and empirical studies.
EDUC 512	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.
EDUC 532	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.
EDUC 527	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 21st century competencies, and multi-aged, multi-ability classroom settings.
EDUC 518	EDUC 518—Assessment for/of/as Learning This course explores issues surrounding the assessment for, of, and as learning in early elementary classrooms. Participants will gain skills necessary to evaluate 21 st century competencies in non-traditional instances, such as during play, inquiry, or outdoor settings.
EDUC 520A	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.
EDUC 520C	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.
EDUC 536	EDUC 536—Program Development This course introduces graduate students to models of integrating curriculum, focusing on inquiry and teaching 21 st century competencies in a complex, possibly multi-aged, multi-ability early elementary classroom.
EDUC 593	EDUC 593—Capping Experience: Independent Study All students enrolled in EDUC 593 will engage in practitioner inquiry and complete a capping experience and to share their work with their peer group, as part of a designated celebration day. This work will focus on an area of professional and personal interest, synthesizing their learning in the EYP concentration.