



College of Education

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, RENO

# Master's Degree in Secondary Education (M.Ed.)

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION AND HANDBOOK

First-Time Licensure



College of Education

# ABOUT US

## The Reno Area

Channeling the crystal waters of Lake Tahoe, the Truckee River runs leisurely through downtown Reno. Numerous mountain ranges rise ruggedly from the desert basin, providing stunning views and unmatched sunsets.

## The University

- Boasts a fitness facility of more than 108,000 square feet
- Offers affordable, top-tier education
- Houses one of nation's most technologically advanced libraries
- Provides students the opportunity to work closely with research faculty and professionals

As Nevada's flagship and largest institution, the University has been instrumental in the history of the nation's fastest growing state. One of the top 150 research universities in the country, the University of Nevada, Reno is fully accredited by the North American Association of Schools and Colleges, the official accrediting agency of most Western states.

The University of Nevada, Reno was founded in 1874 as the University of Nevada in Elko, Nevada, about 300 miles north of its present-day campus in Reno. The site for the university preparatory school in eastern Nevada (where no state institution had previously been located) proved to be impractical, as nearly all of the state's residents lived in the Carson City area. In 1884, the legislature approved the move of the University from Elko to Reno.

In the last 35 years, the University has met the challenges of a rapidly changing world. The University has met the challenges of a rapidly changing world. The University has met the challenges of a rapidly changing world.

centrally located "front door" to the University from Virginia Street. In 2008, one of the nation's most technologically advanced libraries, the Mathewson Knowledge Center, opened next to the Crowley Student Union, further signaling the campus' move north. In 2016, the new 78,000 square foot William N. Pennington Student Achievement Center opened to provide a central building for all student services and in 2017 the university broke ground for a new arts center. The university's most recent building addition is the E. L. Wiegand Fitness Center. The new fitness facility is more than 108,000 square feet with three basketball gymnasiums, areas for weightlifting, cardio training, body training, a fitness staircase, 1/8th mile running track and a multitude of new fitness classes and activities.

The University of Nevada, Reno is an affordable Tier One university. Our students pay 80 percent less than the average Tier One institution, making UNR a best buy amongst Tier One universities. Unlike many public research universities, the University of Nevada, Reno offers its students the chance to get up close and personal with highly credentialed faculty, researchers and professionals. Ph.D. professors regularly teach undergraduate students and invite them to research labs or internships. Graduate students work closely with professors on major research projects while developing their own research skills and projects. UNR Faculty are world renown, respected members of their fields and often bring home research and career achievement awards.

Along with its academic benefits, the University of Nevada, Reno is a beautiful campus located in one of the most picturesque areas of the country. From the 400 year old, elm treed lined Jeffersonian quad to the state-of-the-art Mathewson Knowledge Center, the campus possesses historic beauty and digital convenience alike. Nestled at the base of the Sierra Nevada, the city of Reno is closer to cities such as Sacramento and San Francisco than Las Vegas. In contrast to Las Vegas, Reno offers its residents an invigorating taste of all four seasons.

Channeling the crystal waters of Lake Tahoe, the Truckee River runs leisurely through downtown Reno. Numerous mountain ranges rise ruggedly from the desert basin, providing stunning views and unmatched sunsets. Located on the border between the Great Basin and the Sierra Nevada, Reno has been dubbed "America's Adventure Place" for its impressive and diverse geographic offerings. With crystal clear Lake Tahoe 30 minutes to the west, the barren Black Rock Desert to the north and the Yosemite a short road trip to the southwest, Reno is a great destination for nature lovers and adrenaline junkies alike.

Reno offers a favorable quality of life that has been recognized by numerous national sources, including *Forbes* magazine. Reno's population enjoys an array of cultural activities, including museum, numerous theatre companies, a symphony, ballet and opera. There are several major venues for concerts, sporting events and other live performances, including the Lawlor Events Center and the Reno Events Center, located less than a minute walk from campus. In recent years, Reno has experienced a Bohemian cultural renaissance, with a growing arts community, increasing international flavor and the annual counterculture festival, Burning Man.

# INTRODUCTION

The Master's First-time Licensure Program in Secondary Education (M.Ed.) is designed for individuals who have earned a bachelor's degree at an accredited institution and who want to combine teacher licensure at the 7-12 level with a Masters in Education. The one-year option of this program allows participants to become licensed in two semesters: a fall semester followed by a spring semester. Another option is to complete a summer and fall course schedule and spring internship. Students may also move through the program at a slower pace. Students must meet graduate school admissions requirements, maintain the required GPA's, and fulfill the other requirements stated in the manual.

Licensure at the secondary level in the State of Nevada requires a completed "State of Nevada Teaching Major." Course requirements for the secondary education teaching major are available [on the State Department of Education website](#)

A prospective student should check his/her transcripts with the teaching major listed on the NSDE website. Individuals who wish to complete this program in the one-semester time frame must have a completed teaching major at the time of admission or need only one more course to complete the major. Those who plan to complete the program in a longer time period can be accepted into the program and enroll in content courses to complete the teaching major and courses required by the program, simultaneously.

## Program Accreditation



The National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE), now the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) accredits teacher education programs at the University of Nevada, Reno. NCATE/CAEP is a highly prestigious accrediting agency recognized across the country.

