

# University of St. Francis and



## Master of Science in Teaching & Learning: Best Practices Concentration

# Best Practices Concentration

## The Connecting Link-Approved Courses

- 21st Century Learners Reaching and Teaching the iGeneration
- Collaborative Web Technologies: Transforming Teaching and Learning
- Creating a Collaborative and Engaged Classroom
- Creating Educational Websites: Increasing Student Achievement with Professional Web Integration
- Destination Differentiation: How to Meet the Needs of 21st Century Learners
- Disciplinary Literacy: Meeting Common Core Literacy Standards in History, Science & Technical Subjects
- Educating Students with Autism: Evidence-Based Best Practices
- Maintaining Resilience in Teaching: Navigating Common Core and More
- Meeting the Needs of the English Language Learner: Essential Knowledge for the Classroom Teacher
- Microsoft Office - Digital Age Applications
- Monitoring Student Growth: Reading Assessment and Data Interpretation (K-12)
- Planning for the Inclusive Classroom: Developing Successful Frameworks
- Powerful and Authentic Social Studies K-5
- Powerful and Authentic Social Studies 6-8
- Powerful and Authentic Social Studies 9-12
- Principles of Brain-Based Learning: Teaching 21st Century Minds
- School Law for Teachers: Understanding Rights and Responsibilities
- Strategic Literacy: Topics in Reading K-5
- Strategic Literacy: Topics in Reading 6-12
- Strategic Literacy: Topics in Writing K-8
- Strategic Literacy: Topics in Writing 9-12
- Teaching and Reaching 21st Century Online Learners (K-12)
- Technology in the 21st Century Math Classroom
- TechQuests: Teaching and Learning with Web and Mobile Technologies
- The 21st Century Mathematics Classroom 9-12
- The English Language Arts Common Core: Understanding and Teaching the Big Shifts (6-12)
- The English Language Arts Common Core: Understanding and Teaching the Big Shifts (K-5)
- Transformative Classroom Leadership

# Master of Science in Teaching & Learning

- **32** hour non-thesis program requiring a final capstone project
- **26** credit hours of USF courses pre-scheduled into the program
- **6** credit hours of TCL courses applied toward the program
- The program focuses on preparing educators to discover ways to enhance the academic achievement of students and develop professional school leadership
- All courses emphasize the integration of theory, research based best practices, and meaningful applications

# Delivery options

**Candidates decide which delivery options matches their personal schedule best:**

- Online TCL courses matched with USF online core
- Site based TCL courses matched with site-based USF core
- Online TCL courses matched with USF site-based core
- Site-based TCL courses matched with USF online core
- Any combination approved by the Teaching and Learning Program Advisor

# USF core courses

- **MSED 608:** Cultural Awareness
- **MSED 609:** Service Learning
- **MSED 610:** Methods of Educational Research
- **MSED 615:** Learning Theories: Advanced Educational Psychology
- **MSED 650:** Improvement of Instruction and Instructional Programs

# MSED 608 Cultural Awareness

**MSED 608 Cultural Awareness** enables educators to explore the relationship between culture and education. Emphasis is placed on examining perspectives of self, society, and culture; broadening the understanding of diversity within the school setting; and recognizing that diversity augments personal growth and development. Educators will reflect upon and discover culturally relevant professional practices that enhance student engagement and learning.

# MSED 609 Service Learning

**MSED 609 Service Learning** provides an overview of the resources, content, and methodologies utilized by educators to design and implement service learning programs in classrooms and schools. Candidates will explore research-based methodological principles and apply them by developing plans for implementation.

# MSED 610 Methods of Educational Research

**MSED 610 Methods of Educational Research** provides candidates with the knowledge and skills to manage, interpret, and analyze research data. Candidates will also examine basic research methodologies most often used in educational research.



# MSED 615 Learning Theories: Advanced Educational Psychology

**MSED 615 Learning Theories** analyzes the theories, experimentation and conclusions in psychology with attention to motivation, intelligence, learning and personality. It includes investigation of major research in educational psychology. Also addressed are current topics of multiple intelligences, constructivism, and brain-based learning.

# MSED 650 Improvement of Instruction and Instructional Programs

## **MSED 650 Improvement of Instruction and**

**Instructional Programs** focuses on both review of recent literature and research and an analysis of methods and in-service programs. Candidates will compare their own current teaching with theories and research findings discussed in class.

# Online Core Course Cycle

Term	Hours	Course
Summer	4	<b>MSED 615</b> Ed. Psychology: Advanced Learning Theory
Fall	4	<b>MSED 650</b> Improvement of Instruction and Instructional Programs
Spring	4	<b>MSED 610</b> Methods of Educational Research
Offered each semester	1 1 3	<b>MSED 608</b> Cultural Awareness <b>MSED 609</b> Service Learning <b>MSED XXX</b> Other USF elective

# Choices & Flexibility

- Work directly with your personal Teaching and Learning Program Advisor to develop your individual academic plan
- Choose site-based, online, or a blended delivery program that meets your personal needs
- Select your own concentration of study from a wide-array of TCL courses
- Complete the program at the pace that fits your schedule

# Financial Aid Information

- Candidates who are enrolled in a minimum of four semester hours of USF courses are eligible for financial aid
- Financial aid would be available once a candidate is accepted into the program; acceptance must occur prior to enrolling in any core course
- Candidates must be coded as “degree seeking” to receive financial aid
- Candidates are billed only for the course/s in which they are currently enrolled
- Candidates can apply for financial aid at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)
- University of St. Francis code = 001664

# Next Steps

1. If selecting to enroll in TCL classes first:  
Visit [www.connectinglink.com](http://www.connectinglink.com) to identify specific TCL courses which will be accepted into the master's program
2. If selecting to enroll in the USF core courses first:  
Visit [www.stfrancis.edu/tcl](http://www.stfrancis.edu/tcl) or contact the Teaching and Learning Advisor, Pat Pierson at [ppierson@stfrancis.edu](mailto:ppierson@stfrancis.edu)

# The University of St. Francis

- Established in 1920
- Located in Joliet, Illinois
- Catholic, Franciscan institution of higher learning
- Grounded in our values of respect, service, integrity and compassion
- The mission of the university is to promote learning

- Founded in 1981 by educators for educators
- Provides high quality graduate-level continuing education
- Courses are developed in accordance with applicable standards, adult learning principles, and current educational research
- Provides engaging and relevant activities linking latest research and daily practice