Adult and Higher Education

The Adult and Higher Education program was established in 1972 to meet the region's need for trained adult education public school administrators. Since those early days it has expanded its role in the state and region to prepare professional adult educators for positions in a wide variety of sectors including institutions of higher education, large and medium-sized corporations, public schools and community not-for-profit agencies.

Program Characteristics

• Flexibility and Access - Both the Master of Science and Certificate of Advanced Studies programs may be earned 100% online.

• Real-World Learning - Most students are working adults who seek to advance in their current place of employment or transition into a career directly related to adult and higher education. Skills-oriented courses and field-based experiences build on research and theory to provide a rich professional development experience.

• Learner-Centered - Graduate students are encouraged to be authors of their own programs. Although there are a core of required courses, students self-design their learning through electives, a range of skills-based courses and self-authored projects.

• Community - Even though this is an online program, faculty work hard to nurture learning communities in their courses. Students work in a supportive environment. Several special events are also scheduled each year to encourage face-to-face contact among students, faculty and program alumni.

• Employment Opportunities - Specific jobs graduates fill include director of adult education, dean, academic advisor, corporate trainer, staff development specialist, program designer, research associate and adult education teacher.

Please visit the School's website for a complete list of course descriptions: usm.maine.edu/sehd/sehd-course-descriptions.

Degrees and Certificates

• Master of Science in Adult and Higher Education (36 credits)
• Certificate of Advanced Study in Adult Learning (30 credits)
ADMISSIONS DEADLINES
Applications for admission are considered on a rolling basis.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS
Candidates should submit application materials to:
Application Processing Center
University of Maine System
P.O. Box 412
Bangor, ME 04402-0412

Electronic transcripts and other application materials can be emailed to: edocs@maine.edu

• A complete application consists of:
  • A submitted online application
  • The application fee of $65.00
  • Official transcripts for all colleges or universities attended. The Office of Graduate Admissions is able to obtain transcripts of courses completed after 1985 from any University of Maine system campus, so you do not need to request those; however, you do need to list them on your application
  • Three letters of recommendation attesting to the applicant’s knowledge of current scholarship, capacity to connect theory and practice in posing and solving educational problems, achievement of excellence in educational practice, and demonstrated capability and motivation to engage in advanced graduate study. Recommendations are submitted using our online application form.
  • Essay (see right hand column for specific essay questions)
  • Certificate of Finances (international students only).
  • Submission of official TOEFL or IELTS scores (if English is not first language)

For more information about the programs contact:
Adult and Higher Education
Michael Brady, program coordinator
207-780-5312/ mbrady@usm.maine.edu
usm.maine.edu/adult-education
400 Bailey Hall, Gorham campus

For assistance with the application process:
Office of Admissions
(207) 780-4386
usmgrad@maine.edu

SPECIAL ESSAY INSTRUCTIONS
Candidates should provide an integrated essay of approximately 1,000 words that includes:
Brief autobiography, referencing study in master’s degree and related experience, professional training, and credentials. Overall goal to be accomplished through the program. Future aspirations and professional development needs. Tentative list of proposed coursework for the 36 credit (Master’s) or 30 credit (CAS) hour credential.

The admissions process requires a formal interview. Candidates to be interviewed will be selected on the basis of the above information. During the interview, issues relating to the following topics will be covered:
(a) communication skills, (b) clarity of professional goals, (c) fit with the adult and higher education profession, and (d) understanding one’s self as a learner.

For full admission details, visit: usm.maine.edu/adult-education