## Conceptual Framework

Teacher education programs at the University of Nevada, Reno prepare teacher candidates to meet the challenges of present and future classrooms. The teacher education faculty members are committed to providing a teacher education program that enables a successful graduate to:

- Develop a strong foundation of knowledge about teaching and learning
- Display a love of learning
- Value democracy and pluralism
- Engage in reflective practice about one's growth as a teacher



**responsibility of the candidate to be aware of and comply with all application policies and procedures of the Graduate School.** Applicants for the Master's First-time Licensure Program in Secondary Education need to submit complete applications by the appropriate deadline for each upcoming semester. Applicants wishing for admittance into the program in the upcoming fall semester need to apply by April 15. Applicants wishing for admittance into the program in the upcoming spring semester need to apply by October 15.

If an applicant wishes to begin course work while awaiting notification of acceptance to the graduate program, he or she may apply to the Office of Admissions and Records for admittance as a Graduate Special student. **Only a total of 9 graduate credits** may be applied to the Master's Degree, taken as a Graduate Special and/or transferred from another approved institution. For questions or concerns regarding the Graduate Special application, one needs to contact [ntacevada@unr.edu](mailto:ntacevada@unr.edu)

## Admission Requirements

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- d. A resume or curriculum vitae focusing on education-related experiences and experiences working with students.
  - e. References (e.g., letters of recommendations) from individuals who can testify to the applicant's ability to work with students or to verify a high degree of professionalism. These may be references that are part of the Graduate School application.
3. Meet preprofessional skills testing requirements in one of these ways:
  - a. Pass all three parts of the P4118 \*( w)20.5 (i)6.(rts)-3.6C (f)91.7 (o)95 (e)-10.8A (f)66.2 (c)8.9 (a)







- A. Completion of the bachelor's degree (satisfied upon admission to the program)
- B. Passing scores on the Praxis Core Academic Skills test or CBEST or evidence of meeting pre professional skills requirements
- C. Completion of all licensure course work
- D. Completion of fingerprinting and background check. An arrest and conviction, depending on the severity of the case, may disqualify applicant from obtaining a teaching license (satisfied with approval for Nevada substitute teaching license)
- E. Approval of the student's advisor including approval of the course work required for the chosen teaching major
- F. Nevada substitute license and related district substitute license (mandatory).

### Additional Supervised Internship Information

Most supervised intern placements are made in the Washoe County School District because of the proximity of our students to this area. Placements in the following districts are also common: Carson City, Churchill, Douglas, Lassen (CA), Lyon, Placer (CA), Sierra Plumas (CA), and Storey.

In some circumstances, a student may desire a supervised internship placement in a school outside of the areas mentioned above, in another country. Any student who requests such a placement must acquire a written recommendation from his or her advisor. Further, out of area placements can only be made if an appropriate placement and supervisor can be found.

Students must teach their majors during the supervised internship.

### Licensure Requirements

**No degree is conferred at the completion of the licensure portion of this program.**

After successfully completing the supervised internship, passing the appropriate Praxis II Exam, and meeting all other licensure program requirements stated in this manual, a notice of completion will be sent to the Teacher Licensure Office of the Nevada State Department of Education. **The student must then apply to the Teacher Licensure Office of the Nevada State Department of Education. This agency is responsible for the licensure process.**



Also, the student will be asked by the end of the third semester in the program to complete the **Program of Study** (<http://www.unr.edu/Documents/graduateschool/programof-study.pdf>), a form that serves as an official agreement between the student and the department. Every student must submit this form for graduation review. The form lists all courses required for degree com

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## Secondary Education Teacher Licensure Candidate Professional Behaviors and Dispositions Form

All teachers are expected to adhere to a professional code of conduct. How teachers interact with children, parents, and their professional colleagues is as important as their knowledge of content and teaching strategies. The College of Education at the University of Nevada, Reno has adopted a set of professional behaviors or dispositions that we feel are essential for prospective teachers. These dispositions apply to the university setting, courses, practicum experiences, and the supervised internship and are assessed at

## Habits of Thinking and Action toward Reflective Practice are Appropriate....

Concept	Explanation
<b>Disposition toward Reflective Practice</b>	<b>Professional Ethics</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="537 457 1424 531">• The candidate adheres to standards of ethical conduct including academic honesty and confidentiality.</li></ul>

Concept	Explanation
.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="537 384 1437 447">• The candidate is flexible and is able to make adjustments to change student needs and circumstances.</li></ul>

### Emotional Maturity

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# Master's of Education Degree Application Form

## Secondary Education

Please complete this form and return it to:

**Secondary Education Program MS 280, WRB 3100  
University of Nevada, Reno Reno NV 89557**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ NSHE# \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ HomePhone: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## SECONDARY EDUCATION

\_\_\_\_\_ MEd. (1st time licensure)

Primary area of interest (e.g., English, Science, Mathematics, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

Check if including:

- Resume
- 35 page essay on goals
- Praxis Core Academic Skills/CBEST or evidence of meeting professional skills requirement in Nevada
- Signed dispositions form
- References (these may be references that are part of the Graduate School application or two letters of recommendations submitted as part of the program packet).

I understand the Secondary Program Office (WRB 3100) must have received all application materials, which includes this form. The Graduate School must have received an application form and all transcripts. (The Graduate School will notify applicant of acceptance/denial after secondary program advisor makes decision.)

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I have not been convicted of any crime (other than a minor traffic violation).

\_\_\_\_\_ I have been convicted of a crime other than a minor traffic violation. (This may exclude you from teacher licensure and admission to the teacher education program.) Please attach a description of the crime and dates OR schedule a meeting with the Associate Dean to discuss this.



I also understand that any convictions accrued between now and the time of my student internship may prevent me from obtaining an internship position in Washoe County Schools or other school districts. I certify that all the information that I have provided is true and accurate.

Applicant's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_