

**MASTER OF EDUCATION (M.Ed.)  
APPLIED YOUTH, FAMILY, AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION**

This program prepares students to assume leadership roles in education and human service organizations whose goals are to support and enhance the well-being of youth and families within community settings. Through this graduate program, students will:

- (1) design, implement, and evaluate educational programs for youth and families;
- (2) interpret relevant research in applied youth, family, and community education; and
- (3) apply research and problem-solving strategies to increase professional effectiveness.

**Program Admission Requirements**

Students must have a strong background in family and consumer sciences, youth and/or human development, or a related social and/or behavioral science. A minimum of 18 credits in these areas of study is required.

**Degree Completion Requirements**

***Credits Required*** - A minimum of 31 credits organized by theme is required for the M.Ed. degree.

- An internship of 1-3 credits is required
- Students may elect to complete either a culminating experience or thesis.
- Students must take 18 credits at the 500-level or higher.
- A part-time option for degree completion is the three-year blended degree plan (with mixture of summer and distance courses).

***Comprehensive Examination*** Students will complete a written examination (approximately four hours) and a one-hour oral examination. This exam is administered by all members of the student's graduate committee near the completion of coursework.

***Professional Paper, Thesis, or Culminating Experience*** The master of education program requires a professional paper, thesis, or significant culminating experience.

The topic of the professional paper, thesis, or culminating experience should be based on the student's area of professional interest and should demonstrate evidence of analytical ability and synthesis of material. The topic must be approved by the student's graduate committee.

***Professional Development*** In addition to coursework requirements, graduate students are expected to take advantage of the many opportunities for additional personal and professional development. See Appendix E for an example of a professional development plan.

***Publication Requirement*** - Prior to the granting of a degree, all AYFCE graduate students are required to write and submit an article for publication in a refereed professional journal or a refereed paper. For students completing a culminating experience, a refereed poster for presentation at a professional conference is also appropriate. If co-authored with a faculty member, the student's name will appear as the lead author. The topic should be based on:

- the student's professional paper, thesis, or culminating experience or
- a topic related to the student's assistantship responsibilities that has been pre-approved by his/her academic advisor.

The paper/poster and proof of submission should be turned into the Graduate Staff Assistant to be placed in the student's file.