

# Program Information

This section of the handbook includes important information about various programs within the Graduate Program in Education.

## MEd Program Information

The Thesis, Major Research Project (MRP) and course only option represent an academic culmination of graduate study. In combination with the appropriate coursework, any of the three options take roughly the same amount of time for completion of the Master's Degree.

Every graduate student in the Graduate Program in Education decides upon which research option (Thesis, Research Project or course only) best suits their interests and needs. This conversation about the research option should be a part of advising. Graduate student's engagement with coursework should have two kinds of concerns: those concerns of the specific course, and concerns about the final requirement leading to the degree. Thus Candidates are urged finally to have on-going and informal conversations with their Course Directors, Advisors and Supervisors about their research interests.

Once a Candidate selects the route they would like to take and a Supervisor for their work, further conversation should occur with the Supervisor in the process of shaping the work to be undertaken. The shape that the research takes may be guided by the suggestions, advice and regulations presented in this document, but, most importantly, it should be guided by discussions between the Supervisor and the Candidate.

The major differences between the three options are:

2. Number of courses required (four half-courses for the thesis option; six half-courses for the research option; eight half-courses for the course-only option)
3. The scope of the written product (research project provides a more flexible format; thesis requires in-depth, analytic discussion)
4. The committee structure
5. Evaluation procedures

More details are provided in the descriptions, which follow on page 55.

## Academic Advising and Supervision Procedures

Advising and Thesis/Research Project Supervision are important elements in the Faculty of Education Graduate Program. To expedite students' progress toward their degrees, to reduce the need for students to petition for extensions, and generally to enhance the quality of our program, the following procedures will be used.

### a. Academic Advisor

Upon entering the Graduate Program in Education, students will be assigned an academic advisor. Normally, each faculty member "active" in the Graduate Program will act as the advisor for several new

students per year. The academic advisor is responsible for helping students develop a program plan and signs the “MEd Candidate’s Proposed Program Plan”.

Students should contact their advisor to arrange an appointment before the beginning of Fall/Winter and Summer term registrations.

If students cannot contact and meet their advisor, they may be advised by another faculty member. However, the student should make an appointment with the advisor during the academic year to keep them apprised of their plan of study.

#### **b. Supervisor**

The prior academic advisor may or may not serve as the supervisor. Students should approach faculty members to see if they would be willing to serve as their supervisor **by the second term of studies for full-time** students and by the **fourth term of studies by part-time students**. Once a faculty member agrees to be the student’s supervisor, the “Notification of Supervisor” form should be filed in the Graduate Program Office. All students should be in regular contact (at least two to three times per semester) with their supervisors. If students are not in regular contact, the supervisor might assume they are no longer pursuing a thesis or a research project and may take on other commitments, which would make them unable to supervise the student’s work.

#### **c. Progress Reports**

Every year, all continuing students must file a “Report on Progress” with the Graduate Program Office, correspondence will be emailed out. Continuing students will not be allowed to register if they have not met with their advisor or supervisor to discuss their progress.