

The Graduate School of Education
 UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS LOWELL
Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study Degrees
Curriculum and Instruction
Administration Planning and Policy
Reading and Language

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Where do I take courses?

<i>CAGS in Curriculum and Instruction</i>	<i>CAGS in Administration Planning and Policy</i>	<i>CAGS in Reading and Language</i>
This program is designed to be completed entirely online	The majority of courses are online, but the practicum requires limited campus visits as does the CAGS seminar	

2. What type of computer software is required for online courses? What is the format of a course?

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Access to the internet via Netscape or Internet Explorer is required. To view the format of a course, visit http://continuinged.uml.edu/online . Click on "Test Drive A Course" link, located in the left column. This provides a comprehensive review of typical online course.		

3. Is this program open to out-of-state candidates (i.e. not working in a Massachusetts school.)

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YES	NO	NO

4. Do I need to be a certified teacher to enter this program?

<i>CAGS in Curriculum and Instruction</i>	<i>CAGS in Administration Planning and Policy</i>	<i>CAGS in Reading and Language</i>
YES – you must hold a permanent teaching license in any field.	YES – you must hold a Massachusetts initial or professional Teaching license in any field.	YES – you must hold a Massachusetts initial or professional license in Elementary Education, English Language Learners, Moderate Disabilities or Early Childhood Education

5. What are the admissions requirements?

<i>CAGS in Curriculum and Instruction</i>	<i>CAGS in Administration Planning and Policy</i>	<i>CAGS in Reading and Language</i>
Candidates for admission to the program should hold a master’s degree in education or a M.A.T. or a master’s degree in a closely related field, from an accredited institution and have achieved a GPA of 3.0 or better. Additionally, applicants should have at least three years of full-time experience as a teacher or administrator in a K-12 school, or as a professional educator in a related setting. Three years of full-time teaching experience in a junior or community college is also acceptable.		

6. Is it possible to gain a Massachusetts teaching license through the CAGS program?

<i>CAGS in Curriculum and Instruction</i>	<i>CAGS in Administration Planning and Policy</i>	<i>CAGS in Reading and Language</i>
NO	NO	NO

7. Is it possible to gain a Massachusetts Principal or Teacher of Reading license through this program?

<i>CAGS in Curriculum and Instruction</i>	<i>CAGS in Administration Planning and Policy</i>	<i>CAGS in Reading and Language</i>
NO – this is a non-licensure program.	Only if you work in a Massachusetts school and you hold an initial license in Massachusetts and complete all the program requirements, you can be recommended for a principal license. You will also need to meet Massachusetts educator testing requirements.	Only if you work in a Massachusetts school and you hold an initial license in Massachusetts in Elementary Education, English Language Learners, Moderate Disabilities or Early Childhood Education, and complete all the program requirements, you can be recommended for a Teacher of Reading license. You will also need to meet Massachusetts educator testing requirements

8. I am not presently working as a professional educator, can I still enroll?

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If you are not employed in a school, college or related setting, you must be able to find a suitable site to complete the field-based components of the degree.	It would be inadvisable as you need to be in a setting where you can complete the field experience and practicum requirements. We do not find practicum sites for you.	

9. How long does it take to complete the CAGS requirements?

The program takes approximately 2 - 3 years to complete on a part-time basis, taking one or two courses per semester, fall, spring and summer. Candidates have a maximum of five years to complete the degree.

10. What is the cost of the program? Is financial aid available?

In-state and out-of-state candidates pay the same costs. Financial aid maybe available to matriculated students enrolled in 6 or more credits per semester. You may contact the Financial Assistance Office at 978-934-4220 for more information. Please see the continuing education website for current pricing.

11. How do I register?

Non-matriculated students must register for their first ONLINE course with the Continuing Studies office by telephone, fax, mail or in person. You can contact Continuing Studies by telephone at 978-934-2700. Complete registration information is available online at <http://continuinged.uml.edu/general/registration.htm> After taking one course, you will be able to register for courses using your assigned ISIS account.

12. When is the application deadline?

We admit students for each semester; fall, spring, and summer. However, in order to be admitted for a particular semester, your materials should be received at least six weeks before that semester begins in order to allow for processing and for the Admissions Committee to act on your application. Please see the GSE website (admissions)

13. What is the application process?

Applications can be found online at: <http://www.uml.edu/grad>. Please note that the Graduate School of Education requires results from the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) for applicants seeking admission to any CAGS degree. In addition to submitting GRE scores, completing an online application form and submitting the fee, you are required to send three letters of recommendation, transcripts from all colleges and universities previously attended, and a two to three page statement in which you describe your experience as a professional educator, your teaching philosophy and explain your reasons for seeking admission to the chosen CAGS degree.

14. If I want to enter UMass Lowell's doctoral program after completing the CAGS am I able to?

Should you decide that you wish to pursue a doctorate in education, you must apply to one of our doctoral programs (i) Leadership in Schooling; (ii) Language Arts and Literacy; (iii) Mathematics and Science Education, following the application procedure at <http://www.uml.edu/grad> 9-12 credits of the CAGS can be used as electives in the doctoral degree.

15. How many credits can I transfer from another institution into the CAGS?

Courses that have been used as part of your master's degree CANNOT be used as part of your CAGS (a CAGS is 30 credits beyond the master's). However, a total of 6 credits may be transferred into the program from another accredited institution with the approval of program faculty. Once you have been accepted into the CAGS, you must fill out an academic petition (found at <http://www.uml.edu/grad>) and send a copy of the course syllabus or catalog description along with the official transcripts showing grade earned in the course. The academic petition and the appropriate documentation should be sent to the Graduate School of Education, 61 Wilder Street, 5th Floor O'Leary Library, Lowell, MA 01854.

16. Can I take classes before applying officially to the program?

Students may take up to 2 classes (6 credits) at UMass Lowell prior to submitting a formal application for the program. However, it is highly recommended that you apply after completing two courses. Taking courses prior to admission does not guarantee admission.

17. Is there a recommended sequence of courses?

Courses may be taken in any sequence, with exception of the capstone project, practica and CAGS seminar which must be completed at the end of your program.

What courses will be offered in the coming semesters?

You can find our course schedule online at: <http://gse.uml.edu/gse/courses.htm>

For Additional Information, Email EdOffice@uml.edu

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