

Master's Programs* FAQ's (Frequently Asked Questions)

Q. If I still have questions after reading the information on graduate study, is there an advisor I can call?

A. We suggest that you contact the academic coordinator of the program which interests you. Names and email addresses are included on each program website.

Q. I have just decided to apply for graduate study and missed the deadline. Is the deadline firm?

A. Yes, the deadline is firm. Applications must be postmarked or delivered to Education Building 8655, Graduate Programs Admissions, Faculty of Education, Simon Fraser University, 8888 University Drive, Burnaby, B.C., V5A 1S6 Canada no later than the application deadline.

Q. My former institution will not send a transcript directly to me. What should I do?

A. Ask the postsecondary institution to send the transcript directly to Graduate Programs, Faculty of Education, Simon Fraser University, 8888 University Drive, Burnaby, BC, Canada, V5A 1S6. Please note this in your application package so Graduate Programs can watch for the transcript(s).

Q. I have an undergraduate degree but my early grades were not very high. Will this affect my application?

A. Yes, the University calendar states that the minimum requirement for admission to a master's program is a bachelor's degree with a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 (or 'B'). In exceptional circumstances a student may be admitted with lower formal qualifications, but with extensive experience judged to be of significance to the proposed area of research. However, in view of the competitive nature of entry in most programs, this is highly unusual.

Q. Since I graduated sometime ago, it will be hard for me to get Letters of References from previous professors, so whom else can I ask?

A. Anyone who is able to comment on your academic competence (e.g., department head, school principal, etc.).

Q. Do I need to write the Graduate Records Examination (GRE)?

A. No. There is no GRE requirement at this time.

Q. When will I know the selection committee's decision regarding my application?

A. A letter will be mailed to you in April.

Q. I have exceptional grades and other qualifications, and I filled out the Application for Consideration for a Graduate Entrance Scholarship. Will I be notified if I am unsuccessful?

A. Only the recipient of an award is notified by the Dean of Graduate Studies Office.

Q. Are there any plans for offering graduate study outside of the Lower Mainland in British Columbia in the future?

A. Faculty of Education, Community Graduate Programs has offered course work in specific locations leading to an MEd degree. For further information please contact them at 778-782-5951 or visit their website at www.educ.sfu.ca/gradprogs/masters/community/.

Q. Are there online programs available?

A. Not at this time, although some are under development. In the meantime, please contact our Community Graduate Programs at 778-782-5951.

Q. What are the differences between the MA/MSc (thesis) and the MEd course work/comprehensive examination degrees?

A. The MA/MSc route normally requires a minimum of 25 units of course work and a thesis. The MEd degree normally requires a minimum of 35 units of course work and a comprehensive examination.

Q. How long does it take to complete a MEd (course work/comprehensive examination) degree?

A. Normally most MEd degree students complete in two years by taking one course each Fall and Spring term and two courses each Summer term.

Q. How long does it take to complete a MA/MSc degree?

A. MA/MSc degree students normally complete in about three years by taking one course in each of the five terms and completing thesis research and a defence in approximately four terms.

Q. Can I complete my degree requirements by taking two courses every term?

A. Normally only one course is scheduled for a particular program every term; however, you can usually enrol in an elective course.

Q. As a registered master's student, would it be possible to complete my course requirements by taking one course a term?

A. Yes, the majority of master's students in Education are employed full-time. It is normal practice for registered students to take one course (possibly two) in the Fall, Spring and possibly two courses in the Summer term.

Q. Are graduate courses offered in the evening or during the day?

A. During the Fall, Spring and Summer terms, most graduate courses are offered in the late afternoon/evening. The occasional course may be offered during the day in the Summer term.

Q. Is it possible for me to undertake a graduate degree by attending during the Summer only?

A. No. Due to program organization and faculty teaching loads, it would be impossible to complete course requirements in the Summer only. Also, graduate students must register every term until they complete their degree requirements.

Q. If I decide to take more than one course a term, will the fees be higher?

A. No. Graduate students in per term fee programs pay a set fee every term, regardless of the number of courses taken.

Q. If I need to go on leave for one term what do I do?

A. Apply for an on-leave term during the regular term registration period. On-leave fees are applicable.

Q. If I need to go on leave due to illness, or for parenting reasons, how do I proceed?

A. Apply for an on-leave term during the regular registration period. The on-leave fee may be waived in exceptional circumstances, such as those resulting from accident, illness or parenting responsibilities. A doctor's note must be provided.

Q. Do you approve transfer credit at SFU for graduate work completed at another institution before acceptance into a master's program at SFU?

A. Yes, graduate courses taken at another post-secondary institution may be considered for transfer. The courses must have been completed within two years of starting the SFU program and may not have been used to earn another credential or may not have been completed as part of a qualifying year. Application is made at the time of admission. An official transcript and course syllabus will be required as supporting documentation.

Q. Do I need a teaching certificate in order to be admitted to graduate study?

A. No, although applicants may wish to consider future career objectives, as more employment opportunities could be available for individuals possessing a teaching certificate.

Q. May I take some of my courses at other institutions?

A. Yes. Upon admission to an SFU graduate program, a maximum of one half of the minimum course work for degree requirements may be pursued at other institutions provided that such courses are deemed to be academically comparable, are not available at SFU, are suited to the program, and have prior approval of the student's senior supervisor, the Director of Graduate Programs, and the Dean of Graduate Studies.

Q. I do not live within commuting distance of the University and will have to move to Burnaby if my application is successful. Who do I contact for housing information?

A. A current listing of all types of housing available to students in the neighbouring community is available at www.sfuoffcampushousing.com. In addition, there is on-campus residence accommodation information at <http://students.sfu.ca/residences/>. Call 778-782-4201 or email housing@sfu.ca for details.

Q. Is there a minimum fee for the master's program?

A. The minimum fee for the master's program is payment for 6 term fee units. The minimum fee will be waived for students who complete all degree requirements in less than 6 terms of continuous full time enrolment. Details concerning fees will be covered in the supplementary admissions materials.

Q. Will there be a campus orientation?

A. Yes. Before the start of the Fall term, the Dean of Graduate Studies office schedules a general orientation for all SFU graduate students. As well, the Faculty of Education, Graduate Programs orientation is usually scheduled the Saturday following the start of the Fall term. Also, in July, the Education Graduate Student Orientation Handbook will be available online. This publication outlines the administrative structure of the program and provides information on specific logistics such as parking, computer access, housing, registration, etc.

Application Deadline: January 31, 2010

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- **Arts Education**
- **Curriculum and Instruction – Foundations**
- **Educational Psychology**
- **Educational Technology and Learning Design**
- **Individual Program**
- **Teaching English as an Additional Language**