



SAGE

Scholarly Activity and Graduate Education

Special
Master's Edition

Spring/Summer 2008

Master's Programs Streamlined, Upgraded

The College of Education at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has revamped, revised, and revisited all of its ten master's programs to make them as accessible to students as possible. Among the most exciting changes is the addition of courses that are online and "hybrid" (combining online delivery and face-to-face meetings). This will make scheduling significantly easier for students who work full time or who commute to the university. Also, most beginning students will receive a \$650 scholarship for the summer of 2008.

To highlight these improvements and scholarships, the College of Education will host a special informational session in the University Center Lonestar Ballroom from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. on April 10, 2008. Faculty from all 10 master's programs will be available to answer questions, and refreshments will be provided. A drawing will also be held for an additional \$650 scholarship

(you must be present to win).

Anyone wishing to attend should contact Donna DeGaish (donna.degaish@tamucc.edu or 825-3368). Dr. Jack Cassidy, associate dean of the College of Education, will also be present to answer questions and provide information about scholarships.

Join us for the
College of Education
Graduate Reception

Texas A&M University-
Corpus Christi
University Center
Lonestar Room 142C
5:30-7:00 p.m.

April 10, 2008

Master's and Certification More Accessible than Ever

The Master's and Certification (MAC) Program makes it possible to simultaneously earn teacher certification and a master's degree in either Elementary Education or Secondary Education. The Department of Teacher Education has recently streamlined the MAC Program so that candidates can complete the master's

and certification requirements in fifteen months.

New course plans allow students to fit coursework more easily into their schedules. The department is offering several intensive courses that students can complete in eight weeks. Candidates also have the option to take new "hybrid" courses, primarily online but with some face-to-face meetings.

Teacher Education Chair Dr. Martin Ward says, "With the need for teachers predicted to increase dramatically in the coming years, the newly revised MAC Program delivery system provides a unique, user-friendly opportunity for those with a bachelor's degree to earn the master's degree while achieving teacher certification." Students who start MAC programs in the summer of 2008 will be offered an additional scholarship. For more information, contact Dr. Martin Ward (825-3471 or martin.ward@tamucc.edu).



Master's and Certification student Michelle McDowell teaches a unit on *The Taming of the Shrew* to eighth graders at Incarnate Word Academy.

New "hybrid" online courses offered by the MAC Program:

- ▶ Fundamentals of Reading Instruction II (READ 5322)
- ▶ Special Populations and School Operations (EDCI 5305)
- ▶ Methods of Teaching Mathematics (EDCI 5315)
- ▶ Internship I and Seminar for the Intern Teacher (EDCI 5393)

College of Education

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

<http://education.tamucc.edu>

The Island University

Educational Technology Adds New Training Course

The Master's Degree in Educational Technology, one of the College of Education's perpetually popular graduate programs, is offering a special new course this summer: "Online/Hybrid Instructional Design" (ETEC 5390). Instructor William R. Durham, director of strategic and academic consulting for SunGard Higher Education, is collaborating with the current EdTech faculty to deliver guest lectures. Mr. Durham received his master's in Educational Technology from TAMUCC in 1999. He is also currently developing a program that will prepare trainers to work with university faculty members creating online programs.

Mr. Durham is hoping to recruit future trainers from the graduates of TAMUCC's Educational Technology master's program. These trainers will, in turn, aid other universities in developing online delivery of educational programs. Of course, the Educational Technology program will continue to offer quality training for classroom teachers and for those who wish to become technology specialists in the schools. For more information, contact Dr. David Leo, chair of the Department of Special Services (david.leo@tamucc.edu or 825-2346) or Dr. Stephen Rodriguez (stephen.rodriguez@tamucc.edu or 825-6033).

Educational Administration Unveils New Higher Education Track



The Department of Educational Administration and Research is offering several new options for candidates who begin during or after summer 2008.

The first is the Blue Chip Recruit Program. Candidates in this program must be teachers recommended by their own school principals for preparation as a school principal. Those selected for the Blue Chip

Recruit Program will receive additional scholarship funding to begin their training in the summer of 2008. This program stems from a national policy report, *Educating School Leaders*, that received wide coverage last year. Developed by Dr. Arthur E. Levine, former president of Teachers College, Columbia University, the report was the result of years of research on educational administration programs in colleges and universities throughout the United States. One of Dr. Levine's major suggestions was that candidates for a master's in Educational Administration be specifically recommended for that degree by their principals.

Another major change offered by the Master's Program in Educational Administration is a specific concentration in higher education administration that will be available to candidates who begin this summer, 2008. (The department already offers a higher education cognate area in its Doctoral Program in Educational Leadership.) This new emphasis at the master's level will open further career and specialization options for the program's students. For more information, contact Dr. Raul Prezas (825-2165 or raul.prezas@tamucc.edu).

Reading Program Adds Literacy Coaching Emphasis

Literacy coaching is currently a very hot topic in education, according to the research of Dr. Jack Cassidy, associate dean of graduate studies for the College of Education. To emphasize this important component of literacy education, Dr. Nancy Nelson and other members of the reading faculty in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction have been working diligently to include a coaching and literacy leadership component in all of their courses. This coaching element began in the spring of 2008 with "Professional Seminar: Literacy and Learning in a Context of Change" (READ 5390), the course associated with the annual TAMUCC Reading Conference. The conference will take place April 4 and 5, and those taking the course will meet on subsequent Saturdays through May 3. (More information on the conference is available at <http://readingconference.tamucc.edu>.)

