



On-line with Residency

Master of Science in Education

Instruction and Learning

K-12 Educators – Instructors – Trainers (Business & Government)

The best of both worlds are within your grasp by utilizing a High-Tech - High Touch delivery cohort design where you progress through the curriculum in a strategic developmental manner that support cohort goals and objectives support learning. The newly named Instruction and Learning program is designed to improve the instructional skills of the professional educator within their particular professional learning environment; whether traditional K-12 school, community college, government training, or business training and development. The 36 hour program is offered in a six semester format (two courses each semester). The program's entry semester is every fall with an orientation weekend session commencing the last weekend of August each year.

Earning a Master's degree using an on-line with residency weekend cohort format is innovative and blends the best of both worlds (High-Tech & High Touch). It facilitates quality F2F and on-line interaction with faculty and cohort members and builds upon quality learning experiences. An orientation to kick off the program and four Face to Face (F2F) residency weekends builds the camaraderie and support graduate students require to be successful in an on-line environment. In addition, the unique and broad based curriculum is designed to support instruction across various professional learning environments. The opportunity to share, collaborative and challenge the instructional and learning environment builds a strong and energetic voice for all cohort members in the program.

Quality Program

The Montana Board of Regents approved the name change to the Master's of Science in Education, Instruction and Learning to reflect an emphasis on improving instruction and therefore participant learning in a wide variety of professional learning environments in January 2012. Graduate students will be focused on five strands of theory/practice, assessment, critical thinking, technology and diversity and how they are relate and interact with instruction, the learner and the learning environment. This 3 X 5 matrix builds upon the unique and tested curriculum of twelve courses that allows graduate students to address specific issues they deal with in their own professional learning environments. The program allows for flexibility and student-directed learning opportunities based upon program goals and outcomes.

MSU-Northern has offered the program under the former name (Learning Development) for almost 20 years and as a cohort weekend module for over ten years. The curriculum has been recently revised to ensure a quality learning experience using our Desire to Learn (D2L) on-line platform. The program orientation weekend will ensure familiarity with the delivery platform and engage graduate students with technologies to enhance the instructional and learning process using Wikispaces, Adobe Connect, and audio-conference opportunities for cohort and faculty engagement.

Convenient Program

The Masters of Science in Education, Instruction and Learning is convenient for professional educator in a traditional k-12 school environment or in another professional learning environment. The Beyond Borders on-line with residency cohort program allows instructional professionals from a wide range of learning environments to gather together regularly (orientation and during four residency weekends) on the main campus in Havre to reconnect and engage in prescribed and engaging learning opportunities to share their thoughts, expertise and progress on the exit requirements (electronic portfolio and action research project) that will support the theoretical content acquired into change and action in their unique and specialized personal instruction and learning environment.

The orientation commences the last weekend each August when lifelong friendship begin to be made with the understanding that this experience is transformative and will make a difference in your instructional processes. Four additional weekend residencies, one each semester except in the summer will enhance the cohort and learning experience of all participants. In addition, technological resources (Wikispaces, Adobe Connect and audio conferencing) will be used regularly throughout the program. Six credit hours are offered each semester and each cohort enters and exits the program at the same time.

Beyond Borders Program Schedule

Activity	Dates	Semester	Courses
Orientation	August 25 th & 26 th		NA
Residency 1	November 3 rd & 4 th 2012	Fall 2012	EDUC 548 EDUC 523
Residency 2	March 23 rd & 24 th 2013	Spring 2013	EDUC 506 EDUC 550
		Summer 2013	EDUC 575 EDUC 577
Residency 3	November 2 nd & 3 rd 2013	Fall 2013	EDUC 525 EDUC 507
Residency 4	March 29 th & 30 th 2014	Spring 2104	EDUC 552 EDUC 554
		Summer 2014	EDUC 558 EDUC 598

Cost Effective Program

The program allows participants to have the best of both worlds (High-Tech & High-Touch) in a unique learning environment that is engaging and valued in an every changing educational environment. The program is tailor made to each student's academic learning goals (individual action research design and electronic portfolio development) while being available through an on-line learning environment. This process is unique and energizing for all participants.

The total (tuition & fees) cost for in-state participants is approximately \$2,000 per semester (six credit graduate hours). For our Northern (Alberta and Saskatchewan) participants the cost is approximately 150% of in-state tuition. Textbooks, audio-conference connections costs, microphone, etc. are in addition to tuition and fees. We are sensitive to these expenses and have made significant strides in minimizing the extra costs.

Faculty

Professor Curtis Smeby (Ph.D.) has been engaged in the masters program at Northern for the past 14 years. Prior to MSU Northern, Curtis has been a faculty member at the University of Southern Mississippi, University of Wyoming, Nova Scotia Community College and New Brunswick Community College. He received his Diploma in Recreation Technology from Kelsey Institute of Applied Science and Technology, a bachelor's degree from Acadia University, a master's degree from the University of Oregon, a Specialist Degree from the University of Southern Mississippi, a Ph.D from the University of Wyoming and most recently a MEd. from MSU Northern. His professional career in higher education expands 28 years at both two-year and four-year institutions. His academic research and interests include adult learners, community college success, assessment and learning and at-risk youth.

Randy Bachmeier (Ed.D.) has been a faculty member in the program for the past seven years and recently become the Dean of Extended University at MSU-Northern. Prior to this role he was Director of the Learning Center and Online Learning. Dr. Bachmeier received his bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary studies (areas of concentration in English, history, and accounting and finance) and master's degree in Learning Development from MSU Northern. He holds his Ed.D. in educational psychology from Regent University in Virginia. His research and academic interests include instructional technology, learning disabilities, systems theory, and epistemology.