

Gratz Insider, Fall 2015 - Story Continuation

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Gratz Offers a Compelling New Online Master of Arts in Education Program

The goal of Gratz's new Master of Arts in Education (MAEd) program is to provide teachers with the opportunity to examine their profession in the context of challenges they wrestle with in their schools every day, regardless of grade level or subject matter. The program offers a choice among three areas of concentration: "Creativity and Technology," "Dimensions in Identity" and "Teaching in Faith-Based Environments."

In the MAEd program, teachers wrangle with practical issues, such as revitalizing tired, old curricula so that their students can achieve educational objectives in more meaningful ways. In the "Creativity and Technology" track, teachers address the challenge of engaging students to become more creative thinkers, as well as active participants in designing their own learning methodologies. In "Dimensions in Identity," educators learn how to teach tolerance and to manage the diverse student populations in their classrooms, with differences ranging from ethnic to socioeconomic to gender-identity-based and more.

Educators who select "Teaching in Faith-Based Environments" as their area of concentration benefit from Gratz's particular expertise in faith-based pedagogy. Those in this track tackle the difficulties inherent in providing moral and spiritual education. There is also a course on teaching the Holocaust, which is invaluable to teachers in states that mandate or encourage Holocaust education. In fact, since all MAEd students are required to take courses outside their chosen track as electives, this course - as well as all others - is open to everyone in the MAEd program regardless of area of concentration.

Gratz's 30-credit-hour master's program is delivered entirely online, with each class presented as an eight-week session. The online format accommodates working professionals from all different geographic areas, who, because of taxing schedules, require the flexibility of being able to log in to a lecture at their convenience. This format also facilitates communication among classmates through online posts and chats, enabling further discussion of shared issues.

Teachers enrolling in the Master of Arts in Education program benefit from a special educator rate of \$385 per credit, which is significantly less than the tuition for our other master's programs. Teachers also have the option of taking individual courses for licensing requirements and professional advancement without matriculating into the program.

For additional information about the MAEd program, visit the Gratz College <u>website</u> or contact our dean and vice president for academic affairs, Dr. Rosalie Guzofsky, who is the director and architect of this program. Dr. Guzofsky can be reached at 215-635-7300 x137 or at rguzofsky@gratz.edu.