



**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT &
QUANTITATIVE METHODOLOGY**

**HUMAN DEVELOPMENT MASTER'S
DEGREE HANDBOOK**

Masters of Education

Masters of Arts with Thesis

Masters of Arts without Thesis

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM MASTER'S DEGREES

Introduction

This handbook for is intended as an introduction to the Master's programs in Human Development. Department faculty are committed to making your graduate work the most productive educational experience possible. Although this handbook contains current policy statements, they are subject to change. In addition to this booklet, you should consult the University of Maryland Graduate School Catalog and the College of Education and Department websites.

Master's Degrees in Human Development

The Department offers students a choice of three Master's degree programs in the field of Human Development: (a) the Master of Education; (b) the Master of Arts with Thesis; and (c) the Master of Arts without Thesis. These programs share a majority of courses, and the courses focus on different areas of human development and learning, as well as research and theory in these areas.

However, students admitted to one program (e. g., M Ed) need to petition if they wish to change to another program (e. g., MA with Thesis). Students admitted to a master's program who wish to apply to the doctoral program should begin the application process during their next to last semester in the master's program.

Program Planning and Advisement

Upon recommendation for admission, an advisor is assigned to each student by the Department. The student should seek an appointment with the advisor as soon as possible after admission. Consultation with the advisor in program planning is essential. The entire course of study for any of the degrees offered by the Department must constitute a unified, coherent program which is approved by the student's advisor and by the Graduate School. Additional courses may be required if the student is inadequately prepared for the required graduate courses.

THE MASTER OF EDUCATION

Required Coursework

The Master of Education degree requires a minimum of 30 semester hours of coursework with a minimum average grade point of "B" in courses approved for graduation. Of the 30 semester hours required in graduate courses, a minimum of 15 hours must be selected from courses numbered 600 or above. The other credits must be at least in the 400 series and listed in the Graduate Catalog.

REQUIRED courses include:

- EDHD 690 History and Systems in Human Development or EDHD 760, Advanced Educational Psychology (3)
- EDMS 645, Quantitative Research Methods I (3)
- EDHD 720, Social Development and Socialization Processes (3)
- EDHD 721, Cognitive Development and Learning (3)
- EDHD 775, Human Development and Neuroscience (3)
- Five of the following courses*
 - EDHD 711, Peer Culture and Group Processes in Human Development (3)
 - EDHD 750, Culture, Context, and Development (3)
 - EDHD 779, Special Topics in Human Development (3)
 - EDHD 835, Achievement Motivation (3)
 - EDHD 840, Language Development (3)
 - EDHD 850, Social Cognition and Moral Development (3)

*With advisor approval, up to two of the five courses can be in the EDMS Program or another department

Some adjustments to these course requirements can be made if approved by the student's advisor and the Department's Director of Graduate Studies.

The Comprehensive Examination

For the Master of Education degree, the student is required to pass a written comprehensive examination of six (6) hours in duration. This examination will be designed to test competence in all course areas. Students normally take the comprehensive examination in the last semester of coursework. Advisors may require that part of the examination be oral. If the exam is failed, it may be taken a second time. No additional retakes are allowed.

The Seminar Paper

Master of Education students must write a Seminar Paper in consultation with the faculty member for whom the seminar paper is written. This paper often originates as a term paper written for a course, but usually must undergo substantial revision before final approval. Specific course credit is not given for writing the seminar paper. Students can elect to take independent study, with their advisor for use for research and writing the seminar paper.

THE MASTER OF ARTS WITH THESIS

Required Coursework

The Master of Arts Degree with Thesis requires a minimum of 24 hours of coursework with an average of "B" and six (6) hours of thesis credit (EDHD 799). Of the 24 semester hours required in coursework, a minimum of 18 hours must be in courses numbered 600 or above. The remaining credits must be numbered 400 or above and are listed in the University Graduate Catalog.

REQUIRED COURSES include

- EDHD 690 History and Systems in Human Development or EDHD 760, Advanced Educational Psychology (3)
- EDMS 645, Quantitative Research Methods I (3)
- EDHD 720, Social Development and Socialization Processes (3)
- EDHD 721, Cognitive Development and Learning (3)
- EDHD 775, Human Development and Neuroscience (3)
- Two of the following courses*
 - EDHD 711, Peer Culture and Group Processes in Human Development (3)
 - EDHD 750, Culture, Context, and Development (3)
 - EDHD 779, Special Topics in Human Development (3)
 - EDHD 835, Achievement Motivation (3)
 - EDHD 840, Language Development (3)
 - EDHD 850, Social Cognition and Moral Development (3)
- EDMS 646, Quantitative Research Methods II (3)
- EDHD 799, Master's Thesis Research (6)

* With advisor approval, up to two courses in the EDMS Program or another department. Some adjustments to these course requirements can be made if approved by the student's advisor and the Department's Director of Graduate Studies.

The Comprehensive Examination

The Master of Arts with Thesis student must pass a written comprehensive examination which is a minimum of three (3) hours in duration. If the student fails the comprehensive exam, it may be taken a second time. No additional retakes are allowed.

The Master's Thesis

The Master of Arts with Thesis candidate must successfully complete an empirically oriented thesis project. Typically, this involves designing a research project, collecting and analyzing data, and writing up the report in the form of the thesis. Students should work closely

with their faculty mentor when formulating and designing their empirical project. A thesis committee of three (3) faculty members provides substantive feedback regarding the execution of the research program and in the writing of the thesis. During the time the thesis is being completed, the student must register with the advisor or an assigned research director for a total of six (6) semester hours of thesis credit (EDHD 799).

