Furman University
Graduate Studies
in Education

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in Education program offers graduate courses leading to a master’s degree, master’s plus 30 credits, Educational Specialist degree, recertification, certification in an additional area, and courses for professional growth and development.

Within the master of arts program in education, degree concentrations are available for teachers and other professional school personnel in school leadership, learning disabilities, emotional and behavioral disorders, teaching English to speakers of other languages, literacy, early childhood education, and curriculum and instruction. Beyond the master’s degree, Furman offers the Educational Specialist degree (Ed.S.) in Educational Leadership for those who already possess a master’s degree in school leadership or administration and supervision. This degree program leads to the superintendent’s certification in educational leadership.

Furman University
From its position as a top-ranked independent, coeducational liberal arts college of 2,600 students, Furman university takes great pride in its beautiful 750 acre campus, its gifted student body, its distinguished and active faculty, and in the many notable accomplishments of its alumni.

Furman emphasizes engaged learning, a hands-on, problem-solving and collaborative educational philosophy that encourages students to put into practice the theories and methods learned from texts and lectures. Committed to the education of the whole person, the university provides a distinctive undergraduate education encompassing the humanities, fine arts, social sciences, mathematics, the natural sciences, and selected professional disciplines.

The goal of the graduate program at Furman is to continue the preparation of educators as lifelong learners and classroom/school leaders. An emphasis is placed on content knowledge, as well as the development of effective pedagogical skills.
Special Education
For certified teachers, the master of arts in Learning Disabilities or Emotional/Behavioral Disorders is designed to add endorsement in a specific area of special education. The 33 to 36 credit master's program includes preparation in a selected area of special education through a course dealing with the nature of a specific disability and the related practica. In addition, candidates learn appropriate teaching strategies for children with more than one of the disabilities listed above and intervention strategies to help them modify behaviors. Field experiences and a final practicum enable candidates to apply their knowledge and skills in a real-world setting.

TESOL
The master of arts in education with a concentration in TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) is a 36 credit program of study. It consists of 12 credits of required study including a practicum, as well as 9 credits of electives within the concentration, in addition to 15 core/foundational credits. Candidates for the master of arts in TESOL who wish to add on the ESOL certification must also meet the “second language experience” required by the SDE and pass the Praxis II exam in TESOL.

School Leadership
Designed to prepare certified teachers with at least two years of teaching experience to become school administrators, the 39 credit leadership program includes an introduction to school administration and a sequence of courses and activities planned to guide the candidates in developing the knowledge and skills required of principals and supervisors. A year-long, 6 credit internship with monthly seminars provides candidates with opportunities to apply their knowledge and continue to improve their abilities to function as effective, caring school leaders.

Literacy
The master of arts in education with a concentration in literacy is a 39 credit program of study. It consists of a 15 credit core of courses required of all degree candidates in education. This advanced degree program reflects current theory and trends in literacy research and practice. M.A. candidates will have the opportunity to apply in-depth study of reading, writing, and media communications during two required practica. M.A. candidates in literacy may take the Praxis II exam in the concentration area to add on the certificate endorsement of “literacy teacher.”

Curriculum and Instruction
The master of arts in education with a concentration in Curriculum and Instruction allows certified teachers to add the master's level to their teaching certification. Students in this master's degree program have opportunities to take classes in several different disciplines. While this degree does not allow for an additional added area of certification, students may gain the Gifted and Talented endorsement through their elective course work.

Education Specialist (Ed.S.)
The Education Specialist degree program in Educational Leadership is designed to provide instructional service and leadership candidates with further specialization in the field of educational administration. As the highest degree granted by Furman University, the Ed.S. program is designed to prepare students who are advanced scholars and leaders in education. The degree is a post-master’s degree program for experienced teachers, school and district administrators, and other educators who seek to develop their potential and competencies; who are committed to the improvement of PK-12 education, especially at the school and district level; and who aspire to be lifelong researchers and leaders in their organizations.