



MS Professional Core (15-17 Credits)

The Professional Core courses are designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary in developing the skills of a “teacher researcher.” As such, students study the content and processes related to selecting, planning, implementing, and reporting a classroom- or school-based research project.

Enrollment in the Professional Core courses is restricted to students that have been admitted to the MS program. Furthermore, the Professional Core courses normally should not be taken until the student has completed approximately 2/3 of the necessary coursework in the Focus Area of interest.

Program Admission Pre-requisite course:

ED 500 MS Seminar (2 cr)— ED 500 is not a course in the Professional Core, but it is a prerequisite to all courses in the Professional Core (ED 515-519). It may be taken any term, and program admission is **not** required for registration. This course presents the basics involved in writing professional academic papers, and thus forms a foundation for the level of graduate writing expected in later MS courses. Completion of the course in one term with a grade of “B” or better is required.

The courses of the Professional Core:

ED 515 (3 cr) Quantitative Research Designs—This course is an introductory-level course to basic quantitative research designs. Topics covered include sampling techniques, basic descriptive designs, correlational designs, and experimental/quasi-experimental designs. Prerequisite: ED 500

ED 516 (3 cr) Qualitative Research Designs—This course is an introductory-level course to basic qualitative research designs. Topics covered include concepts and strategies of qualitative-based data collection and analysis, case studies, participant/observer approaches to data collection, interviewing, and field note collection. Prerequisite: ED 500

ED 517 (3 cr) Literature Reviews in Education—This course presents basic concepts of how educational research is written and reported. Topics covered include in reading and understanding educational research, and learning the process of writing a

literature review appropriate for a focused research proposal. This course provides the background knowledge for the literature review to be developed later within the student's research proposal (ED 518) and final research paper (ED 519/506).

Prerequisite: ED 515 and ED 516

ED 518 Research Proposal (2 cr)—In this course, students are expected to synthesize the knowledge and skills acquired in ED 515, ED 516, ED 517, and the Cognate courses, and thereby develop and present an appropriate topic and research design for a classroom- or school-based “teacher researcher” project. As part of this course, students will also establish a thesis committee, secure necessary permissions for the study, and finalize the research design and procedures. Prerequisite: ED 517

ED 519 Research Completion (4 cr)—In this course, students implement the research project as designed and approved in the ED 518 course. Students are expected to enroll in this course during the initial term in which the research will be conducted. The major focus for this course is that of data collection, analysis and interpretation, and the writing and presenting of the final draft of the research paper (i.e. the thesis). Prerequisite: ED 518

Exceptionally well-designed research projects may be completed in a single term. However, most students find that at least two terms are required in order to complete the thesis. Projects needing additional terms will receive “incomplete” grades for ED 519 until complete. Furthermore, for each additional term, students will be required to enroll in **ED 506 (2 cr)**. Thus, the entire thesis project might require six or more total credits.

Enrollment in Professional Core courses. Because enrollment in Professional Core courses is restricted to students that have been admitted to the MS program, online registration is not possible. Please contact our office at 541-962-3772 for the necessary enrollment forms and procedures.

Professional Core Sequence. The courses in the Professional Core are intended to be taken in a specific sequence. Students should begin by first completing both ED 515 and ED 516. Either course may be taken before the other. Following completion of ED 515 and ED 516, students then complete the Professional Core with ED 517, ED 518, ED 519 (and if necessary ED 506) in that order.