Earn your Master of Science in Education degree in Professional Development through the Shared Inquiry Community method at UW-River Falls. Communities are now forming in your area.

The shared inquiry process is a learning method in which students search for answers to fundamental questions raised by a text, lecture or experience. Participants in shared inquiry learn to give full consideration to the ideas of others, promoting thoughtful dialogue and open debate.

**Key Features**

- Finish in 16 months meeting one weekend a month at a convenient location
- Work with experienced facilitators and enthusiastic peers
- Set and achieve personal and professional goals based on educator standards
- Create a customized action research project to improve your classroom or school

**Who Should Enroll**

This program is for anyone interested in a Master of Science in Education, specifically:

- Pre-K-12 educators in all teaching areas
- Higher education and vocational and technical school instructors
- Anyone interested in developing teaching and leadership skills in an educational setting

---

**About UW-River Falls**

The University of Wisconsin-River Falls campus is located in the scenic St. Croix River Valley of western Wisconsin, just 30 minutes east of the Twin Cities of St. Paul and Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Each year more than 450 graduate students attend UW-River Falls classes. As a member of the prestigious University of Wisconsin System, the campus can provide students with extensive academic resources, including more than 125 highly qualified graduate faculty members.
Program Curriculum and Schedule

Communities are located throughout the state and each community sets its own class schedule. Students will complete 7-8 credits each semester.

First Semester
- Cultural Diversity in Education – 3 credits
- Introduction to Research – 3 credits
- Action Research I – 1 credit

Second Semester
- Curriculum Planning in Practice – 3 credits
- Integrating Technology in Teaching – 3 credits
- Action Research II – 2 credits

Third Semester
- Educational Psychology for Teaching – 3 credits
- Contemporary Concerns in Education – 3 credits
- Action Research III – 1 credit

Fourth Semester
- Path to Teacher Leadership – 3 credits
- Independent and Group Research in Education – 3 credits
- Action Research IV – 2 credits

Frequently Asked Questions

You are interested in starting your degree plan in Shared Inquiry Communities but have questions? Here are some of the common questions and answers asked by people just like you.

Do I have to take any entrance exams to be admitted to the program?
No. Minimum requirements for graduate school admission are found online at www.uwrf.edu/sharedinquiry.

Will I qualify for financial aid?
You will be taking enough credits to qualify for aid based on need. Contact the Financial Aid Office at finaid@uwrf.edu or call 715-425-4111 for more information. You can complete the FAFSA online at anytime. Links to the form and the UWRF code are found online at http://www.uwrf.edu/FinancialAid/. You will be able to get general information, but aid is not distributed until you are registered for classes.

When is the deadline to apply?
There is no deadline, however the sooner we know you are interested the sooner we can let other learners know the community will run. Twenty students are required to start a group.

Can I get any additional teaching certifications with this program?
No. Visit us online at www.uwrf.edu for other graduate licensure programs.

How will I communicate with my facilitators?
Generally, you will contact your facilitators through online classrooms and email.

Will I have to write a thesis? If not, what is my culminating project?
Your final project is an action research project that is completed over the two years of the program. Action research is a tool we use to build successes in our students’ individual classrooms. There is no thesis or journal article requirement.

How much work needs to be done outside of the weekend class meetings?
You can expect to spend 6-10 hours per week on materials outside of class. This includes time in your classroom applying what you have been learning.

Will I have to complete group projects?
We find that our groups really become a support system as students move through the program. Several different group structures will be used during the program. Students are graded individually.

What if I have to miss a day of class?
Facilitators will review the procedures in case of bad weather, illness, etc. We understand that life happens, but since our face-to-face meeting time is limited, we expect you to be at class 100% of the time.

What books must I purchase?
You will have a few textbooks to purchase. Special attention has been paid to choosing books that will be valuable to you in your classroom and several of them are used during more than one term.