

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

CREDIT UNIT STATEMENT

Master of Social Sciences in the field of Educational Psychology

The Master of Social Sciences in the field of Educational Psychology curriculum consists of three types of courses which are taught using distinctive learning modes. It is a two years full-time professional training with 15 taught courses, one dissertation, and three practicums. The 15 taught courses are 6-credit courses that are taught in a semester on a weekly basis. The dissertation is 12-credit course whereas the practicums are 18-credit courses. We use 120 hours of student learning activity (including both contact hours and all other forms of student learning activity) as the norm for a 6-credit course. Each credit in these 6-credit courses is equivalent to 20 hours of student learning activity. Normally the contact hour for a standard 6-credit course is ranging from 30 to 36 hours. However, the contact hours and output requirements for different types of courses vary according to the learning modes employed. The learning hours for a 12-credit dissertation are 240 hours with 1 credit equivalent to 20 hours of research work. The learning hour for an 18-credit practicum is 486 hours with 1 credit equivalent to 27 hours of practical work. The total number of student learning hours for this two years professional training curriculum is about 3,498 hours. The total number of credits required for graduation is 156.

1. Taught courses (6 credits)

Students are required to complete 15 taught courses. Teaching normally takes the form of one 3-hour lecture each week throughout a regular 13-week semester. Students are assessed based on class participation, essay, group project report, reflection paper, presentation, quizzes, reports and term test. The number of words for written output ranges from 500 to 5,000, depending on the types and purposes of the assignments. (100% coursework)

2. Practicum courses (18 credits)

The programme considers practicum an important and indispensable part of the training and whenever possible tries to integrate theories discussed at the University with that of fieldwork practice. All students are required to do fieldwork placement for a total of 180 days in three practicums. Each credit is equivalent to 27 hours of practical work. The average duration of each practicum is 60 days (486 hours). Adjustment of the length will be made according to the specific requirements of the settings. Assessment is by performance in the practicum and quality of learning portfolio submitted at the end of the practicum. The number of words for the learning portfolio is about 8,000. (100% practicum)

3. Dissertation (12 credits)

Students will complete a dissertation which should be a critical study within the field, normally including an empirical element, and should not exceed 20,000 words in length. Where appropriate, studies involving qualitative methodology and other approaches may also be included. The examiners may also prescribe an oral examination on the subject of the dissertation. (100% coursework)

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