MEd – Curriculum & Instruction

Area of Emphasis:
Educational Innovation

Educational Innovation is needed to help schools fulfill their most important responsibility: providing an effective and engaging education to all children. Pursuing an area of emphasis focused on educational innovation will prepare graduates to help achieve this goal by utilizing an innovator's mindset to improve educational opportunities and outcomes in schools and other learning environments.

All Curriculum & Instruction MEd students are required to take five classes (15 hours) in the Curriculum & Instruction (C&I) core and five classes (15 hours) in an area of emphasis. The C&I core classes encompass four pillars—instruction, curriculum, assessment, and diversity. Students must successfully pass a comprehensive exam, which is embedded in the culminating C&I course (EDIS 6880).

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Course Descriptions

EDIS 5075: Online and Blended Learning
This web-based course contributes to an understanding of the principles of online learning as well as the use of online components for blended learning. It prepares students to adapt strategies for a variety of course models (e.g., synchronous and asynchronous), employ innovative teaching strategies in an online environment, and apply research and theory specific to online learning to achieve desired outcomes.

EDIS 6800: Creativity and Problem Solving
Explores theories of creativity through study of creative people, the creative process, creative products, and creative "press" or those environmental conditions that support and facilitate creative production. Focuses on assessment of creativity, research related to creativity and its applications to education, environments conducive to the development of creativity, and heuristics designed to encourage creativity.

EDIS 7072: Performance Improvement
In this class, we will learn about performance improvement, an extension of instructional design in which practitioners assess needs and gaps in human performance in organizations using tools like root cause analysis, then design interventions to address the gaps and plan on-going evaluation for continuous improvement. These skills are commonly used in for-profit, government/military, and non-profit industries and are growing in education.

EDIS 7805: Past as Prologue
Do innovations have to be new? Are they ever? This course examines key historical moments of innovation in teaching and learning -- from the Common Schools through modern EdTech -- with the goal of helping those who are interested in improving schools today become better prepared to do so by exploring the purpose, context, and legacy of similar efforts in the past.

EDIS 7815: Pro-Seminar: Innovations in Education
Interested in transforming education? This course explores a range of innovative efforts to improve education with the goal of preparing seminar students to envision and create innovations of their own that are grounded in theory, inspired by real-world examples, and infused with creativity. By the end of the seminar, you will have taken the first step by developing and pitching a transformative idea of your own.

EDIS 7825: It Takes a Village: Partnering with Families to Support Learning
This course examines the various theories, frameworks, and practices that help to cultivate and sustain the engagement of families and communities in the educational development (social, emotional, and academic) of children and in the improvement of schools. We focus in particular on research-based examples of the role families and community can play with respect to teaching and learning in K12 schools.

EDIS 7890: Educational Entrepreneurship in Action- Practicum
In this course you become an educational entrepreneur by designing and implementing an educational innovation for a school or similar setting that you choose. You will help your partner site identify a challenge, design an innovative approach to address that challenge, and test and refine your approach. In short: in this course you will design an innovation that could impact learners immediately and for years to come.

Recommended Plan of Study
Educational Innovation Area of Emphasis

Recommended Plan (Coursework Only)	Offered	Requirement(s) Filled	Credits
Suggested plan: Please see your advisor for specifics. Students need to check their SIS Advising Reports to verify program completion progress.			
Semester 1 (Fall)			
EDIS 5025: Curriculum, Assessment and Instruction **or** EDIS 6200: Principles of Curriculum Design	Fall, Spring, Summer Fall, Spring, Summer	C&I Core: Curriculum	3
EDIS 7072: Performance Improvement or EDIS 7825: It Takes a Village: Partnering with Families to Support Learning	Fall	Focus: Educational Innovation	3
Semester 2 (Spring)			
EDIS 6800: Creativity and Problem-Solving	Spring	Focus: Educational Innovation	3
EDIS 7815: Pro-Seminar: Innovations in Education	Spring	Focus: Educational Innovation	3
Semester 3 (Summer)			
EDIS 5080: Differentiating Instruction **or** EDIS 7025: Teachers as Leaders	Fall, Spring, Summer Summer	C&I Core: Instruction	3
EDIS 7805: Past as Prologue	Summer	Focus: Educational Innovation	3
Semester 4 (Fall)			
EDIS 5422: Cross-Cultural Education for Diverse Learners	Fall, Spring, Summer	C&I Core: Diversity	3
EDIS 6220: Assessment of Curriculum: K-12	Fall, Spring	C&I Core: Assessment	3
Semester 5 (Spring)			
EDIS 6880: Master Comprehensive in Curriculum and Instruction	Fall, Spring, Summer	C&I Core: Culminating Class	3
EDIS 7890: Educational Entrepreneurship in Action-Practicum	Spring	Focus: Educational Innovation	3
Total Credits			**30**

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