

Brandon University
Faculty of Education
Department of Graduate Studies & Field Research

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. Why should teachers enter a graduate studies program?

A graduate studies program strengthens the process of continuous professional learning, and remains the best way for teachers to receive classification increments and professional development credit. Teachers enrolled in a graduate studies program learn critical pedagogical and administrative skills, in addition to academic skills such as scholarly writing and research design.

2. What program options are available at Brandon University?

Students have the following program options:

- i) complete the Graduate Diploma program (total=30 cr.hrs.). Teacher Certification Branch recognizes this program completion towards one classification increment.
- ii) complete the Graduate Diploma and complete additional 6 cr. hrs. for 36 hr. M.Ed. (total = 36 cr.hrs). Teacher Certification does not provide an additional increment.
- iii) complete the Graduate Diploma and complete additional 24 cr.hrs. for M.Ed. (total = 54 cr.hrs.). Teacher Certification recognizes this for a total of two classification increments.
- iv) complete the 36 hr. M.Ed degree only (total = 36 cr.hrs.). Teacher Certification recognizes this for one classification increment.
- v) complete a second M.Ed degree with additional 24 cr.hrs. (total = 60 cr.hrs.). Teacher Certification recognizes the second M.Ed for one additional increment.

3. How much time do students have to complete a graduate program?

Students are normally given six years to complete the course work route, with an additional two years for the Project route, and an additional three years for the Thesis route.

4. What areas of graduate studies are available at Brandon University?

Students may choose from the following specialization areas: Special Education, Curriculum and Instruction, Educational Administration, Guidance & Counselling, or the new Thematic (as of 03/15/11). An interdisciplinary route is possible under certain circumstances, and with the approval of the Chair of Graduate Studies.

5. Are students required to write a thesis in the M.Ed?

In both the 36 and 54 credit hour M.Ed, students can choose from one of three completion routes. In the 36 credit hour M.Ed, the course work only route requires 36 credit hours of course work, the Project route requires 30 credit hours of course work and 6 credit hours of Project, and the Thesis route requires 27 hours of course work and 9 credit hours of Thesis.

6. What is required for Admission to the Graduate Diploma or M.Ed Programs?

The first step is to apply to the Office of Admissions at Brandon University for student status, unless one already has a Brandon University student number. After this, application must be submitted to the Graduate Studies Office. Application forms can be found on-line. Application documentation can then be mailed or delivered in person to the Graduate Studies Office in the Faculty of Education. The package must include: the BU application form, a copy of the valid teaching certificate, a letter verifying at least two years of teaching / related experience, an original transcript indicating a grade point average of 3.0 or higher in the B.Ed degree, and two strong reference letters. BU graduates (B.Ed) do not need to include transcripts in the package. Application deadlines for both the M.Ed and the Graduate Diploma programs are currently April 1st and October 1st of each year. Please visit our website, for program information, application forms, etc. at: www.brandonu.ca/education-graduate-studies/.

7. Can students take courses if they have missed the Application Deadline?

Students who meet the normal admissions requirements, but have not been admitted into a program yet, can still register for up to a maximum of 9 credit hours with a Special Student status. These credit hours can be applied later to their program, once they have been formally accepted into a program.

8. Can students transfer previous course work into the M.Ed.?

Students can transfer up to 6 credit hours of graduate level course work from another university, providing the courses are current (within 6 years), have not been used in a previous degree program, are recognized for BU equivalency, and fit within the student's program of study.

9. What are the current tuition costs / application fee(s) at B.U.?

For the 2011/2012 academic year, students should expect to pay approximately \$553.50 per three credit hours for day & evening courses and \$548.39 for online and distance delivery courses. In addition, a \$250.00 fee may be charged, where applicable, for student health and dental insurance. Contact B.U.S.U. at 877-469-2509 for information about insurance or opt-out information.

The Brandon University Admissions Office charges an application fee of \$61.00 (CDN) (for "new" students only who are applying to Brandon University). The Faculty of Education Graduate Studies program requires a one-time / non-refundable application fee of \$100.00 (CDN) which is required at time of application to the program.

10. Can students take courses through distance delivery?

The Graduate Studies program continues to increase its focus on alternative course delivery strategies, especially for off-campus students. For distance delivery, courses are offered using a combination of on-line (NET=internet delivery), email and tele-conferencing (DIS=distance/blended). In addition, video-conferencing is also being considered as a viable delivery mode. While many courses are available on-line or by distance, some still require face-to-face instruction, such as those in Guidance & Counselling and certain seminars. In these cases, key courses are scheduled during summer sessions, when off-campus students can more conveniently attend classes.

11. What research opportunities are available for graduate students?

With the official launch in November 2008 of the Brandon University Centre for Aboriginal and Rural Education Studies (BU CARES), the Graduate Studies program is now in a position to promote and fund field research for graduate students. Visit our BU CARES web site at www.brandonu.ca/bu-cares/ for more information, or contact the co-ordinator Dr. Karen Rempel directly at (204) 727-7331 or via email: rempek@brandonu.ca

12. What graduate scholarships are available?

See our online Graduate Calendar (section 3) for information on available scholarships. In addition, there are opportunities for substantive provincial and federal scholarships for students in a Thesis route. Please refer to our Graduate Studies web site for details.

13. How can students receive additional information about the program at BU?

Brandon University and the Graduate Studies Office are working closely to design a user-friendly information site at www.brandonu.ca/education-graduate-studies/. Currently, the following are available on-line: access to the Graduate Studies calendar (pdf), identifying all course offerings through the Registration Guidelines, course registration and payment, including course Add & Drop, downloading program application forms, and finding out information on your personal student account, and final grade information.

14. Who are the contact persons at the Graduate Studies Office?

Dept. Chair:	Dept. Assistant:	Dean:
Dr. Arnold Novak	Mrs. Ina Schumacher	Dr. Sal Badali
Phone: 204-727-7380	Phone: 204-727-7406	Phone: 204-727-9656
Fax: 204-727-4901	Fax: 204-727-4901	Fax: 204-728-3326
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