

# LIFELONG LEARNING AND ADULT EDUCATION

## Degree Requirements

### Master of Education (M.Ed.)

Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-700 Professional Degree Policies (<https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/>).

A minimum of 30 credits is required for the M.Ed. degree. A minimum of 18 credits out of the 30 must be taken at the 500- or 800-level, with a minimum of 6 credits at the 500-level, and a minimum of 24 credits must be in ADTED prefix courses. The M.Ed. program in Lifelong Learning and Adult Education consists of a required core of 12 credits in ADTED courses and 18 credits in ADTED or other electives.

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Required Courses</b>		
ADTED 460	Introduction to Lifelong Learning and Adult Education	3
ADTED 505	The Teaching of Adults	3
ADTED 542	Perspectives on Adult Learning Theory	3
<b>Electives</b>		
Select an additional 18 credits (six courses) from the following ADTED courses in consultation with your adviser. <sup>1</sup>		18
ADTED 456	Introduction to Family Literacy	
ADTED 457	Adult Literacy	
ADTED 470	Introduction to Distance Education	
ADTED 480	Teaching Math and Numeracy to Adults	
ADTED 501	Foundations of Medical Education	
ADTED 502	Program and Instructional Design in Medical Education	
ADTED 506	Program Planning in Adult Education	
ADTED 507	Research and Evaluation in Adult Education	
ADTED 509	Language, Literacy, Identity, and Culture in a Global Context	
ADTED 510	Historical and Social Issues in Adult Education	
ADTED 531	Course Design and Development in Distance Education	
ADTED 532	Research and Evaluation in Distance Education	
ADTED 533	Global Online and Distance Education	
ADTED 560	Teaching Reading to College Students and Adults	
ADTED 575	Administration of Adult Education	
ADTED 581	Social Theory and Lifelong Learning	
<b>Culminating Experience</b>		
ADTED 588	Professional Seminar: Research and Adult Education	3
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>30</b>

<sup>1</sup> Other courses may be substituted for these electives with the adviser's permission.

M.Ed. students are required to write a master's paper as part of the required 30 credits of course work. Students complete the master's paper while enrolled in ADTED 588 during their last semester.

M.Ed. students must select either the general M.Ed. degree or one of the three formal options:

1. Adult Basic Education and Literacy
2. Global and Online Distance Education
3. Medical and Health Professions

M.Ed. students who select a formal option must adhere to the requirements specified below.

### Adult Basic Education and Literacy Option

The M.Ed. in Lifelong Learning and Adult Education – Adult Basic Education and Literacy Option consists of a required core of 12 credits in ADTED courses, 12 credits in ADTED courses required for this option, and 6 credits of ADTED or other electives.

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Required Courses</b>		
ADTED 460	Introduction to Lifelong Learning and Adult Education	3
ADTED 505	The Teaching of Adults	3
ADTED 542	Perspectives on Adult Learning Theory	3
<b>Required Option Courses</b>		
ADTED 480	Teaching Math and Numeracy to Adults	3
ADTED 507	Research and Evaluation in Adult Education	3
ADTED 509	Language, Literacy, Identity, and Culture in a Global Context	3
ADTED 560	Teaching Reading to College Students and Adults	3
<b>Electives</b>		
Select an additional 6 credits (two courses) of the following ADTED courses in consultation with your adviser. <sup>1</sup>		6
ADTED 456	Introduction to Family Literacy	
ADTED 457	Adult Literacy	
ADTED 470	Introduction to Distance Education	
ADTED 506	Program Planning in Adult Education	
ADTED 510	Historical and Social Issues in Adult Education	
ADTED 531	Course Design and Development in Distance Education	
ADTED 533	Global Online and Distance Education	
ADTED 575	Administration of Adult Education	
ADTED 581	Social Theory and Lifelong Learning	
<b>Culminating Experience</b>		
ADTED 588	Professional Seminar: Research and Adult Education	3
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>30</b>

<sup>1</sup> Other courses may be substituted for these electives with the adviser's permission.

### Global Online and Distance Education Option

The M.Ed. in Lifelong Learning and Adult Education – Global Online and Distance Education Option consists of a required core of 12 credits in

ADTED courses, 12 credits in ADE courses required for this option, and 6 credits of ADE or other electives.

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Required Courses</b>		
ADTED 460	Introduction to Lifelong Learning and Adult Education	3
ADTED 505	The Teaching of Adults	3
ADTED 542	Perspectives on Adult Learning Theory	3
<b>Required Option Courses</b>		
ADTED 470	Introduction to Distance Education	3
ADTED 531	Course Design and Development in Distance Education	3
ADTED 532	Research and Evaluation in Distance Education	3
ADTED 533	Global Online and Distance Education	3
<b>Electives</b>		
Select an additional 6 credits (two courses) from the following courses in consultation with your adviser. <sup>1</sup>		6
ADTED 506	Program Planning in Adult Education	
ADTED 510	Historical and Social Issues in Adult Education	
ADTED 575	Administration of Adult Education	
ADTED 581	Social Theory and Lifelong Learning	
<b>Culminating Experience</b>		
ADTED 588	Professional Seminar: Research and Adult Education	3
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>30</b>

<sup>1</sup> Other courses may be substituted for these electives with the adviser's permission.

