VCSU Graduate Certificates
All Graduate Certificate courses are applicable to VCSU’s Master of Education in the respective Concentration area. Contact the Office of Graduate Studies and Research for more information. graduate@vcsu.edu

Teaching English Language Learners Certificate (ELL)
This Graduate Certificate in Teaching ELL provides in-service teachers with the cultural and linguistic pedagogy needed to address the ELL needs of North Dakota teachers and will also meet other state requirements. This certificate provides a path for in-service teachers who already possess baccalaureate teaching credentials and may have M.ED.’s with the necessary coursework to be credentialed as an ELL instructor. The program also helps meet the increasing demand for graduate credentials for career and salary advancement. A certificate program meets the needs of those seeking professional development, endorsement, or licensure.

Required Courses 16 hours
EDUC 660 – Authentic Assessment Strategies and Evaluation to ELLs, (2)
EDUC 663 – Methods of Teaching English and Academic Content to ELLs, (2)
EDUC 670 – Second Language Acquisition, (2)
EDUC 673 – Foundations of Bilingual Education and Bilingualism, (2)
EDUC 693 – Putting Theory into Practice-ELL Teaching Practicum, (2)
ENGL 653 – Language and Culture, (3)
ENGL 673 – Linguistics for ELL Teachers, (3)

Accreditation Information:
The ELL certificate meets the content standards and credit requirements identified by the North Dakota Education Standards and Practices Board for the ELL Endorsement. In addition, the certificate coursework is aligned with the Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL)/National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) Standards for Accreditation in P-12 ESL Teacher Education.

Our Partners:
North Dakota belongs to WIDA (World class instructional Design and Assessment), a consortium of 17 states. The coursework in this concentration is based on the content standards and assessment tools endorsed by WIDA and TESOL/NCATE standards. VCSU has partnered with Norda, a corporation in Wisconsin which provides programs for prospective and practicing teachers, to provide programs in ELL/ESL as distance learning opportunities to complete licensure in Wisconsin.

ELL Certificate contact:
Dr. Shou-Ching Chao, Assistant Professor
School of Education and Graduate Studies
Phone 701.845.7314 or 1.800.532.8641 ext 37314
Email: shouching.chao@vcsu.edu
Library and Information Technologies Certificate

The goal for this certificate is to meet the needs of an educator’s market composed of those who may already hold a masters degree in another field, but who wish to obtain coursework to qualify as a library media specialist or those who wish to begin with a graduate certificate. Capitalizing on the university’s excellent reputation and historic role in the preparation of librarians and information specialists, this certificate allows the university to better serve the needs of in-service teachers who seek Library Media Specialist credentials but prefer not to complete a Master’s degree. The proposed certificate will help meet the need identified by national indicators and the ND Department of Public instruction for more and better prepared library media specialists and offer a viable online graduate program option to teachers outside the state seeking to obtain library media credentials.

Required Courses 22-25 hours
LMIS 660 Applied Research in Current School Library Issues (3)
LMIS 664 Literature and Literacy for Children and Young Adults (3)
LMIS 670 Integrating Information Literacy and Research Standards (3)
LMIS 676 Contemporary Cataloging for the School Library (2)
LMIS 677 Collection Development for the 21st Century School Library (2)
LMIS 680 Using Information Resources (3)
LMIS 687 Administering and Evaluating Program Resources (3)
LMIS 688 Collaboration, Management and Leadership (3)

Note: Students interested in North Dakota Library Media Specialist Certification (or another state’s reciprocity certification) may also need to complete an “introduction to libraries” course. The university offers two non-program options designed to meet the state requirement: LMIS 250 An Introduction to Libraries and LMIS 700 Introduction to Libraries in the Information Age.

Accreditation Information:
In addition to meeting the North Dakota DPI standards for the LMS LM01 or LM02 credential, the courses in the program are developed to meet AASL standards. The M.Ed. concentration in LIT program was accredited by NCATE in 2008.

Our Partners:
The VCSU master’s degree with the LIT Concentration is accredited by NCATE and has been reviewed by the American Library Association’s AASL program reviewers using the ALA/AASL Standards for Initial Preparation of School Librarians. The program is recognized by the AASL as an appropriate first professional degree for school librarians, and is listed among other nationally recognized programs at the AASL website.

Coursework developed with Laura Bush grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

LIT Certificate Contact:
Donna James
Library Director
Allen Memorial Library
Phone: 701.845.7275 or 1.800.532.8641 x37275
Email: donna.james@vcsu.edu

STEM Certificate

This certificate allows the university to serve the needs of in-service teachers who seek a STEM Education credential. This online certificate is available to teachers both in and outside North Dakota. Through the teachers enrolled in the certificate, STEM education will reach students at the primary and secondary levels and prepare them for the world as it has become. VCSU’s STEM certificate will enhance the curricular understandings of in-service teachers who may already have a master’s degree or may decide later to expand the certificate into a Master’s degree.

Required Courses 12 Credits

Elementary Focus
STEMED 655 - STEM Curriculum and Methods, Elementary (3)
STEMED 670 - Design, Technology, and Engineering for Elementary (3)
STEMED 671 - Inquiry Based Thematic Instruction (3)
STEMED 680 - Building Math (3) OR STEMED 665 Invention & Innovation (3)

Secondary Focus
STEMED 650 - Standards-Based Curriculum & Methods (3)
STEMED 660 - Design for Engineering (3)
STEMED 665 - Invention & Innovation (3)
STEMED 680 - Building Math (3) OR STEMED 682 - Engineering the Future (3)

Our Partners:
VCSU has leveraged its partnership with the Boston Museum’s National Center for Technological Literacy (NCTL) to develop curriculum for this STEM certificate. The NCTL works with educators, administrators, organizations, and industry representatives across the United States to provide curriculum materials, resources, and professional development for educators. With VCSU as the catalyst, STEM materials have been processed into graduate courses for K-12 in-service teachers. These graduate courses involve in-service teachers in learning through integration of the STEM methodologies and provide the teachers with hands on materials and real-world classroom projects. The NCTL curriculum is a coordinated STEM Education system and will ensure coherence in STEM teaching and learning for teachers seeking STEM Education certification.

STEM Certificate contact:
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Department Chair Technology Education
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