

# EDUCATION POLICY, MSED

The M.S.Ed. in Education Policy equips students with the knowledge and methodological tools to understand, evaluate, and implement programs and policies that impact students and communities across the country and around the world. Our graduates go on to take leading roles in such organizations as school districts, federal and state departments of education, education policy research institutes, and education-related non-profit organizations.

**For more information:** <https://www.gse.upenn.edu/academics/programs/education-policy-masters> (<https://www.gse.upenn.edu/academics/programs/education-policy-masters/>)

## Curriculum

M.S.Ed. students in Education Policy must complete 10 course units, in accordance with the curriculum outlined below, including the Education Policy Research Practicum (which fulfills the Comprehensive Examination requirement) and the Distribution Requirement. All degree candidates must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0.

Master's degree candidates must demonstrate thorough knowledge of the field of specialization by completing the Education Policy Research Practicum. The Practicum serves an educational and evaluative purpose through which students are expected to review, integrate, and apply what they have learned over the course of their degree.

Code	Title	Course Units
<b>Disciplinary Foundations Course</b>		<b>2</b>
Select two of the following:		
If you take more than 2 classes from this list, you can count the third, fourth (etc.) as an elective in Section 5		
EDUC 5436	Philosophical Aspects of Education Policy	
EDUC 5460	American Education Reform: History, Policy, Practice	
EDUC 5782	Sociology of Education	
GAFL 6210	Public Economics	
EDUC 6725	The Politics of Policymaking in K-12 Education	
EDUC 6784	Economics of Education	
EDUC 7708	The Social Organization of Schooling	
<b>Required Methods Courses</b>		<b>2</b>
EDUC 6667	Introductory Statistics for Educational Research (note: since this course is within GSE and outside of EDPL, it can also count as your distribution course as long as you receive a B or higher within the course)	
*Note that this could count as your distribution requirement no. 6 (only if you receive a "B" or better within the course)		
Select one of the following required courses within Spring:		
EDUC 6720	Methods of Economic Evaluation in Education	
EDUC 6739	Applied Policy Analysis	
*Note that you can take both of these classes and one can count in Section 3 or Section 5.		
<b>Education Policy Core Courses</b>		<b>3</b>
Select three of the following:		

\*If you take more than 3 classes from this list, you can count the fourth (etc.) class as an elective.

EDUC 5414	Economics of Education in Lower Middle Income Countries	
EDUC 5418	Global Governance and Cooperation: International Education Policy and Practice	
EDUC 5760	Applied Research Methods to Inform Policy and Practice	
EDUC 6715	Public Communications in Education: Challenges and Strategies	
EDUC 6736	Education Finance Policy	
EDUC 6738	Education Policy Issues	
EDUC 7742	Teachers and Teaching Policy	
<b>Education Policy Research Practicum (fulfills MSED Capstone Requirement)</b>		<b>1</b>
(Fulfills M.S.Ed. Capstone Requirement):		
EDUC 7770	Education Policy Research Practicum	
EDUC 7771	The Intersection of Leadership Theory and Practice	
EDUC 7772	Expanding Civic Opportunities for Youth (Practicum)	
<b>Elective Courses</b>		<b>2</b>
Select 2 electives (These are recommendations, but you can select others) <sup>3</sup>		
EDUC 5406	International Early Childhood Policies and Programs	
EDUC 5412	Policy Planning in International Educational Development: Theory and Practice	
EDUC 5414	Economics of Education in Lower Middle Income Countries	
EDUC 5448	Politics of School Reform	
EDUC 5490	School and Society in America	
EDUC 6462	Principles of Monitoring & Evaluation in International Education Development	
EDUC 7531	Risk, Resilience, and Prevention Science	
<b>Distribution Requirement</b> <sup>2</sup>		
<b>Total Course Units</b>		<b>10</b>

## Required Milestones:

### Comprehensive Examination (or Portfolio or Thesis)

Master's degree candidates must demonstrate thorough knowledge of the field of specialization by passing a comprehensive examination in their area of study. The examination/portfolio/thesis serves an educational and evaluative purpose through which students are expected to review and integrate what they have learned in their coursework and fieldwork. Comprehensive formats vary.

<sup>1</sup> To meet the Capstone requirement, students must earn a grade of "B" or better in this course. You can take 2 and count one of them as an elective.

<sup>2</sup> Candidates for the M.S.Ed. degree must demonstrate knowledge of the field of education beyond the area of specialization. This requirement is met by satisfying the distribution requirement. To meet the distribution requirement, students must complete one approved graduate level (5000 and above) GSE course outside the student's area of specialization, earning a grade of "B" or better. Students should

check with their program manager for a list of courses approved to fulfill the distribution requirement (EDUC 6667 being one of them).

- <sup>3</sup> One of the elective courses must fulfill the distribution requirement unless the distribution requirement is fulfilled through one of the above courses. Beyond the required distribution course, elective courses may be taken at any school at Penn. Additional courses taken in #1, #2(b and c), #3 and #4 can qualify as elective courses as long as they are not counting for category requirements. Courses must be at the 5000 level or above and taken for a letter grade (no pass/fail). Students must consult their faculty advisor before enrolling in any course outside of the Graduate School of Education.

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The degree and major requirements displayed are intended as a guide for students entering in the Fall of 2025 and later. Students should consult with their academic program regarding final certifications and requirements for graduation.

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