



University of the People

Frequently asked questions:

What is the University of the People (UoPeople)?

UoPeople is a tuition-free, non-profit, fully online American university offering accredited undergraduate and postgraduate programs to students in 194 countries. Programs are developed using volunteer curriculum developers and instructors.

What is the UoPeople Master's of Education (M.Ed.) program?

The tuition-free online Master's of Education (M.Ed.) program will soon be available worldwide. Successful students will receive a Master's of Education in Advanced Teaching with specializations at two levels: the primary and middle school level, and the secondary school level. Both specializations share nine core courses and one capstone course, but each have two of their own specialized core courses as well as one elective. Students are required to complete 13 courses, which includes core courses and electives. In addition, students also complete a capstone project—or complete a six-credit internship at an IB World School—and a final applied research project.

What role does the IB play in the M.Ed. program and why?

The IB is providing a funding contribution to support the development and launch of the M.Ed. program and will work with IB World Schools to facilitate internships and raise awareness of the degree. UoPeople believes that access to education plays a key role in strengthening fundamental freedoms, as well as promoting world peace and global economic development. The M.Ed. will help address the worldwide shortage in high-quality teachers.

What are the criteria for acceptance for the M.Ed. program?

Applicants from any undergraduate major or employment field—with a bachelor's degree and the required level of English language proficiency—are considered for admission. Students must first complete at least three M.Ed. core courses as a non-degree seeking student (NDSS) and earn a grade of 2.67 or higher in each course in order to be accepted.

Is the M.Ed. program accredited and internationally recognized?

UoPeople is accredited by the Distance Education Accrediting Commission, which is recognized by the US Department of Education as an accrediting agency. The M.Ed. program has received accreditation in the USA and does not award a teaching certification.

Are there any costs to students?

Students pay a 60 USD application fee, and 200 USD in assessment fees per course. This comes to a total of 2,660 USD for the entire M.Ed. degree.

When will UoPeople begin enrolling students for the M.Ed. program?

UoPeople is already accepting applications for Term 3 of the 2019 Academic year (beginning on 31 January 2019). The application deadline for Term 3 is 19 December 2018.

How long does the program take to complete?

The course list can be found in the University Catalog, or on the website.



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How do the learning weeks work?

There are 9 learning weeks in a term—students generally spend 15-20 hours on a course each week. There is a learning guide for each week, which includes all materials to be read, addressed and completed by the student. Students can divide their time however they like, as long as the weekly learning guide is completed. In addition, students have access to the Library and Resources Network (LIRN)—an online resource provided by UoPeople—to support their research, writing and homework needs.

How are students graded?

Students are assessed on their contributions to discussion forums, performance on individual and group assignments, self-reflections on portfolio activities, and the completion of a capstone experience. They have five years to complete the program once they are accepted as a degree-seeking student, and they are permitted to re-sit exams once.

How does the online classroom work?

Courses are taught in small classes (around 20–30 students). Professors focus on fully supporting each student's needs, while creating a community for students to work cooperatively and assist one another through project work, discussion forums and critiquing the work of their peers. Each student is linked to a personal program advisor who supports them throughout their studies—the advisor will answer any questions the student may have, offer academic advice and encouragement, and discuss course selection. Students are also provided with technical support.

Do students need any specific kind of internet connection?

Students need to have consistent access to a computer with a reliable internet connection. If students are working on a computer that is not their personal computer and are unable to save documents, they should obtain external storage.

Do M.Ed. students study in cohorts?

No. Students are allowed to take breaks from their studies if they need to.

What careers and employment options will be available for graduates of the M.Ed. program?

Students will receive a Master's of Education in Advanced Teaching. Qualified graduates will not be required to attend a Category 1 Workshop if they want to teach in an IB World School. The UoPeople's Career Service Center helps students prepare to find a job after graduation and offers help with resume writing, interviewing and job-searching skills.