This program pathway is a course-only format. In addition to the three mandatory courses, students must also complete a further seven elective courses. The course-only structure will suit professionals seeking a Masters qualification for professional advancement. Research practice and experience will be embedded in each of the courses, ensuring that students gain a good understanding of the nature of educational research. The Masters in Educational Studies course stream synthesis will require students to demonstrate their ability to access, critically read, and apply research literature to an area of interest. Subject to program requirements, a student may be permitted to take up to two graduate courses in another department/program.

The major research paper pathway is especially suited to professionals working in the field who want to expand their knowledge base in relation to their current practices, leadership roles, and future responsibilities. The goal is to create opportunities for combining scholarly reflection with practical involvement and self-initiated fieldwork. The major research paper will emphasize practice-based modes of investigation, such as action research of classroom practice, leadership initiatives, and curriculum development. The paper will be equal to a thesis in academic quality but be more limited in scope and/or originality. The major research paper will be reviewed by two faculty in the M.Ed. program.

The thesis component of the degree emphasizes a theory-based mode of original inquiry, geared towards developing scholarly knowledge and strong research skills, leading to a contribution in the student’s field of specialization. The thesis is a major component of the degree and a thesis supervisor will assist with the program planning and, with other committee members, will supervise the student’s research. This route is particularly suited to those students with the desire and the potential to have a long-term engagement with academic research following completion of the program.

- Courses in the Fall and Winter terms take place on-site, with some online options.
- Courses generally run 1 evening a week, 6pm-9pm, over a 12 week period, plus an additional reading week.
- Summer courses are offered in a variety of formats ranging from weekly meetings to condensed one or two week blocks.