MASTER OF DISTANCE EDUCATION

The Master of Distance Education program of the University of the Philippines Open University (UPOU) is designed for individuals who would like to develop knowledge and skills in designing, implementing, and managing formal and non-formal distance education and e-learning programs.

Participants undertake 32 units of course work, take a comprehensive examination, and complete a Special Problem.

This is a fully online program offered on a trimestral basis (i.e. three 10-week terms per year). The mode of study consists of:
- guided independent study of specially prepared course packages consisting of modules, readings, and Web-based resources; and
- computer-mediated communication and collaboration at UPOU's MyPortal and using relevant Web 2.0 and m-learning applications.

MDE students who have completed 18 units of course work with a general weighted average of 2.0 or better and who are unable to complete the program may apply to be granted the Graduate Certificate in Distance Education.

PROGRAM GOALS

Graduates of the program are expected to be able to:
- Use their knowledge of theories, models, and principles of open learning and distance education (DE) to critically examine various aspects of DE programs from a variety of perspectives;
- Lead in designing, developing, and delivering distance education programs that are underpinned by effective pedagogy and appropriate and sustainable use of technology;
- Lead in managing DE programs in different contexts— educational, business and non-profit organizations— to meet the needs of target learners;
- Understand and critique broader policy, regulatory, and social issues related to DE; and
- Contribute to the body of knowledge regarding open learning and distance education by conducting research and evaluation studies, and through materials, course, and program development.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must have a Bachelor's degree in any discipline from a recognized post-secondary institution, with a general weighted average of 2.5 or better.
MDE courses may also be taken on a non-degree basis. Non-degree students are required to have completed a Bachelor's degree prior to enrollment in any of the courses in the MDE program. Should they subsequently decide to enroll in the MDE, a maximum of nine (9) units of courses taken with final grades of 2.0 or better, may be credited to the MDE program.

CURRICULUM

The MDE curriculum consists of 18 units of core courses, 12 units of elective courses, a comprehensive exam, and a 6-unit Thesis.

Core Courses

EDDE 201
(3 units)
Foundations of Distance Education
Overview of the theory and practice of distance education: what it is, why and how it has evolved, whom it serves and how it is practiced

EDDE 202
(3 units)
Learning Theories and Instructional Design in Distance Education
Theories of learning and their implications for the design of distance education learning environments; instructional design models and approaches in distance education

EDDE 203
(3 units)
Technology in Distance Education
Information and communication technologies (ICTs) in the development and practice of distance education; issues and perspectives on technology applications in distance education

EDDE 204
(3 units)

Assessment of Student Learning in Distance Education
Perspectives, principles and practices in assessing student performance in distance education courses

EDDE 205
(3 units)

Management of Distance Education
Introduction to processes and structures in distance education organizations and their management implications

EDDE 206

Research in Distance Education
Overview of perspectives, approaches and methodologies in research in distance education; applications of distance education research

Elective Courses

The program requires 12 units of electives. Students are allowed to take elective courses from any of the three clusters:

Pedagogy Cluster

EDDE 210
(3 units)

Online Teaching and Learning
Pedagogical theories, approaches and methods of online learning

EDDE 211
(3 units)

Lifelong Learning
Lifelong learning theories, principles, perspectives and approaches

Technology Applications Cluster

EDDE 221
(3 units)

Design and Evaluation of Multimedia Educational Materials
Concepts, principles and methodologies in the design and evaluation of multimedia educational materials

EDDE 222
(3 units)

m-Learning
Perspectives, principles, and methodologies of mobile learning

DEVC 207
(3 units)

Design and Production of Audio-visual Communication Materials
The processes and techniques of audiovisual development communication materials production from conceptualization, design and preparation to utilization.

Educational Management Cluster

EDDE 230
(3 units)

Ethical, Legal and Social Issues in the Information Age
Issues related to the emergence and convergence of information and communication technologies (ICTs) and their implications for education

EDDE 231
(3 units)

Planning and Managing Networked Learning
Planning and managing networked/ distributed learning programs: principles, approaches and strategies

Note: Students may take a maximum of two courses (6 units) and a minimum of one course (3 units) per term. There are three terms in one academic year, as follows: September-November (Term 1), January-March (Term 2), and May-July (Term 3).

COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION

The comprehensive examination is taken after completing all core courses (18 units) and elective courses (12 units) with no grade lower than 2.0 in more than three courses.

Thesis (EDDE 300)

The course prerequisites are completion of 18 unit of core courses and 12 units of electives, and a pass mark on the comprehensive examination.