

A photograph of the University of Texas at El Paso campus. In the foreground, a large stone wall features a sign that reads "THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO". Behind the wall, a multi-story building with a distinctive architectural style is visible. A bridge or walkway connects different parts of the campus. The sky is blue with some clouds. The text "Online Graduate Certificate Program or Degree:" is overlaid in white, and "WHICH IS RIGHT FOR YOU?" is overlaid in orange.

Online Graduate Certificate Program or Degree: **WHICH IS RIGHT FOR YOU?**



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO
UTEP CONNECT
EXTENDED UNIVERSITY

SO YOU'RE CONSIDERING GRADUATE EDUCATION OPTIONS...

After you've completed your undergraduate experience and closed the door on your bachelor's degree, you may be asking yourself what's next. For those looking to further their education beyond an undergraduate program, two clear options exist: a graduate certificate or a master's program.

Both program structures offer unique benefits and the opportunity to keep honing your expertise and skill set. In fact, it's not always a matter of which is the better decision – often, it's more a question of which is the right decision for you.

While degrees and certificates both offer an opportunity to earn additional credentials, advance in your career, and evolve as a professional, it's important to consider your field, career aspirations, time, and resources when making your decision.



UTEP Graduate Education Offerings

ONLINE GRADUATE CERTIFICATES

College of Liberal Arts

- Online Graduate Certificate in Technical and Professional Writing
- Online Graduate Certificate in Urban and Regional Planning
- Graduate Certificate in Nonprofit Administration

College of Business

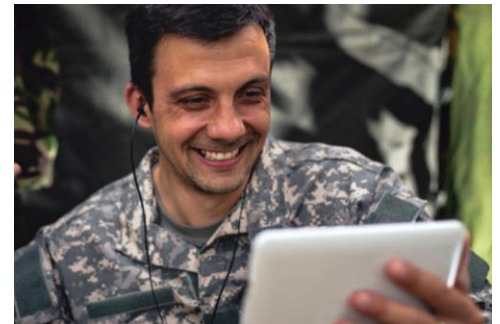
- Graduate Certificate in Business Administration

College of Education

- Graduate Certificate in STEM Education
- Graduate Certificate in K-12 Bilingual Education
- Graduate Certificate in K-12 English Language Learning (ESL)

College of Engineering

- Graduate Certificate in Systems Engineering
- Graduate Certificate in Construction Management



UTEP Graduate Education Offerings

ONLINE MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAMS

College of Liberal Arts

- Online Master of Defense and Strategic Studies
- Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing
- Master of Music with a Concentration in Conducting
- Master of Public Administration with a Concentration in Public Policy and Management
- Master of Multidisciplinary Studies

College of Business

- Master of Business Administration

College of Education

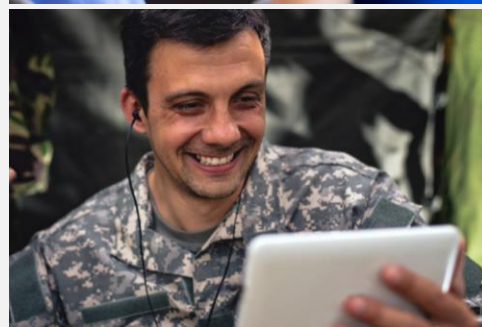
- Master of Arts in Education with a Concentration in Diversity, Equity and Social Justice in Education
- Master of Arts in Education with a Concentration in Linguistic Diversity and Educational Equity
- Master of Arts in Education with a Concentration in STEM Education
- Master of Education in Bilingual Education
- Master of Education in Early Childhood Education
- Master of Education in Literacy Education
- Master in Special Education with a Concentration in Bilingual Education
- Master of Education in Educational Administration With a Concentration in Higher Education Leadership

College of Engineering

- Master of Science in Construction Management
- Master of Science in Systems Engineering

College of Nursing

- Master of Science in Nursing - Nursing Education
- Master of Science in Nursing - Nurse Practitioner
- Master of Science in Nursing - Nursing Administration and Management



What are the benefits of an **ONLINE GRADUATE CERTIFICATE PROGRAM?**

The online graduate certificate programs available through UTEP Connect were created with working professionals in mind. Our online certificate programs help busy students focus their education while maintaining the flexible and approachable online format they need to succeed. Considering a graduate certificate?

Here are a few advantages:



Time & Tuition

Graduate certificates are a great option for students limited on time because they typically require fewer credits than a traditional degree program. At about 12-18 credit hours, these programs can take less than half the time of a graduate degree and can provide a great jumping-off point for students who may pursue a master's down the road, but are looking for a quicker, more specialized option to advance in their careers now.

As a result of their shorter program format, graduate certificates are typically much more affordable—especially for students who plan to pay for their graduate education out-of-pocket.



