

Texas A&M University

Bilingual Education *Distance Program*

M.S. (non-thesis) and M.Ed.

Educational Psychology



*Reaching Across Distances
to serve Texas' English
Language Learners.*

Bilingual Education Programs
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Psychology
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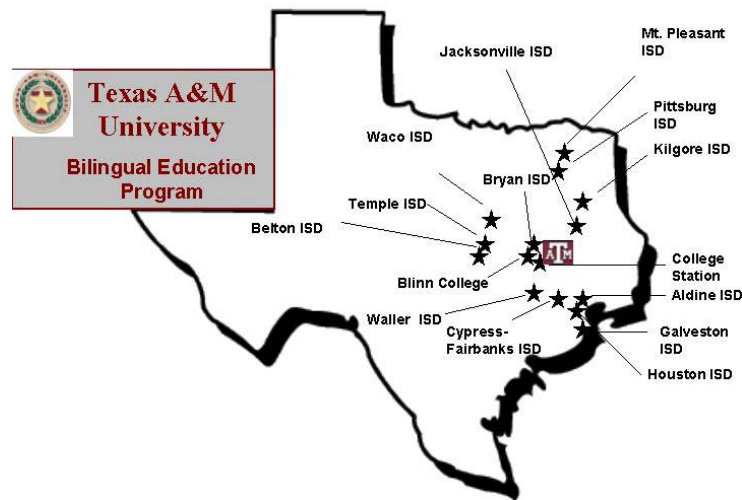
Texas A&M University (College Station) offers graduate coursework in **Bilingual Education** that leads to certification or Masters Degrees via **Distance Education**. (All the coursework is taught via teleconferencing and WebCT –an online format). This 36-semester hour graduate degree option and the 15 hours of certification coursework in Educational Psychology are designed to assist bilingual teachers and administrators working with English language learners to develop effective teaching and research tools that increase educational opportunity and workplace access for second language students and their families. This is the fourth year of this type of delivery and we have served over 150 teachers and administrators in 15 districts throughout the state of Texas including Regions 4, 6, 7, 8, and 12.

First Masters in Bilingual Education Via Distance

There is a severe shortage of Bilingual/ESL teachers in Texas, estimated at over 4,000 needed bilingual/ESL teachers. Each year over 20% of the vacant positions remain unfilled and 40% of the current teachers are less than fully certified (Texas A&M University Regent's Report, 2002). In response, Texas A&M developed the first Masters degree with an emphasis in Bilingual Education that is offered fully by distance education in the nation in 1999. This type of delivery has been well-received throughout Texas particularly in underserved urban, suburban and rural areas. Students in this unique program are embracing the opportunity to pursue professional development, certification and advanced degrees that were previously inaccessible due to distance. This type of delivery allows in-service and prospective teachers to remain in their classrooms and communities during the day and attend classes at night or the weekends in or near their home communities at regional centers.

Current Regional Centers Include:

College Station and Bryan
Woodlands (UC Center - Houston)
Central Texas (Temple-Blacklands Research Center)
Region 8 Service Center (Mt. Pleasant)
Galveston (TAMU-Galveston)



Degree Program

The Educational Psychology degree provides ample opportunities for field-based experience in schools and the community. In addition to demonstrating success in seminar courses, enrollees must successfully demonstrate competency in *Academic and Language Learning; Social Climate & Emotional Well-Being; School Improvement, and Family and Community Partnerships*.

Courses include

- EPSY 610 Hispanic Bilingual Assessment & Monitoring (3 hrs)
- EPSY 611 Dual Language Programs Methodologies (3 hrs)
- EPSY 612 Content Area Instruction for Hispanic Bilingual Programs (3 hrs)
- EPSY 613 Bilingual and Dual Language Classrooms for Hispanic Students (3 hrs)
- EPSY 616 Bilingual and Dual Language Classrooms for Hispanic Students (3 hrs)
- EPSY 636 Techniques of Research (3 hrs)
- Qualitative Research—may be from within or outside of Department. (3 hrs)
- EPSY 683 Field Practicum Research in Hispanic Bilingual Education (3 hrs)
- EPSY 689 Curriculum Development in Bilingual Settings (3 hrs)
- Electives

Delivery System

Classes are primarily taught through the TTVN interactive video system plus H.323 protocol over the World Wide Web. Usually remote interactive video classes will be taught in conjunction with a regularly scheduled on-campus class. On-site coordinators will supervise technology and discussions with instructors visiting each site at least once each semester. In addition to interactive video, students should expect to use the Internet and World Wide Web to augment live course delivery. Some instruction might require the use of e-mail and facsimiles for additional communication. This mixed media will ensure effective, educational interaction between the instructor and students.

Admission

All students, distance or resident, must apply to the graduate program for the Masters Degree by completing the graduate application, the departmental application, letters of recommendation, and submitting the required documentation, such as transcripts and GRE scores. Submitted application materials are considered as part of a total application packet.

Please contact the program director if only interested in certification courses (15 hours) or professional development.

Interested?

If your school district or regional center is interested in setting up a distance partnership with the Bilingual Program please contact Dr. Rafael Lara-Alecio, Program Director at 979-845-3467 (a-lara@tam.u.edu) or Dr. Martha Galloway, Program Coordinator at 979-845-5625 (bilingual@tam.u.edu). For more detailed program information please see <http://ldn.tam.u.edu/PROGRAM/index.htm> and http://www.tam.u.edu/ode/disted/programs/ed_psyc.htm

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