

Questions and Answers

1. Which is the better test to take, the GRE or the MAT?

If you think you are going to continue for another degree such as a doctorate after earning your M.Ed. in Adult Learning, you should consider taking the GRE, since it is required for doctoral studies admission. Otherwise, the MAT is an appropriate test. Many students find the MAT to be easier since it does not have a mathematics section.

2. Who should I ask to be my references?

If you are still in touch with previous professors, they are an excellent source for references. Since many of our applicants have been out of school for several years, good choices to consider are employers and supervisors, as well as professional colleagues who know your work ethic and can speak to your character. You want references who can describe your motivation, intellectual capacity, writing ability, and aptitude for graduate study. Family members, co-workers, members of the clergy, and fellow students are not considered acceptable references.

3. Is it possible for me to take a course or two BEFORE I start the program?

You may apply to transfer 6 credit hours from VCU or another institution into your program once you are accepted. Courses specific to the Adult Learning Program at VCU are considered transferable. You should consult with the program coordinator before deciding which courses to take as a special student.

4. My undergraduate degree is not in education. Do I need to take any prerequisites to gain admission to the program?

Your undergraduate degree does not need to be in education to apply to this program, nor are there any prerequisite courses that you need to take.

5. What times are classes offered?

Courses are offered once a week at 4pm or 7pm in this program during Fall and Spring semesters during a traditional 15-week semester. Each class is 2 hours and 40 minutes in length. Summer courses may have different hours and meet more frequently since the semester is shorter in duration.

6. Are any of the classes online? Not at this time.

7. How many classes do most students take a semester?

Most students average 2 courses a semester, since they are usually working full-time while pursuing their degrees. Some will take 3 courses and others will only be able to take 1

course a semester. You are considered full-time in graduate study with three courses per semester. Taking more than three courses a semester requires permission of the program coordinator and is generally not recommended in graduate studies.

8. How long do I have to finish my program of study?

You have 5 years to matriculate through the program from the time you take your first course. Under certain circumstances, you may apply for an extension. Any coursework taken prior to acceptance into the program must be within the 5-year guideline.

9. Can I transfer in any courses I've taken at other institutions?

You will need to consult with your advisor after acceptance into our program to determine if courses taken elsewhere are acceptable for transfer. You will need to provide a complete syllabus, if available, and a course description, as well as your transcript.

10. If I need to “stay out” or skip a semester during my program of study, can I do that?

Once accepted into the program, you are expected to maintain continuous enrollment. If you need to be out for a semester or more due to extenuating circumstances, such as a personal or family illness, loss of job, or other situations in which you need to make adjustments to your schedule, you will need to request a leave of absence for a specified amount of time, up to one year. If you do not request a leave of absence and fail to maintain continuous enrollment during spring and fall semesters, you will be dropped from the program, and you will need to re-apply to be readmitted.

Other questions? Contact the Program Coordinator, Dr. Terry Carter, tjcarter@vcu.edu.