Western’s Master of Arts in Education offers innovative online instruction, combined with classroom and administrative experience, and a dynamic curriculum that focuses on educational leadership.

What Is the Western Difference?

At Western, you complete your coursework online while working as a teacher or principal. The Master in Education program helps those who want to make a mid-career shift to teaching, teachers seeking additional credentials and teachers who want to become principals. Here’s how it works:

• All your licensing courses apply toward a master’s degree.
• During the first year, you earn a teaching or principal license, or add an endorsement to your existing license.
• You earn 27 graduate credits, which can boost your pay in some school districts.
• In the second year, you complete an additional 16 credits of coursework to earn your master’s degree, with an emphasis in Teacher Leadership, Reading Leadership, K-12 Online Teacher Leadership, Educational Administrator Leadership or Culturally & Linguistically Diverse Leadership.

Educator Effectiveness is a new emphasis planned for Fall 2015. It builds on a teacher’s effectiveness evaluation, and earning the degree can take as little as one year. You can customize course sequences to improve deficient areas and apply new strategies in the classroom while earning a master’s degree.

Western’s coursework continuously aligns to meet state and national quality standards.

Western’s online Master in Education program can be completed from anywhere in the world.

The Master in Education program had a 96 percent placement rate in education fields for 2013-14.

The 30-credit Educator Effectiveness emphasis is the first of its kind in Colorado.

Students have up to five years to complete their master’s degrees.

More Info: 800.876.5309 | admissions@western.edu

western.edu/maed
What Will I Learn?

**Teacher Leadership** — A teacher leader is an excellent educator, well respected by peers, recognized for leadership skills, holding a lifelong learning orientation, and working to advance school reform and improve student learning. Most teachers accomplish this by working with others in their classrooms, with colleagues and administrators on task forces or committees, and on district-level professional development projects.

**Reading Leadership** — Reading leaders provide guidance and expertise to classroom teachers, as well as school and district literacy instruction and assessment programs. They develop and conduct in-service programs related to literacy, know federal and state policies on literacy, have advanced knowledge about scientifically based reading programs, and can work effectively with other instructional staff to meet the literacy needs of all students.

**K-12 Online Teacher Leadership** — Online teacher leaders provide professional guidance and expertise to virtual schools or blended programs on effective curriculum, instruction and assessment. They apply what they learn about developing, implementing, and evaluating high-quality online teaching and instructional design. They work effectively with other online instructional staff to meet the targeted learning needs of all students.

**Educational Administrator Leadership** — Effective educational administrator leaders create a common vision and are change agents who improve conditions for learning. They bring out the leadership potential of every teacher and employee in the building. They collaborate with them, so that the school, as a whole, makes better decisions and is committed to continuous improvement.

**Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Leadership** — These leaders serve as liaisons among stakeholders who must meet the needs of culturally and linguistically diverse learners in school and community settings. They understand state, national and local cultural norms, legal issues, and policies that affect a student’s becoming proficient in English.

Meet Carolyn Holmes

Carolyn Holmes knew how well Western had prepared her for her first year of teaching in 2011, so she returned with confidence to get her Master of Arts in Education degree in 2014.

“Western’s Education program knows what teachers need in order to be successful,” says Holmes, a kindergarten teacher in Leadville, Colo. “The year-long internship – under the close watch of a successful mentor and paired with meaningful work – creates teacher leaders.”

In earning her master’s degree with an emphasis in Reading Leadership, Holmes found her instructors very flexible on research topics, allowing her to focus on what she was interested in and put what she learned to use immediately in her classroom. They also pointed her to valuable resources that have made a difference for her students.

“There were no busy-work assignments,” she says. “Everything we did was meaningful and personalized to what I needed to improve my teaching practice or what my students needed.”