Dr. Cassidy also plans to offer an online course in the fall of 2008 entitled "Trends and Issues in Literacy" (READ 5346). This new area of emphasis will provide excellent opportunities for prospective literacy coaches in the Coastal Bend Area. For more information, contact Dr. Marsha Grace (825-2443 or marsha.grace@tamucc.edu) or Dr. Nancy Nelson (825-3086 or nancy.nelson@tamucc.edu).



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The Island University



C&I Adds New Gifted Specialization



The Master's Program in Curriculum and Instruction offers many options for educators in all disciplines. Now another option is available: a new 18 credit hour specialization in gifted education. The new specialization will begin with a hybrid online course: "Programs for the Gifted and Talented" (EDCI 5339). Sessions will for the most part take place online, with two occurring face-to-face on Saturday, July 12 and Saturday, August 2 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Dr. Bryant Griffith and Dr. Jack Cassidy will collaborate in offering the needed courses. Both bring extensive experience: Dr. Griffith has previously offered courses in gifted education, and Dr. Cassidy has published widely in the field.

Dr. Cassidy says, "Graduate programs in gifted education are often ignored by most universities. We hope that our program will fill this important educational void. We have the courses and the faculty expertise to offer such a program." All new students accepted into the C&I master's program, no matter what their area of specialization, will be eligible to receive an additional scholarship if they take two courses in the summer of 2008. For more information, contact Dr. Bryant Griffith (825-2446 or bryant.griffith@tamucc.edu) or Dr. Nancy Nelson (825-3086 or nancy.nelson@tamucc.edu).

Kinesiology Goes Online

The Master of Science in Kinesiology, the College of Education's newest graduate degree, is fast becoming a program that students can complete entirely online. Starting in the fall of 2008, this new online format will allow individuals throughout the state of Texas and beyond to get a master's degree in kinesiology from TAMUCC. The degree benefits coaches and physical education teachers in K-12 schools as well as professionals in sports administration, recreational sports, and exercise science. The program provides a solid foundation of required courses with the flexibility of several elective hours to meet the specific needs of students who aspire to be employed in the fields of exercise science. Dr. Randy Bonnette, chair of the Department of Kinesiology, and Dr. Frank Spaniol, faculty member, have been spearheading the online effort. In another change, the department has dropped the requirement for the graduate record exam (GRE) for those who have a 3.0 GPA or higher in their last 60 hours of college credit. For more information contact Dr. Bonnette at 361-825-3317 or randy.bonnette@tamucc.edu.



Special Education Offers Full Funding

Teachers pursuing a master's degree and certification in Special Education may qualify for full tuition funding plus a stipend. The state of Texas has established a fund to help support special educators in training (contact O.B. Garcia at 361-825-6032 for details). In addition, the College of Education routinely offers scholarships and stipends to its new graduate students.

The Master's Program in Special Education has another change: this fall the faculty will reintroduce the course "Survey of Assistive Technology" (SPED 5324). Two faculty members relatively new to TAMUCC will be offering it along with other courses not previously offered in special education. Dr. Maryann Zipprich specializes in programs for individuals with mild to moderate disabilities, and Dr. Karen McCaleb specializes in programs for children and youth with moderate to severe disabilities. For more information on courses or entering the program, contact Dr. David Leo, chair of the Department of Special Services (david.leo@tamucc.edu or 361-825-2346) or Dr. Maryann Zipprich (361-825-3331 or maryann.zipprich@tamucc.edu).

Counseling Master's Degree Changes



The Master's Degree in Counseling remains the most popular graduate program in the College of Education. Recently, the department further strengthened the degree by changing the Community Counseling emphasis to Mental Health Counseling. The number of required semester hours increased as well, to 60. These changes, which will take effect in fall 2008, allow the program to conform to the standards of the Council for the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP). The School Counseling emphasis will see an increase in semester credit hours to 60 (the Marriage and Counseling emphasis has always required 60).

The Department of Counseling and Educational Psychology recently received the prestigious Dr. Robert Frank Outstanding Counselor Education Program Award presented by the Association of Counselor Educators and Supervisors. This national award honors a counselor education program that exemplifies the importance and excellence of standards and innovations. For more information on entering the program, contact Dr. Robert Smith, chair of the Department of Counseling and Educational Psychology (825-2307 or robert.smith@tamucc.edu).

Early Childhood Offers Cognate Options

The Early Childhood Education master's program, headed by Dr. Jana Sanders, has cognate options that allow students to fine tune their expertise with young children. Now, students can choose a cognate area in Bilingual Education, English as a Second Language, Reading Education, or Special Education. These specializations broaden educators' expertise in early childhood education and help them become more attractive candidates for jobs and specializations. In addition, students enrolled in the Strategies of Success (SOS) mentoring program for beginning teachers may count that program's courses toward their master's degree in Early Childhood Education.

The course sequence for this master's program has added a new course this year: Emergent Literacy (READ 5310). This course facilitates graduate students' understanding of the importance of literacy for young children. All of the changes are the result of the recommendations suggested by an outside visiting team headed by Dr. Josué Cruz, former President of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). For more information, contact Dr. Martin Ward, chair of the Department of Teacher Education (martin.ward@tamucc.edu or 825-3471) or Dr. Jana Sanders (jana.sanders@tamucc.edu) or 825-3328.



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