Department: Teacher Education
Program Name: Early Childhood Education
Program Level: Graduate
College: Education and Professional Studies
Approval Date: June 12, 2017

According to the Higher Learning Commission, “Faculty teaching in graduate programs should hold the terminal degree determined by the discipline and have a record of research, scholarship or achievement appropriate for the graduate program.” Several qualifications are considered assets for hire either as an instructional/academic staff or tenure-track faculty member in the MSE Reading, MSE Elementary Education, and MSE Secondary Education (EC/EE/L Adolescent Montessori, Principal Licensure, Shared Inquiry Community, STEMTeach) at the University of Wisconsin – River Falls.

Candidates for graduate faculty status have earned a terminal degree (i.e. earned credential), that is a PhD or Ed.D in Education including relevant sub-field.

In addition, they have a record of research, scholarship, and achievement that includes:

- Active contribution to the field of education (e.g. professional development, professional conferences and meetings, educational research).
- Recent relevant field experience (e.g. teaching, curriculum design/coordination/evaluation, and clinical service/supervision).

According to the Higher Learning Commission, “Tested experience may substitute for an earned credential or portions thereof.” For “tested experience” to substitute for the terminal degree, candidates must have one of the following degrees:

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<tr>
<th>Degree Name and Discipline</th>
<th>Rationale</th>
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<tr>
<td>Master’s degree in education including any relevant sub-field (e.g. Educational Leadership, Curriculum &amp; Instruction, Youth Studies, Educational Psychology, Educational Foundations, Assessment &amp; Evaluation) OR other relevant field</td>
<td>These are related master’s degrees that provide appropriate academic foundations for graduate faculty status, when supplemented by additional expectations and credentials.</td>
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Qualified applicants who are approved using “tested experience” typically must also have:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Degree Name and Discipline</th>
<th>Appropriate Skills, Experiences, Credentials, etc.</th>
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| MSE Reading                | 1. Master’s degree in relevant field (Curriculum & Instruction, Literacy Education, Reading) OR Master’s degree and Credential in Reading (e.g. WI316 license)  
2. Recent field experience, such as work with developing readers, classroom teaching, professional development, and/or administrative/supervisory roles. |
| MSE Elementary Education - EC Montessori, EE Montessori | 1. A minimum of a Master’s degree (A Master’s is a terminal degree in the Montessori field of education)  
2. MACTE approved Montessori credential/diploma (e.g. AMS/AMI)  
3. Current AMS membership  
4. A minimum of three years of Montessori classroom teaching experience at the level of your credential/diploma area  
5. Demonstrated experience teaching and/or mentoring adults. |
| MSE Elementary Education – Initial Certification | 1. Master’s degree in relevant field (Curriculum & Instruction, Educational Administration, Foundations, or Content Discipline)  
2. Recent field experience, such as classroom teaching, college/university teaching, professional development and/or administrative/supervisory roles.  
3. In an exceptional case, we may accept a combination of special qualifications without a Master’s Degree, e.g. a candidate who has National Board Certification and unique experience working with students and/or other educators in a professional development capacity. |
| MSE Secondary Education – Principal Licensure Program/Director of Instruction | 1. Master’s degree in relevant field (Educational Administration, Curriculum & Instruction, Law, Finance, Special Education, School Psychology)  
2. Recent field experience such as classroom teaching or college/university teaching or recent experience as a school administrator |
| MSE Secondary Education – Adolescent Montessori | 1. Earned MACTE approved credential/diploma (eg. AMS/AMI)  
2. Recent field experience, such as 3 years of Montessori teaching at the level of your credential/diploma area OR experience in the delivery of training within the credential/diploma area |
| MSE Secondary Education – Shared Inquiry Community | 1. Master’s degree in relevant field (e.g. Curriculum & Instruction, Educational Administration, Foundations, or Content Discipline)  
2. Recent relevant field experience, such as classroom teaching, college/university teaching, professional development and/or administrative/supervisory roles.  
3. In an exceptional case, we may accept a combination of special qualifications without a Master’s Degree, e.g. a candidate who has National Board Certification |
and unique experience working with students and/or other educators in a professional development capacity.

| **MSE Secondary Education – STEMTeach** | 1. Master’s degree in relevant field (Curriculum & Instruction, Education, Foundations, or STEM Content Discipline)  
2. Recent evidence of dedication to the scholarship of teaching and learning, such as classroom teaching, college/university teaching, professional development, publications, and/or consulting within education or STEM field.  
3. In an exceptional case, we may accept a combination of special qualifications without a Master’s Degree. An exceptional example might be a candidate who has uniquely equivalent teaching experience in a STEM field, including training and mentorship of other professionals. We may also accept someone with National Board Certification and unique experience working with students and/or other educators in a professional development capacity. |
| **MSE – Alternative Education** | 1. Master’s degree in relevant field (Curriculum & Instruction, Educational Administration, Foundations, or Content Discipline)  
2. Recent field experience, such as classroom teaching, college/university teaching, professional development and/or administrative/supervisory roles.  
3. In an exceptional case, we may accept a combination of special qualifications without a Master's Degree, e.g. a candidate who has National Board Certification and unique experience working with students and/or other educators in a professional development capacity. |
| **MSE Secondary Education – Secondary Math** | 1. The Secondary Education Math program submitted their criteria for graduate qualifications separately. |