

Master of Education in Anthropology and Education

Ed.M. Fast Facts:

Up to 30 of the required 60 credits may be transferred
Approx. 20 courses in a 2 - 2 ½ year span
Full-time or Part-time
Integrative Project (Master Thesis or Article)

Program Description —

The Ed.M. in Anthropology and Education is concerned with the cultural, social, and linguistic dimensions of education. Our program offers insight to better understand inequalities, cultural differences, linguistic diversity, and the wealth of human life for educational purposes. We examine educational processes in schools and classrooms, in families, on street corners, in community centers, in churches, and in all other non- conventional education settings.

The Ed.M. is for students who have already obtained a master’s degree and are looking to extend their knowledge of anthropology and/or education. Students can usually transfer up to 30 credits from their previous master’s degree. The program description reflects the same as broad goals the Master of Arts program developed to a greater degree.

Anthropology is well positioned to answer some of the toughest questions of education and policymaking because of its emphasis on spending time with and learning from *people*. The program highlights participatory ethnography: engaging in and observing human activities and conversing with people as a means of improving education and collaborating with local groups and organizations. As one of the only master programs in Anthropology and Education in the world, we offer a unique outlook on how to understand and support diverse approaches to education in and outside the classroom.

In addition to core Anthropology courses, we encourage our students to take courses with other departments and programs at Teachers College and Columbia University, more generally. For example, many of our students take courses in the International and Comparative Education, Technology in Education, and Applied Linguistics programs.

Minimum point requirement – Minimally, candidates for the Master of Education degree in Anthropology and Education take 40 points in courses related to the main fields of the discipline, including at least 25 points in sociocultural anthropology. This may include work at GSAS or in one of the other professional schools, or area institutes of the University. A minimum of three courses (9 points) must be taken in fields foundational to anthropology (economics, history, linguistics, philosophy, psychology, sociology).

An additional 20 points must also be taken to complete the course of study. These courses should be chosen to enhance the professional preparation of the student in his or her expected field of practice, whether it is in education, public service (either at home or abroad), business, etc. They may be organized to satisfy the requirements for a Master of Arts degree in a professional field. These courses may be taken at Teachers College, GSAS, one of the other professional schools, or area institutes of the University.

Required courses — No individual course is required, per se, for the Ed.M. in Anthropology and Education. However, courses offered by the department are all considered “core courses” and can be used to fulfill the core course requirements.

Integrative project — A non-course, advisor-approved, culminating project is a requirement of all masters’ degrees in Anthropology and Education. The exact nature of this requirement is determined with a faculty member. If the student has already completed an IP at TC during prior studies for the MA, they should consult with their advisor to design a suitable culminating project for the Ed.M.

TC Breadth Requirement — To satisfy college breadth requirements, master students must complete a minimum of 6 points in TC courses that are outside of their major programs. They can reach that 6-point threshold by any combination of courses that they choose in consultation with their advisors. Note that courses in the ICE Programs are outside the Anthropology programs and thus meet the breadth requirement.

Transfer credit evaluation — We encourage students to request transfer credits as part of program planning. We regularly approve the transfer of credits even if the courses are not directly anthropological; however, if the program faculty determine that transfer credits are not directly related to anthropology, it must be clear that all remaining 30 points must have been cleared by us as anthropological. Up to 30 of the required 60 points may be transferred from graduate credit taken in a previous program outside of Teachers College to the extent that they fulfill some of the requirements listed above. In the case of students designing a joint M.A./ Ed.M. with other programs at the College, the requirements for both programs are combined.

Concentrations

Ed.M. students can select from the list below to form cohesive courses of study or they can work out personalized courses of study with their advisor that meet the minimum point distributions for the degree. (See the MA section for full descriptions of concentrations.)

- **Urban Education**
- **Culture and Communication**
- **Ethnographic Theory and Methods**
- **Education Beyond Schools**
- **Applied Anthropology**