

Graduate Studies in Literacy Education

Mount Saint Vincent University is small enough so you can think big. Our small class sizes allow you to work directly with your professors and fellow students. Your program will be varied; you will have the opportunity to participate in a variety of activities such as research, group discussions and team projects that will build your knowledge and confidence.

The Master of Education and Master of Arts of Education programs in Literacy Education are intended for people working in a broad range of educational contexts (ex. classroom and community teachers, literacy tutors, program developers and supervisors, resource specialists, consultants, and administrators). Students are encouraged to engage with ideas and to think critically as they consider the varied and complex demands of fostering literacy learning in schools and community sites. The programs combine a focus on theoretical understanding of current research and issues in literacy education with an exploration of implications for practice in current local, national and international educational contexts.

Application and Admission Requirements

Minimum requirements for admission into the program are a bachelor's degree and evidence of one year of successful teaching experience (or its equivalent). For those teaching in the public school system, a BEd or its equivalent is also required. Those involved in literacy education other than in the school system do not require a BEd for admission to the program and are encouraged to apply. Normally, an average of at least a "B" (GPA 3.0) is required for admission.

This degree may be completed on a full- or part-time basis. The degree is available at off-campus locations throughout Atlantic Canada with some courses offered via Distance Education depending on availability.

The deadline for admission is March 1. Applicants should give particular attention to their letter of intent. References should include at least one academic reference, when possible.

Program Requirements

Master of Education (Non-Thesis) Program

Students registered in the Master of Education (non-thesis) program must complete five full units of graduate work. Some students may be required to complete additional prerequisite courses.

GLIT 6727 Literacy Learning I (half unit)

GLIT 6728 Literacy Learning II (half unit)

GEDU 6170 Seminar: Focus on Research Literacy (half unit)

Any two units from Literacy Education courses

One and one-half units of electives chosen in consultation with a faculty advisor

Masters of Arts in Education (Thesis) Program

Students registered in the Master of Arts in Education (thesis) program must complete four full units of graduate course work and one full unit of thesis. Some students may be required to complete additional prerequisite courses.

GLIT 6727 Literacy Learning I (half unit)
GLIT 6728 Literacy Learning II (half unit)
GEDU 6170 Seminar: Focus on Research Literacy (half unit)
GLIT 6753 Research Seminar in Literacy Education (half unit)
GLIT 6754 Research Seminar in Literacy Education (half unit)
GEDU 6130 MAEd Thesis (one unit)

Half unit from:

GEDU 6100 Experimental Research Methods
GEDU 6107 Qualitative Research Methods
GEDU 6151 Independent Study in Research Methods
One unit of elective chosen in consultation with a faculty advisor

For details of the programs, visit msvu.ca/calendar/graduate.asp or msvu.ca/education

Time Frame

Graduate students normally complete degree requirements in five years; on average a minimum of one course per year must be completed.

Courses will generally be scheduled in the evening either at 4:30-7:00 or 7:00-9:30 in fall, winter and summer session I. Some courses may be scheduled on weekends. A limited number of non-required courses are offered in summer session II.

Faculty Research Interests

Jane Baskwill, PhD (University of South Australia)

Early Literacy, Support for Struggling Literacy Learners, Activist Methodologies, Action Research, Family Literacy, Arts-Based Research, Children's Literature.

Mary Jane Harkins, PhD (Dalhousie University)

Literacy Education for Struggling Readers and Writers, Critical Literacy, Global Education, Aboriginal Studies and Teacher Education Preparation

Andrew Manning, PhD (University of Ottawa)

Literacy as Social and Cultural Practice, Critical Literacy, New Literacies, Literacy and New Technologies, Teacher Research

Allan Neilsen, PhD (University of Minnesota)

Arts-informed Inquiry and Pedagogy, Critical Media Literacy, Sense of Place and Self in Schools

Lorri Neilsen, PhD (University of New Hampshire)

Writing, Literary Studies, Qualitative Research, Research and the Arts, Feminist Inquiry, Poetics of Inquiry

Susan Walsh, PhD (University of Alberta)

Arts-Based Research, Writing as Inquiry, Feminist Poststructuralist Theory, Female Teachers, Gender and Literacy, Contemplative Inquiry

Apply today at msvu.ca/applyonline

Questions? E-mail admissions@msvu.ca