The typical procedure for completion of the Master's Thesis is as follows. The student and advisor decide on the topic of the thesis, and choose a three person Thesis Committee from faculty members in and outside the department (the advisor being one of the three). The student works with the faculty mentor to design and write a proposal for the study that will be conducted. The advisor must provide initial approval of the proposal, and then the student meets with the Master's Thesis Committee to receive formal approval of the proposal. The student then obtains approval for use of human subjects (see next paragraph), and then conducts the study and writes the thesis. The Master's Thesis committee then evaluates the thesis, as discussed in subsequent paragraphs in this guide.

The thesis must be approved by an examination committee nominated by the advisor in consultation with the student. The committee must be established at least two months prior to the date on which the oral examination is scheduled. Master's theses committees must consist of at least three members of the Graduate Faculty at the University of Maryland. Forms for establishing a committee, entitled "Nomination of Thesis or Dissertation Committee," may be obtained from the Department, from Student Services (Room 1210, Benjamin Building), or the College's website.

Use of Human Subjects

If human participants are involved in thesis research, the student must obtain approval from the Internal Review Officer in the Department and the University's Institutional Review Board. Data may not be collected for the Master's thesis before human subjects approval has been granted.

The Oral Examination

A final oral examination on the Master's thesis is held when the student has completed the thesis to the satisfaction of the student's advisor, provided all other requirements for the Master of Arts degree have been completed and a 3.0 grade point average has been maintained throughout the student's coursework. An oral examination committee with a minimum of three members of the department faculty conducts the oral examination. The duration of the oral examination is approximately one (1) hour. The decision to accept the oral examination as satisfactory must be unanimous. If the student fails the first oral examination, they are allowed to take the exam a second time.

THE MASTER OF ARTS WITHOUT THESIS

The Master of Arts without Thesis option is designed for students who are interested in applying their knowledge of human development in an applied research or practice oriented setting.

Required Coursework

The Master of Arts Degree without Thesis requires a minimum of 24 hours of coursework with a minimum average of "B" and six (6) hours of Internship credit (EDHD 789). Of the 30 semester hours required in coursework, a minimum of 18 hours must be in courses numbered 600 or above. The remaining credits must be numbered 400 or above and be listed in the University Graduate Catalog.

REQUIRED COURSES include

- EDHD 690 History and Systems in Human Development or EDHD 760, Advanced Educational Psychology (3)
- EDMS 645, Quantitative Research Methods I (3)
- EDHD 720, Social Development and Socialization Processes (3)
- EDHD 721, Cognitive Development and Learning (3)
- EDHD 775, Human Development and Neuroscience (3)
- Three of the following courses*
 - EDHD 711, Peer Culture and Group Processes in Human Development (3)
 - EDHD 750, Culture, Context, and Development (3)
 - EDHD 779, Special Topics in Human Development (3)
 - EDHD 835, Achievement Motivation (3)
 - EDHD 840, Language Development (3)
 - EDHD 850, Social Cognition and Moral Development (3)
- EDHD 789, Internship in Human Development (6)

* With advisor approval, up to two courses in the EDMS Program or another department. Some adjustments to these course requirements can be made if approved by the student's advisor and the Department's Director of Graduate Studies.

The Comprehensive Examination

For the Master of Arts without Thesis degree in Human Development, the student is required to pass a written comprehensive examination of six (6) hours in duration. This examination will be designed to test competence in different course areas. Advisors may require that part of the examination be oral. If the exam is failed, it may be taken a second time. No additional retakes are allowed.

Internships

Prior to beginning the internship experience, a minimum of nine (9) hours of coursework should be completed in the program. It is highly recommended that students complete EDMS 645 prior to the internship experience. This course will better prepare the student for program design, methodology, and evaluation. For each of the three credits of internship, a student works ten (10) hours per week in a community setting for the duration of the semester. Arrangements for internships are made in consultation with the student's advisor. After determining student objectives and type of experience desired, the student, together with the advisor, develops an agreement with the agency selected and the Department. It is advisable to make arrangements at least one semester prior to the semester in which the internship is to be served.

Scholarly Papers

Students are required to write a scholarly paper at the conclusion of each internship. These papers are intended to provide evidence of professional growth through the internship experience. The papers should include reviews of research and scholarly publications related to the internship. Papers must be approved by the student's advisor and one other Departmental faculty member.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES

Registration & Time Limits

All master's students are required to register every fall and spring semester for at least one credit hour. All requirements for the Master's Degree must be completed within five years of the date of admission.

Transfer of Coursework Taken at Other Institutions or as an Advanced Special Student

A maximum of six (6) credit hours of graduate level coursework earned from regionally accredited institutions prior to or after matriculation at the University of Maryland Graduate School or as an Advanced Special Student at The University of Maryland may be applied toward a master's degree in Human Development. *All Graduate School policies related to the transfer of credits apply.*

Waiver of a Course Requirement

In certain circumstances, a waiver of a course requirement may be requested based on coursework taken at the University of Maryland or at another institution. To petition for a course waiver, the student must submit a formal written request for Waiver of Course Requirement (forms are available in the Department or from Student Services).

Grade Point Average Requirements

The Graduate School at the University of Maryland requires that all graduate students maintain a grade point average of 3.0 or above. A student whose grade point average falls below 3.0 after completion of 9 credits will be placed on academic probation for the following semester. A student whose grade point average falls below 3.0 for a second and successive semester may be allowed (with the recommendation of the Department and the consent of the Graduate School) a third semester in which to raise his or her grade point average to 3.0 or above. *A student whose grade point average falls below 3.0 after three successive semesters will be required to withdraw from the University. A student whose cumulative grade point average falls below 3.0 will not be recommended for graduation.*

* The grades "D," "F," and "I" receive no quality points. A student may repeat any course in an effort to earn a higher grade. The later grade will be used in computing the grade point average.