

Master of Science in Adult and Higher Education

The master of science in adult and higher education is the only graduate program of its kind in northern New England. Established in 1972 to meet the region's need for trained public school administrators of adult education programs, the program today prepares educators for a variety of human resource development roles in all types of organizational and community settings. Today's students are also educators in non-school settings—hospitals, recreation agencies, businesses, and human service organizations. Most seek professional competence and recognition for a position currently held. Usually, the student is a professional with credentials in a specified field such as nursing, social work, counseling, criminal justice, or education and now practices that profession through an adult educator role. These roles include those of trainer, teacher, staff development specialist, program designer, or organizational change agent. Other students contemplate career change or entry and see adult education as a versatile field with strong growth potential.

Online Courses

The adult education program offers online courses. Students wishing to complete the program from a distance can do so by selecting online courses during the fall and spring semesters and taking one-week intensive campus-based electives during the summer.

Special Admission Requirements

In place of the standard essay required on the graduate application, candidates should provide a 3-5 page narrative, which addresses the following topics:

- a) relevant educational and experiential background;
- b) reasons for wanting to be in a helping profession;
- c) commitment to pursuing a career in adult education;
- d) reasons for seeking admission to the program;
- e) a statement of personal philosophy;
- f) a statement of personal strengths and weaknesses.

The narrative will be evaluated in terms of clarity of expression, grammatical construction, and other facets of English composition, as well as the quality of responses.

The admissions process requires a formal interview. Candidates to be interviewed will be selected on the basis of the above information. During the interview, issues relating to the following topics will be covered: a) self-awareness; b) awareness of social issues; c) awareness of others as persons; d) communication skills; and e) commitment to the field.

Testing Requirement As of March 2009 standardized testing for graduate admission to the adult education program has been eliminated. Students are no longer required to submit GRE or MAT scores.

Submit official TOEFL scores of 550 or higher on the paper-based test, 79 or higher on the Internet-based test, or 213 or higher on the computer-based test if the applicant is an international student whose first language is not English. International students who have received their undergraduate degree from an English-speaking institution may apply for a waiver of this requirement.

Transfer Credit A maximum of 12 credit hours of graduate-level study may be approved as transfer credit provided these credits were not used as part of another degree or certificate program, were earned no more than five years prior to matriculation, are in subject areas related to adult education, and that students received grades of B or better in the classes. In rare situations and when compelling evidence is provided, the program faculty reserves the right to expand the number and age of credits transferred into the M.S. in adult and higher education program beyond the 12 credit, five-year rule.

Graduate students in master's level adult education programs at other universities may transfer into the program if they take their final 12 hours, including directed study or internship and graduate seminar, in USM's adult education program. A maximum of 9 credits in self-designed coursework may be counted toward this degree.

Program Requirements

The master of science in adult education requires 36 credits of coursework. Students must also submit a professional portfolio to complete the degree.

Basic Core (15 credits)

EDU 600	Research Methods and Techniques
HRD 600	History and Philosophy of Adult Education
HRD 604	Self-Directed Education: Orientation (1 credit)
HRD 605	Self-Directed Education: Review and Focus (1 credit)
HRD 606	Self-Directed Education: Comprehensive Exam (1 credit)
HRD 631	The Adult Learner

Middle Core (9 credits required from the following)

HRD 601	Marketing Training and Adult Education
HRD 630	Facilitating Adult Learning
HRD 632	Program Development in Adult Education and Human Resource Development
HRD 633	Managing Adult Education and Human Resource Development
HRD 635	Training and Development
HRD 653	Consulting: Fundamentals and Practice
HRD 667	Action Research and Evaluation Methodologies

Field-Based Practice Courses (3 credits)

HRD 687	Internship in Adult Education and Human Resource Development
	or
HRD 698	Directed Study in Adult Education and Human Resource Development

Senior Course (3 credits)

HRD 649	Seminar in Adult Education and Human Resource Development
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Electives (9 credits)

Students may cluster their electives into a concentration in consultation with their faculty advisor.

EDU 559	Aspects of Reading for Multilingual Learners
EDU 561	Aspects of the English Language
EDU 562	Linguistic and Cultural Diversity in the Classroom
EDU 671	Organizational Behavior
EDU 678	School Law (<i>state director certification</i>)
EDU 679	Evaluation and Supervision of School Personnel (<i>state director certification</i>)
EDU 683	School Finance (<i>state director certification</i>)
HCE 604	Career Development
HRD 545	Gender and Learning
HRD 555	Introduction to Student Affairs in Higher Education
HRD 556	Summer Institute in Student Affairs
HRD 557	Gerontology for Educators
HRD 558	Aging and Life Review
HRD 559	Aging, Death, and Bereavement
HRD 637	Community Education
HRD 639	The Heart of Teaching
HRD 643	Multicultural Adult Development
HRD 646	Global Perspectives of Adult Education and Practices
HRD 647	Work and Learning Institute
HRD 693	Life Stories, Personal Mythmaking, and Spiritual Development
HRD 699	Independent Study in Human Resource Development

Post-Master's Certificate of Advanced Study in Adult Learning

The post-master's certificate of advanced study in adult learning is designed for the experienced educator—teacher, counselor, administrator, program planner, or policy maker—who works with adults in any educational setting, or seeks to explore the use of adult learning strategies as an alternative educational approach for working with younger learners. The 30-credit program emphasizes personal learning as a

central theme, both as an approach to educator development and as a set of concepts and tools for working with adults in schools, businesses, social service agencies, hospitals, and other community organizations where adult education programs are planned and delivered. This is an individualized, flexible program which permits students to apply their learning to field-based projects.

Special Admissions Requirements

Candidates should have a master's degree in adult education or a related field from a regionally accredited college or university and at least 2 years of experience in professional practice. Professional practice may include, but is not limited to, work in student affairs in higher education, training, teaching in a variety of contexts, program administration, or community education. In addition to the general requirements of the college, candidates should provide a narrative that includes:

- a. an integrated essay of approximately 1,000 words that includes a brief autobiography, referencing study in master's degree and related experience, professional training, and credentials
- b. overall goal to be accomplished through the program
- c. future aspirations and professional development needs
- d. tentative list of proposed coursework

Note: Candidates whose master's degree and/or work experiences are not strongly related to adult education will be advised to apply to the master's in adult and higher education program.

Transfer Credit Candidates may transfer up to 15 credit hours of graduate-level study earned at other universities into the CAS in adult learning if these credits were not used as part of another degree or graduate certificate, relate to the subject of adult education/learning, were earned no more than five years prior to admission, and that students received grades of B or better in the classes. In rare situations and when compelling evidence is provided, the program faculty reserves the right to expand the number and age of credits transferred into the CAS in adult learning program beyond the 15 credit, 5-year rule.

Program Requirements

Required Courses (6 credits)

HRD 600	History and Philosophy of Adult Education
HRD 631	The Adult Learner

The HRD courses will be waived for students who have a master's degree in adult education or who have taken them previously. These students will take 6 credits of advisor-approved coursework instead.

Electives (21 credits)

HRD 685 CAS Completion Project in Adult Learning (3 credits)

A field-based capstone project will be completed as one of the following: a field-based study; a public policy initiative; a publishable empirical research and/or theory paper; or a personal learning curriculum for adults. Students will present their projects in a seminar of faculty and peers.