



FAQs for Applying to STEM Education Graduate Certificate at USM

(Prepared by Dr. Maria Wallace, Program Coordinator)

Question:

What are the suggested routes for earning a STEM Education Graduate Certificate from USM? (15hrs)

Answer:

ROUTE 1: Students who want to have the option to get certificate coursework applied to an earning an advanced degree of M.S. or Ph.D. in STEM Education at USM:

- SME 701 - Issues in Science and Mathematics Education 3 hrs. (Annually, Spring)
- SME 703 - Foundations of Science and Mathematics Education 3 hrs. (Annually, Fall)
- SME 789 - Seminar 3 hrs. (1 hr per semester) (offered annually, Summer, Fall, & Spring)
- One of the following:
 - SME 700 - Science Curriculum in the Public Schools 3 hrs. (Annually, Spring)
 - SME 720 – Mathematics Curriculum 3 hrs (Annually, Spring)
- One of the following:
 - SME 725 – Research in Mathematics Education 3 hrs (Annually, Fall)
 - SME 795 -- Research in Science Education 3 hrs (Annually, Fall)

ROUTE 2: Students who want to earn the graduate certificate with no intention to ever pursue an advanced degree in M.S. or PhD in STEM Education at USM:

- Any five classes (3hrs each) of SME courses that work with your long-term academic goals
 - SME 795 (Directed Research in STEMed) may be an option if approved by supervising faculty member

Question:

What is the cost of the STEMed graduate certificate?

Answer:

- The graduate certificate follows the same tuition guidelines for all university graduate programs. Details about these costs can be found on [the university website](#).

Question:

When do courses start?

Answer:

- Once an applicant has been admitted to the program, they can begin taking courses in either the Fall or Spring semester.
- We encourage students to review the rotation schedule for STEMed course offerings to be informed about when specific courses of interest may be offered.

- STEMEd graduate-level courses are mostly offered during the Fall and Spring semesters. That said, there is sometimes the periodic opportunity for a summer term course as resources allow.

Question:

How long does it take to complete the graduate certificate?

Answer:

- 15 hours are required to be awarded the graduate certificate, but ultimately depends on the student. In general, certificate students who are also full-time K12 classroom teachers typically take about 1.5 years to complete the graduate certificate requirements.
- We recommend that anyone new to our program start off by taking only one graduate-level SME courses for the first semester. Many of our certificate students have also agreed that this is a smart way to figure out how one individual juggle the workload with a full-time K12 classroom teaching position.

Question:

Can courses credits acquired from a STEMEd graduate certificate program apply to a more advanced degree at USM in the Center for STEM Education (e.g., M.S. or Ph.D)?

Answer:

- Yes. That said, if you are even considering this as an option we highly recommend taking the suggested ROUTE #1 that prioritizes our required coursework for M.S. Ph.D to ensure the smoothest transition (financially, academically, and time to degree completion),