

EDUC 700: Culminating Experience for the M.Ed. Instruction Program



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A) WHAT IS EDUC 700?

Since 2005, when the M.Ed. Instruction program began, **EDUC 700 – the Culminating Experience Presentation** has been an integral part of the Master’s degree experience. EDUC 700 is a 0- credit, 0-tuition course, although it does result in a Pass/Fail grade. EDUC 700 has remained a requirement for all students who wish to complete the master’s degree program. RTC's New Jersey partner, The College of New Jersey, requires that all master’s program graduates complete a Culminating Experience, also known as a Capstone Project. EDUC 700 remains a fitting and appropriate Culminating Experience for the M.Ed. Instruction program as it requires all graduating students to reflect on the enduring knowledge and transformative experiences emerging from their master’s degree studies. Think of it as a Comprehensive "LEP" (Learning Extension Project) for the M.Ed. Program.

B) HOW WILL EDUC 700 WORK?

EDUC 700 is required for all M.Ed. students in the final semester of their studies. As you already know, the M.Ed. Instruction Program is a 30-credit program structured around the following groups of courses:

- a. **Required Instructional Core (5 courses, each 3-credits)**
 - EDIN 542 Classroom Assessment Techniques
 - EDIN 548 Styles of Teaching: Personality Types in the Classroom
 - EDUC 510 Exploration of Reflective Teaching
 - EDIN 560 Brain-Based Teaching and Learning
 - EDIN 570 Differentiated Instruction
- b. **Option Concentration Areas** (Students choose one of five Option Areas and complete any three courses within that Option) The five Options are:
 - Teaching Strategies
 - The Diverse Classroom
 - Classroom Climate and Management
 - Classroom Well-Being & Physical Activity

- o Collaborative and Classroom Inquiry
- c. **Elective Courses** (2 courses, each 3-credits) Students may choose any RTC course to fulfill this requirement, including RTC courses that are not yet part of the M.Ed. program
- d. **EDUC 700** – Required Culminating Experience (0-credit, 0-tuition)

NOTE: Students electing to complete **EDUC 601** and **EDUC 602** as electives should see the special section at the bottom of these instructions.

C) WHAT YOU NEED TO DO REGARDING EDUC 700?

- As you get close to completing your degree, you should:
 - o Apply for graduation via TCNJ’s PAWS System (If you are reading this, you have probably already done this.)
 - o Pay for graduation via TCNJ’s Office of Student Accounts. Do NOT wait for an invoice. TCNJ doesn’t send them.
 - o **Enroll in a section of EDUC 700 by contacting RTC directly. EDUC 700 registration cannot be completed online.**
 - o Students may register for EDUC 700 before their last semester....BUT may only complete the course by offering their culminating presentation during their last semester, the one in which they expect to graduate. **See chart below**

Students graduating in...	Should complete EDUC 700 in...
Spring semester (May)	Spring semester (sometime between February and May)
Summer semester (August)	Summer semester (sometime between June and August)
Fall semester (December)	Fall semester (sometime between September and December)
Winter semester (January)	Winter semester (January)
<i>Note: students may register for EDUC 700 before their last semester, but must offer their presentation during their last semester</i>	

D) WHAT EDUC 700 REQUIRES OF YOU:

1. Although we expect to send out frequent reminder emails about registering for and completing EDUC 700, it is the students’ responsibility to register for EDUC 700 according to the schedule outlined in the chart immediately above. Several sections of EDUC 700 will be scheduled for each semester, based on the number of prospective graduates. Specifically, Spring and Summer semesters will have more sections than Fall or Winter semesters because of graduation patterns.
2. EDUC 700 involves a student-created presentation of your learning based on a reflective

review of all prior courses taken by the student as part of their M.Ed. Instruction Program.

3. At some point in their final semester before graduation, students will prepare and offer a 12-minute presentation with the following features:
 - a. Students will reflect on all of their prior RTC coursework, identifying the insights, assignments, activities, and experiences that had the greatest positive impact on their learning, their teaching, and on their students' learning, as well.
 - b. The presentation should draw on the highlights of the enduring knowledge that will last long after students complete the program. The presentation should focus on the most transformative aspects of their coursework experiences. Students should reflect on and talk about specific experiences from their M.Ed. program.
NOTE: It is not necessary to discuss each and every course you completed. Please focus on the courses, activities, assignments, instructors, and experiences that had the strongest impact on your teaching...and on your students' learning. Some of the guiding questions for this presentation could be:
 - What will you remember most vividly from your coursework?
 - What will you use in your classroom as you go forward?
 - What made a difference to you as a teacher? This may include specific courses, activities, readings, instructors, or other aspects of the program.
 - What educational or pedagogic challenges did your coursework help you to overcome or improve?
 - What professional and personal skills and strengths have been enhanced through your coursework?
 - What do you know now that you would like other teachers to know about?
 - What do you still want / need to know more about?

Note: These questions above are not intended as a comprehensive list or a rubric checklist. They are offered as an example of the kind of reflective thinking that will help students decide what to address in their presentation. Students are encouraged to think of their own individual and personal questions that draw on their ability to reflect and synthesize the knowledge gained in the M.Ed. Instruction program.
 - c. At some point in their final semester, students will register for an EDUC 700 presentation event. Students will then be assigned a Presentation Facilitator who will supervise and coordinate their presentation event.
 - d. In addition to contact with their Presentation Facilitator, we have created an **EDUC 700 Informational Video** that students can reference. It will discuss the presentation expectations, guidelines and other related issues.

- e. In addition to consulting with their Presentation Facilitator, students may also contact Dr. Alan Amtzis, Program Director and Student Advisor for the M.Ed. Instruction program for information. His email address is amtzis@tcnj.edu
- f. Students will be asked to develop a presentation using PowerPoint, Prezi, videos, or another similar slide or image-based presentation model. Students should be prepared to offer a verbal presentation, using the PowerPoint (or other format) as a visual enhancement or illustration. The PowerPoint by itself is not the complete presentation.
- g. It is expected that the Presentation Events will be held as virtual Zoom-based events.
- h. Presentation events will consist of small groups of graduating students (no more than 8 per event) who will consecutively present their 12-minute reflection on the enduring knowledge gained through the M.Ed. program. A Q&A discussion will follow. For accreditation purposes, these events maybe recorded. They will never be used for any other purpose without the students' express consent.

F) ACCOMPANYING VIDEO

There is an accompanying "EDUC 700 Video" that students who have enrolled in EDUC 700 should watch. To access the 25-minute video:

Click here (ignore the commercials): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EjtwOoPTiHo&t=6s>

Or...follow these steps.

- Visit the RTC homepage at www.thertc.net
- Click on **M.Ed. and Other Programs** on the top right side of the page
- Scroll down to the section on "Master of Education Programs" Look for the three blue links with state names. Click on New Jersey (in the middle)
- Scroll down again and look for the **Curriculum** link in the yellow box on the left side of the page
- Click on **Curriculum**
- Scroll all the way down to the bottom of the page. Look for **D) Required Culminating Experience Presentation** There is a link to **Culminating Experience Presentation.....**and finally you will arrive at the video!

G) STUDENTS COMPLETING EDUC 601 AND EDUC 602

Students who elect to enroll in EDUC 601 and EDUC 602 will also be required to complete an EDUC 700 presentation although the format and focus will be different. Students who enroll in EDUC 601 and EDUC 602 should contact Dr. Alan Amtzis at amtzis@tcnj.edu to discuss specific details.