

Which Graduate Program Option Should You Choose?

Our Faculty of Education Graduate Program offers several different options: Master of Arts (MA) in Education, Master of Education (MEd) with a project, Master of Education (MEd) course-only, and Graduate Diploma in Education and Digital Technologies. So, how do you know which one is right for you?

This document highlights some of the key differences between the program options, and outlines the requirements for each to help you in your decision.

Master of Arts (MA) in Education – with Thesis

Our MA thesis option is ideal for students who:

- have a strong interest in research and have identified an area of research they'd like to pursue
- wish to pursue rigorous research that will involve collecting original data
- are considering pursuing doctoral studies in the future

Key considerations in an MA thesis:

- Because original data is being collected, it is likely that Review Ethics Board (REB) approval will be required (the student's supervisor provides support in this process).
- The focus of the research must involve technology and education in some capacity.
- While page length can vary considerably, an MA thesis typically ranges from 100 to 120 pages (including title page, table of contents, tables, figures, references, and appendices) – of course, quality is more essential than quantity, and the number of pages is a guideline, not a requirement.
- The research question is situated within a thorough literature review and sound theoretical framework.
- While students have the equivalent of 4 courses to complete their thesis, the final draft must be submitted a minimum of 1 month before the end of the final term.
- The study will add to the current discourse in the research area pursued.
- Quantitative, qualitative or mixed methods approaches will be used to collect and analyze data.
- For examples, go to the Ontario Tech [E-Scholar Database](#) to search for previous MA theses completed in the Faculty of Education.

Requirements:

Before beginning their thesis or switching to the MA option, students must:

- have a proposed research supervisor who will provide a letter of recommendation;
- develop a thesis proposal with the potential supervisor;
- submit a sample of their writing;
- submit a CV;

- formally apply to transfer from the MEd option to the MA option after completing a minimum of 4 courses (including 2 required core courses) and by the end of their 6th course.

To successfully complete the thesis, students:

- will have the thesis evaluated by a committee consisting (at minimum) of a research supervisor, a faculty member and an external reviewer (someone from another faculty within Ontario Tech or external to our university);
- must participate in an oral defense (presentation and questions) of the thesis (open to faculty and students).

For a more formal list of requirements to complete an MA thesis, please see the [Master's thesis information](#) on the Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies website.

Master of Education (MEd) – with Project

Our MEd project option is ideal for students who:

- are interested in a smaller scale research project that doesn't necessarily involve collecting original data
- do not want the experience of an oral defense of their research
- may or may not pursue doctoral studies in the future

Key considerations in an MEd project:

- The focus of the research must involve technology and education in some capacity.
- While page length can vary considerably, an MEd project typically ranges from 50 to 75 pages (including title page, table of contents, tables, figures, references, and appendices) – of course, quality is more essential than quantity, and the number of pages is a guideline, not a requirement.
- It is recommended that the project should not require an ethical review (REB) because this process can take a full term (one full course) to complete.
- While students have the equivalent of 2 courses to complete their project, the final draft must be submitted a minimum of 1 month before the end of the final term.

Examples:

Sample projects might be (but are not limited to):

- a detailed literature review
- a meta-analysis (quantitative literature review)
- a research report
- research-based policy analysis
- using data already gathered (e.g., from archives, the public domain or as part of a professor's ongoing research agenda) to prepare a critique, report or overview of an issue
- For examples, go to the Ontario Tech [E-Scholar Database](#) to search for previous MEd projects completed in the Faculty of Education.

Requirements:

Before beginning their project, students must:

- have a proposed faculty supervisor who will provide a letter of recommendation;
- meet with the potential supervisor to discuss the scope and plausibility of possible project options;

- formally transfer from the course-only option to the project option after completing a minimum of 4 courses (including 2 required core courses) and by the end of their 8th course.

To successfully complete their projects, students:

- will have their projects evaluated by a faculty supervisor and a second reader who may be either a faculty member or external to the faculty.

For a more formal list of requirements to complete an MEd project, please see the [Master's project information](#) on the Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies website.

Master of Education (MEd) – Course-only

Our MEd course-only option is ideal for students who:

- are not anticipating doing doctoral studies in the future
- want to pursue one of the program streams (Clusters) in more depth than a project or thesis would permit
- prefer not to be involved in formal research

Graduate Diploma in Education and Digital Technologies

Our Graduate Diploma option is ideal for students who:

- are not anticipating doing doctoral studies in the future
- want to pursue graduate-level courses without committing to a full Master's degree
- prefer not to be involved in formal research
- wish to complete a diploma for professional or personal advancement

Still have questions?

Contact the program office at edugrad@ontariotechu.ca for assistance.