**Frequently Asked Questions about the MSEd in Science/Math Education**

**Q: Who is this program for?**

A: The program is designed for math and science teachers who want to expand their knowledge of both content and pedagogy.

**Q: What courses will I have to take?**

A: The program allows you to select an area of emphasis that suits your teaching assignment and professional goals. Your program of study will include 12 credit hours in that area of emphasis (Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics, or Physical Science). You also take pedagogy courses, science courses outside your area of emphasis, and electives to earn a total of 36 credit hours.

**Q: How does the MSEd in Science/Math Education compare with other graduate degree programs at UNK?**

A: UNK offers several other online master’s degree programs, including an MS degree in Biology. The MS Biology is a non-thesis degree designed for those who have careers in which advanced education in biology is desirable, or for people seeking such a career. Teacher Education programs in Curriculum & Instruction lead to MAEd degrees and require 18 hours of TE courses plus 18 hours in an endorsement area; both thesis and non-thesis options are offered.

**Q: What are the admission requirements?**

A: To qualify for work on this degree, a student must have an endorsement in Biology, Mathematics, Chemistry, Physics or Physical Science and meet the general requirements for entrance to graduate studies, including a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university and a cumulative grade point average of 2.75 or higher. The admission process includes submitting your official transcripts, a copy of your teaching certificate, and a letter of intent. The GRE is not required.

**Q: Can I take classes without being formally admitted?**

A: Yes. You can apply as a “non-degree student” and apply up to 12 credit hours taken in non-degree status to your MSEd degree in Science/Math Education.

**Q: Is the program online?**

A: Yes. Every program requirement can be fulfilled by taking web-based courses.

**Q: Do I need to come to campus at some point?**

A: No. This low-residency program does not require you to take any courses on campus, nor does it require that you make a trip to UNK at any point in your program.

**Q: Is this an accredited program?**

A: UNK is accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools and by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE).

**Q: How does an online degree program compare to a face-to-face program in quality?**

A: UNK offers the same quality degree programs and courses by distance that are offered on the campus. Courses are taught by credentialed full-time faculty with doctoral degrees who are committed to quality teaching. The rigor and depth of our online courses is equivalent to traditional courses.

**Q: Can I transfer credits from another institution?**

A: Up to 9 semester hours (with a grade of at least “B”) can be applied to the degree. All transfer credit must be evaluated by the Graduate Program Committee and Dean of Graduate Studies and Research.

**Q: Can I use credits from my master’s degree in Curriculum & Instruction?**

A: Yes. Up to 6 hours of course work from a first master’s degree may be applied to the second degree, pending approval by the Graduate Program Committee and the Dean of Graduate Studies and Research.

**Q: Will the degree lead to certification / endorsement?**

A: The program does not lead to initial certification. However, the courses you take to earn your degree may apply to a supplemental or additional endorsement.

**Q: What do I need to do to earn the degree?**

A: In addition to completing your courses successfully, you must pass a comprehensive exam before you can graduate. The comprehensive exam is a mechanism for candidates to demonstrate their proficiency in their field of study. It is an oral and/or written exam that covers content knowledge and pedagogical knowledge and is taken in the final semester.

**Q: How long will it take me to earn the degree?**

A: A total of 36 credit hours must be completed. The usual time to complete these hours is two and a half to three years.

**Q: What are the costs?**

A: UNK has one of the lowest tuition rates in the country. For current information on tuition rates and fees that apply to online courses, see <http://www.unk.edu/academics/ecampus/Tuition_and_Fees/>.

**Q: How I do to apply to the program?**

A: Apply online <https://admit.nebraska.edu/applyUNK/login.action>

**Q: Where can I find more information about UNK’s policies and procedures for graduate programs?**

A: Go to <http://www.unk.edu/academicaffairs.aspx?id=4052> and select the appropriate graduate catalog.

**Q: Who do I contact if I have further questions?**

A: Send email to [msedsci@unk.edu](mailto:msedsci@unk.edu) or [petersonha@unk.edu](mailto:petersonha@unk.edu) or call Holly Peterson at (308) 865-8043.