



SMU

ANNETTE CALDWELL SIMMONS
SCHOOL OF EDUCATION
& HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

**Department of Teaching and Learning
Graduate Degree and Graduate Certificate Programs
Information and Frequently Asked Questions**

Online Application and deadlines:

Priority/International Student Deadlines** October 15, 2013 for spring, 2014 enrollment; April 15, 2014 for summer, 2014 enrollment; June 16, 2014 for fall, 2014 enrollment

Final Deadlines** November 15, 2013 for spring, 2014 enrollment; May 1, 2014 for summer, 2014 enrollment; July 7, 2014 for fall, 2014 enrollment

Master's Degree online applications: <http://www.smu.edu/Simmons/AreasOfStudy/TL/MastersDegrees>

Graduate Certificate online applications: <http://www.smu.edu/Simmons/AreasOfStudy/TL/GraduateCert>

<http://www.smu.edu/Simmons/AreasOfStudy/TL/MastersDegrees/AdmissionRequirements>

****Students applying for a Graduate Degree must meet the priority deadline to be considered for a Simmons Merit Scholarship.**

****Students should complete a FAFSA and meet the priority deadline date if you wish to be considered for financial aid.**

GRE:

The GRE is no longer required for admission.

GPA:

A preferred minimum undergraduate grade point average of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) is required for graduate level coursework in the Simmons School. Applicants whose GPA falls below 3.0 may request an exemption to this requirement by attaching a letter explaining why an exception should be made (such as long-term teaching experience, expertise in a related specialized field, or the required Graduate Record Examination score).

What is the primary focus of the Department of Teaching and Learning?

The Department of Teaching and Learning focuses on professional development for teachers as well as conducting research about teaching and learning.

Who is the faculty in the Department of Teaching and Learning?

Our faculty is made up of dedicated educators and researchers who are actively working in the Dallas-Ft. Worth community and at the state and national levels exploring solutions to the complex problems facing our teachers, students, and parents. They have published numerous journal articles and book chapters related to teaching and learning. They have presented at local, state, and national conferences and received federally funded grants from the U.S. Department of Education Institute of Education Sciences, the Office of Special Education Programs, and from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development to perform research in their areas of interest.

<http://www.smu.edu/Simmons/AboutUs/Directory>

What is the cost of earning an SMU Simmons School Teaching and Learning Master's Degree?

Did you know that the cost of earning a Master's Degree in the Department of Teaching and Learning at SMU is less than and in many cases comparable to many other universities in the DFW area? In addition, financial aid and merit-based scholarships are available.

<http://www.smu.edu/Simmons/AreasOfStudy/TL/MastersDegrees/TuitionFeesScholarships>

What are career options after earning a Master's Degree in Teaching and Learning?

The Department of Teaching and Learning is committed to preparing teachers to become scholars and leaders in expanding educational equity for all students. A Master of Education Degree offers the content knowledge needed to improve the quality of teaching and learning through current, evidence-based research. In addition, teachers will be better prepared to lead other educators as instructional coaches, curriculum directors, department chairs, dean of students, reading improvement specialists, professional development leaders, and parent advocates.

After acceptance, when can I begin the program and how long will it take to earn a Master's Degree?

Many of the Master's Degrees can be earned within a 2-year period. Some of the programs are cohort models, but others offer students the opportunity to begin coursework during the summer, fall, or spring semesters. See the specific degree website link for more information.

Are courses scheduled so that full-time teachers can take them without missing school?

Yes! Classes are taught on the main campus in the evenings and on Saturday's.

Are any of the courses offered online?

Some of the graduate level coursework is offered in a hybrid format--a combination of online and face-to-face sessions. This format can change each semester.

<http://www.smu.edu/Simmons/AreasOfStudy/TL/SemesterSchedules>

If I take coursework as a part of the Graduate Certificate (non-degree) programs, will I be able to apply those credits toward a Master's Degree?

The 12-hour (4 courses) graduate certificate programs prepare certified teachers to earn additional certifications through the State Board of Educator Certification. Teachers may also take coursework to prepare for the supplemental certification exams. Although teachers may be accepted into these non-degree programs without taking the GRE, they may transfer only 6 credit hours into a Master's Degree program. The graduate certificate coursework is a great way to begin graduate level coursework while preparing to take the GRE for acceptance into the Master's Degree programs.

<http://www.smu.edu/Simmons/AreasOfStudy/TL/GraduateCert/AdmissionRequirements>

How do I get more information about the specific degree that is best for me?

The advisers in the Department of Teaching and Learning program work with students seeking admission as well as those who are already in the program. To schedule an appointment with an adviser, please send an email to teacher@smu.edu or you may call 214-768-2346.

Adviser: Early Childhood - Grade 6 and applicants whose last names begin with A - M

Dr. Kay Kuner E-mail: kkuner@smu.edu

Adviser: Middle School & High School and applicants whose last names begin with N - Z

Ms. Kathy Barrett E-mail: kbarrett@smu.edu