

NDSU

M. Ed. in Leadership in Physical Education and Sport Coaching (LPESC)

Frequently Asked Questions

Program Duration

How long does it take to complete the program?

Students must complete 30 credits of coursework. Each course is offered at least once within a two-year cycle, with all required courses available every other semester. Most students complete the degree within 3 to 6 semesters, including summer terms. Typically, students enroll in two courses per semester; however, course loads are flexible to accommodate individual schedules.

Tuition and Costs

What is the total cost of the program?

All students, regardless of residency, pay in-state tuition rates. As of Spring 2025, the total cost of the program, including tuition and fees, is approximately \$14,600.

Course Selection and Transfers

Can I take courses outside the program, and will they count toward my degree?

Yes, students may take graduate courses from NDSU or another institution. However, these courses must be pre-approved by an academic advisor to be included in the Plan of Study. NDSU graduate policies allow up to 9 graduate credits to be transferred.

Financial Assistance

Are scholarships or financial aid available?

Graduate assistantships may be available for students who supervise NDSU undergraduate student teachers.

Culminating Experience

Is a thesis or final paper required?

No, a thesis or final paper is not required, though both are available as options. Most students, particularly those employed full-time, choose not to pursue these options.

What is required for the final culminating experience?

Students must prepare a professional portfolio, which includes a résumé, reflection paper, and artifacts demonstrating competency within the program standards. This portfolio is presented online to faculty and a small group of peers.

Must all coursework be completed before presenting the final portfolio?

The portfolio presentation takes place during the final semester of coursework or the final spring semester for those graduating in the summer. These small group meetings for graduating students occur every fall and spring.

Course Format and Delivery

Are courses offered online or in person?

All courses are delivered online asynchronously. Some courses may include optional synchronous sessions, but accommodations are made for those unable to attend at scheduled times.

Admission Requirements

What does it mean to be accepted with conditional status?

Applicants who do not meet the minimum undergraduate GPA requirement of 3.0 may be admitted conditionally. To transition to full standing, students must complete their first 9 credits with a minimum grade of B.

Can non-degree graduate students enroll in LPESC courses?

LPESC courses are restricted to admitted or conditionally admitted students in the program or its associated graduate certificates. Non-degree-seeking students may enroll with instructor approval.

If I complete 9 graduate credits as a non-degree student, can I apply for admission into the LPESC program?

Yes, you may apply; however, admission is not guaranteed. Faculty will evaluate previous graduate coursework to determine its applicability to the LPESC Plan of Study.

Admissions Competitiveness

How competitive is the admission process?

The program is limited to approximately 50 students. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis, and students may apply for the fall, spring, or summer semester.

Career Relevance

Does this program prepare students for a career in sports management?

This program is not a sports management master's degree, though it does include elements of sports management. The curriculum is designed for individuals pursuing careers as head coaches, master physical education teachers, department heads, high school athletic directors or assistant athletic directors, or collegiate-level assistant coaches.

Licensure and Professional Advancement

Can program credits be used for licensure renewal or salary increases?

Students should verify with their licensing agency or school district to confirm whether the courses qualify for licensure renewal or pay scale increases, as policies vary based on license type and district requirements.

Can I earn a physical education teaching license through this program?

No, this program does not lead to a teaching license. However, NDSU offers a separate master's degree that does lead to licensure in North Dakota (which may translate to other states). For more information, contact Dr. Jenny Linker at jenny.linker@ndsu.edu.