May I transfer units taken at CSUDH or other colleges into the program?

Students in the credential program at CSUDH and others may transfer up to nine units toward the 30-unit M.A. requirement. Dominguez Hills credential students may count such courses as TED 402, Educational Psychology, TED 405, Mainstreaming Children with Special Needs, TED 403, Elementary Reading, or TED 406, Content Related Reading/Writing in Secondary Schools and TED 407, Language Learning. Nine units selected from among these are the usual courses accepted as electives toward the 30-unit requirement, subject to approval of the faculty of the Curriculum and Instruction program. A maximum of nine units of 400 level coursework may count toward the M.A. degree requirements. All students need to have technology competence. See your advisor for how this can be met, either through coursework or petition. Classes taken at CSUDH as an undergraduate can only be used toward the M.A. degree if appropriate paperwork was completed at the time such courses were taken (maximum of 6 units may be used).

Students having post-baccalaureate course work taken at other institutions should bring transcripts and catalog descriptions to their initial meeting with Curriculum and Instruction advisors who will assess if such course work may count toward the 30-unit M.A. requirement. In general, these courses should be the equivalent of CSUDH courses at the 400 or 500 levels. If coursework is taken at an accredited institution and counts toward an M.A. in education at that institution, it is likely to count toward the Curriculum and Instruction M.A. option. No class can be used toward 2 degrees. It is essential that students consult with a Curriculum and Instruction advisor prior to signing up for courses that they wish to count toward the 30-unit M.A. requirement. Courses not authorized by Curriculum and Instruction faculty may be disqualified as meeting the program requirements.

Should I take the required courses in any particular order?

The answer is an emphatic YES! The core courses are GED 500, GED 501 and GED 503. It is recommended that GED 501 be taken first, since it will prepare students for the first curriculum class in the Curriculum and Instruction Option, CUR 510, Process of Curriculum Development. Students should take CUR 510 first in the sequence of curriculum course work after successfully completing GED 501 and followed by CUR 515, 516 or 517. Students must have one of these three curriculum classes to meet program requirements (a second class from among these three is recommended but not required). Students are encouraged to take GED 500 early in their programs as well, since this research class will help them in several of their other courses.

The last class in the curriculum sequence, required of all students, is the capstone class, CUR 519. This class should only be taken after students have completed the core classes and CUR 510 plus one of the classes from CUR 515, CUR 516 and CUR 517 sequence. Often, students also take the M.A. exam during the semester that they take CUR 519. Usually, this is the last semester in the program.

In planning your coursework, remember that sections of the core classes are often taught in the summer, but that CUR 510, 513, 515, 516, 517 and 519 are not. Students hoping to finish the M.A. in a relatively short period of time should be particularly mindful of these facts. Since this
situation may change as enrollment in the program changes be sure to consult with an advisor regularly. Please note that no courses completed over seven years prior to the date of graduation may count toward the M.A. unit requirement in Curriculum and Instruction.

Are there prerequisites for admission to the program?

All students must pass the Graduate Writing Assessment Requirement (GWAR) or its equivalent. Students graduating from any California State University, except CSUDH, beginning in 1985 may petition with the CSUDH Testing Office to validate equivalency. Please note: The Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement and Graduation Writing Examination (GWE) Handbook is available online and can be downloaded. The website is: http://www.csudh.edu/oir/testing/index.htm. Students must check with the department office regarding the completion of the GWAR before the end of their first semester. As noted above, students also need to have technology literacy as a program prerequisite. Students who do not meet the GWE and/or technology literacy prerequisite should address these deficiencies by the end of their first semester in the Curriculum and Instruction program.

May I skip a semester without consequences to my graduate standing?

Students wishing to skip a semester of formal course work will need to enroll in GED 600S, Graduation Continuation, which allows continuous enrollment in the university and access to the library and other services. Discontinuing enrollment for a semester (not a summer session) will require students to re-enroll in the university and could delay graduation. It is imperative that students have a catalog as soon as they apply to the Curriculum and Instruction program. The catalog identifies the rights and responsibilities of students as well as program information. Students also need a schedule of classes every semester. Class schedules and university catalogs are available in hard copy form and can be purchased at the CSU Bookstore and are also available on the web at the CSUDH Home Page (www.csudh.edu). Electronic versions of the class schedules and catalogs are free of charge. Failure to meet deadlines or program requirements because students were unaware of such information presented in the catalog and schedule of classes will not be accepted as excuses for failure to meet requirements.

When should I apply to the Curriculum and Instruction program?

The brief answer is “as early as possible.” The reason for this is that students may only bring nine units into the Curriculum and Instruction program taken when students were not “in residence” (prior to acceptance into the program).

*This document is unofficial. Students should consult CSUDH catalog for the most recent official statement and university regulations and policies.

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