The Master of Arts in Education program allows teachers to develop their talents, enhance their professional skills and pursue a wide range of interest areas. Because learning should bridge theory and practice, the master’s program provides teachers with an opportunity to have a greater impact on the lives of their students and in their profession.

Will I have an advisor in the graduate program? The Program Director serves as your advisor in the master’s program. At the time you begin your graduate project, a faculty member will be assigned to work with you.

Are there electives in the master’s program? Generally, you will have room for 12 credits of elective coursework. You can choose to add a reading teacher or adaptive education license by selecting courses required for those licenses as electives in the master’s program.

What is the Capstone Master’s experience? The final project – action research – gives you an opportunity to address a need within your classroom by developing and assessing an instructional plan based on best-practice research in the field. The philosophy of the master’s program is the belief that you should apply the graduate experience to your classroom.

Can a teacher who works full-time pursue a master’s degree at Mount Mary? Our program is specifically tailored to the teacher who works during the day and needs coursework in the evening. Most courses meet once a week and generally start at 6 p.m., although a few classes may begin as early as 4:30 p.m.

How often are the required courses offered? Every required course is offered at least once a year. You always can find a course that you need in the graduate program.

Are graduate courses available during the summer? Yes. The summer session is a very busy and active time for teachers on our campus. We offer a variety of courses in the morning, afternoon and evening.

Must I take courses every semester? No, however, you are expected to enroll in courses on a regular basis. That means you should take at least one course a year to remain active in your graduate program. While the vast majority of teachers enroll in courses each semester, you can choose the pace that is most comfortable for you and what meets your needs as a teacher. Students have a maximum of seven years to complete the program.

Do I have to take the graduate courses in a specific sequence? You can choose the order in which you take your courses. Throughout your graduate program, you will be guided and advised by the Program Director. It is assumed that most of the coursework, including the required courses, is completed prior to beginning the project, which is the culmination of the entire master’s work.

Is there a tuition discount for teachers? Currently, students enrolled during the summer session, receive reduced tuition in order to encourage them to pursue graduate work and assist them in making their master’s program affordable. Mount Mary University has partnered with the Archdiocese of Milwaukee over a number of years to offer a tuition reduction to Catholic school teachers. Please check with your Admissions Counselor or the Program Director for the most current tuition reduction information.

How much is tuition? Tuition information is available at www.mtmary.edu/financialaid. Graduate students are eligible for federal loans. To apply, you should fill out a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). For more information, please contact the Financial Aid Office at Mount Mary University.

What is the average class size?
Master of Arts in Education: Frequently Asked Questions

Classes range from 6 to 20 students, with the average around 12 to 15 students. Please register for classes immediately following your acceptance into the program to ensure course availability.

**Can graduate credits earned at another be applied to Mount Mary's graduate program?**
Graduate credits may be applied to your master's degree program if the credits were earned within the last seven years. The Program Director reviews the transcripts of your graduate coursework and indicates which credits may transfer into the master's program. While in the graduate program, if you haven’t exceeded the 9-credit limit, you may opt for coursework at another university with prior approval from the Program Director.

**Is there an expiration date on credits?**
Yes. Mount Mary uses the standard rule of credit expiration. Graduate credits can be applied to a master’s degree program if the credits were earned within the last seven years. Graduate credits have a “lifespan” of seven years from the time the credits were earned. For example, if you earned three graduate credits in the summer of 2003, the graduate credits can be used in a master’s program through the summer of 2010. (The rule is: Add seven years to the date when the credits were initially earned.)

**How long does it take the average student to complete the master’s program?**
The average student should progress through the master’s program in two to three years, but you have up to seven years to complete the program. If you transfer graduate credits into the program, you could complete the program in less time. Course loads determine how quickly or slowly teachers choose to matriculate through the master’s degree program. If you cannot finish the program in seven years because of unforeseen problems (e.g., medical, family, professional), please apply for an extension to the Program Director. After reviewing the extenuating circumstances, the Program Director will make a decision as to whether an extension may be granted.

**Why do teachers select Mount Mary’s graduate program?**
There are probably as many answers as there are students in the program. First and foremost, we have your needs and interests in mind. We realize that practicing teachers have busy schedules. Because we are not a cohort program, we offer you flexibility. Faculty members are approachable and you'll find you easily can arrange a time to meet with your instructors.

Along with small class sizes, accessible faculty and relevant coursework, we offer a convenient location, ample parking and a beautiful 80-acre campus. Mount Mary is a university that has historically dedicated itself to excellence in education. The quality of teaching is our commitment to graduate students who choose the Master of Arts in Education program.