### Medical and Health Professions Option

The M.Ed. in Lifelong Learning and Adult Education – Medical and Health Professions Option consists of a required core of 12 credits in ADE courses, 9 credits in ADE courses required for this option, and 9 credits of ADE or other electives. This option is offered at Penn State Harrisburg only, and this option requires a four-year completion of the degree.

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Required Courses</b>		
ADTED 460	Introduction to Lifelong Learning and Adult Education	3
ADTED 505	The Teaching of Adults	3
ADTED 542	Perspectives on Adult Learning Theory	3
<b>Required Option Courses</b>		
ADTED 501	Foundations of Medical Education	3
ADTED 502	Program and Instructional Design in Medical Education	3
ADTED 507	Research and Evaluation in Adult Education	3
<b>Electives</b>		
Select at least 3 additional credits (one course) from the following ADE courses in consultation with your adviser. <sup>1</sup>		3
ADTED 470	Introduction to Distance Education	
ADTED 510	Historical and Social Issues in Adult Education	
ADTED 531	Course Design and Development in Distance Education	

ADTED 533	Global Online and Distance Education	
ADTED 575	Administration of Adult Education	
ADTED 581	Social Theory and Lifelong Learning	
Select an additional 6 credits of electives in consultation with your adviser.		6
<b>Culminating Experience</b>		
ADTED 588	Professional Seminar: Research and Adult Education	3
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>30</b>

<sup>1</sup> Other courses may be substituted for these electives with the adviser's permission.

### Doctor of Education (D.Ed.)

Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-700 Professional Degree Policies (<https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/>).

A minimum of 60 credits beyond the master's degree is required for the D.Ed. degree. A minimum of 90 credits is required for the D.Ed. degree, of which at least 30 must be earned in residence at either University Park. D.Ed. students who do not have previous experience in adult education are expected to acquire the equivalent of one year of experience in one or more fields of adult education practice prior to receiving their D.Ed. degree. All doctoral students must pass a qualifying examination, a comprehensive written and oral examination, and a final oral examination. To earn the D.Ed. degree, doctoral students must also write a dissertation that is accepted by the doctoral committee, the head of the graduate program, and the Graduate School.

The qualifying examination is administered after when the student has earned a total of at least 30 credits toward the graduate degree, including the master's program and graduate work done elsewhere. During the comprehensive examination, in addition to being examined in their area of specialization, all D.Ed. students are examined in the core adult education areas. A minimum of 21 credits in course work must be taken in Lifelong Learning and Adult Education, including:

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Required Courses</b>		
ADTED 460	Introduction to Lifelong Learning and Adult Education	3
	or ADE 521 Doctoral Proseminar	
ADTED 510	Historical and Social Issues in Adult Education	3
ADTED 542	Perspectives on Adult Learning Theory	3
<b>Electives</b>		
12 credits of ADE electives		12
A minimum of 15 credits must be taken outside Lifelong Learning and Adult Education as a minor or General Studies option.		15
A minimum of 9 credits must be taken in research methods courses, including:		9
	one graduate-level basic statistics course	
ADTED 550	Qualitative Research in Adult Education	
	one course on quantitative design/methods	
<b>Culminating Experience</b>		
ADTED 600	Thesis Research	15

or ADTED 610 Thesis Research Off Campus

**Total Credits** 60

D.Ed. students conduct applied research with the goal of improving practice in the general adult education field.

## Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)

Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-600 Research Degree Policies. (<https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/>)

A minimum of 48 credits beyond the master's degree is required for the Ph.D. degree. Ph.D. students are required to take:

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Required Courses</b>		
ADTED 521	Doctoral Proseminar	3
or ADTED 460	Introduction to Lifelong Learning and Adult Education	
ADTED 508	Globalization and Lifelong Learning	3
ADTED 510	Historical and Social Issues in Adult Education	3
ADTED 542	Perspectives on Adult Learning Theory	3
<b>Emphasis Area</b>		
18 credits in an emphasis area, including at least 6 credits of ADTED electives and at least 9 credits chosen from one or more Supporting Area(s) outside of Lifelong Learning and Adult Education. A list of courses that will count towards the Supporting Areas requirement is maintained by the graduate program office.		18
<b>Research</b>		
18 research credits, including:		18
one graduate-level basic statistics course		
ADTED 550	Qualitative Research in Adult Education	
one course on quantitative design/methods		
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>48</b>

In addition, Ph.D. students must fulfill the residency requirement and English competence requirements, must pass qualifying, comprehensive, and final oral examinations, and maintain continuous registration during dissertation research.

Ph.D. students are required to take 12 core credits in Lifelong Learning and Adult Education, 18 credits in an emphasis area that is composed of Lifelong Learning and Adult Education and supporting courses outside Lifelong Learning and Adult Education, and 18 research credits, in addition to the residency requirement, qualifying, comprehensive, and final oral examinations, and continuous registration during the dissertation research. To earn the Ph.D. degree, doctoral students must also write a dissertation that is accepted by the Ph.D. committee, the head of the graduate program, and the Graduate School.

Students in the Ph.D. program focus on research in Globalization and Lifelong Learning, selecting one emphasis area (Distance Education, Literacy for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Populations, Comparative Lifelong Learning, or Learning in Work and Communities). Required research methods courses help students develop the background knowledge and tools to enable them to engage in original research.