Specialization

For individuals looking to impress current or future employers, graduate certificates are an excellent way to prove their expertise and commitment to growing within their field. Pursuing a graduate certificate online demonstrates a commitment to a more specialized topic, whereas master's programs can often provide a broader, more in-depth look.

One of the most alluring parts of a certificate program, according to *Forbes*, is the quicker return on investment and shorter commitment. For those looking for a more immediate path to the specialization they want—and the subsequent increase in pay that could come with it—a graduate certificate is often the obvious choice.



Networking

Another advantage of enrolling in a certificate program is the opportunity to learn from and make connections with professors and professionals in your field. Through open communication in your online classes at UTEP, you'll be able to gain an understanding of your professors' and classmates' unique backgrounds and expertise in a more professional setting, whereas a master's program often provides more academic networking opportunities.

What are the benefits of an **ONLINE MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAM?**

Individuals looking to significantly accelerate their career, shift industries, or grow to the next phase of management or specialization should consider graduate degree options. Online master's degrees from UTEP are designed to help students gain a broad base of knowledge to climb the ladder in their current jobs or embark on a totally new path. Here are some unique perks of an online master's program at UTEP.



Career Advancement

It's important to know what the degree expectations are in your chosen field. In many, one of the most significant advantages you can gain is a master's degree because it opens doors, especially to upper-level positions and management. With a broader base of knowledge and additional training at a master's level, you'll be able to more easily maneuver within and outside your role—making you a more versatile addition to any organization. An advanced degree can help expand your current knowledge, raise the ceiling at your current job, or help earn you a coveted corner office.



New Employment Opportunities

After a few years of putting your bachelor's degree to use, you may decide that a career shift is in order, to get you where you truly want to go. If you're looking to step outside your current qualifications and advance in a new field, a master's degree can usually help facilitate a career pivot of this nature. Although the ability to shift is often industry-dependent, many students use their master's as an opportunity to bring a broad interdisciplinary, liberal arts, or business degree into focus with additional qualifications.



Earnings Boost

It's true that a master's degree often means a higher salary – how much usually depends on your field, though. Education and nursing are areas where an advanced degree can truly alter your standard of living—and both are options at UTEP. In addition to increased career happiness and salary, completing your master's degree online has the added benefit of allowing you to keep your current job while working towards advancement or a new, better career fit for you.

Get to Know Our Programs

Graduate **Certificate** Programs



Online Graduate Certificate in Construction Management

The online Graduate Certificate in Construction Management offered by The University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) is a convenient and flexible way for engineers, architects, and other construction industry professionals to gain knowledge and credentials they need to advance in their industry. Designed for working professionals and students who are interested in learning how to manage complex construction projects, this certificate teaches essential skills in construction management, scheduling, safety, methods, and more.

Online Graduate Certificate in Systems Engineering

Without systems engineering, the world wouldn't look the way it does today. With a Graduate Certificate in Systems Engineering (GCSE), students can shape the way the world looks tomorrow. Success in this field is highly dependent on an in-depth understanding of people, facilities, policies, hardware, software and documents, and how to manage all the above effectively. UTEP's online GCSE is a convenient and flexible way for aspiring engineers to achieve the knowledge and credentials they need to succeed in the industry—and earn credits toward their master's degree if they choose to continue their education.

Online Graduate Certificate in Technical and Professional Writing

UTEP is proud to offer a Graduate Certificate in Technical and Professional Writing designed for graduate students looking to strengthen their writing skills. Through coursework in various types of writing and editing, students will learn to work with new media, share information in a variety of different ways, convey technical concepts to a nontechnical audience, and more. In addition to teaching strong writing skills, the program also focuses on digital communication and community engagement in intercultural contexts.

Online Graduate Certificate in Urban and Regional Planning

The online Graduate Certificate in Urban and Regional Planning equips students with the knowledge, skills, and abilities to serve all areas of the career of urban planner—from policy to planning and development. With a focus on the public administration and economic development aspects associated with successful urban planning practices in developed countries, this certificate prepares students to work in any government, nonprofit or professional organization that requires the services of a planner.

Online Graduate Certificate in Business Administration

The UTEP Online Graduate Certificate in Business Administration is a concise, 12-credit program designed to boost career prospects through specialized business education. It offers flexible, fully online coursework with subjects such as accounting and marketing to develop strategic thinking, leadership, and analytical skills. The program serves professionals from any field looking to enhance their business knowledge. Graduates are equipped for various business roles, thanks to a curriculum that emphasizes ethical leadership and critical problem-solving.



Get to Know Our Programs

Graduate **Certificate** Programs



Online Graduate Certificate in Nonprofit Administration

The UTEP Graduate Certificate in Nonprofit Administration is an 18-credit, fully online program designed for professionals aspiring to lead in the nonprofit sector. Focused on enhancing analytical and management skills, the curriculum covers crucial topics like fundraising, fund development, and program evaluation, alongside practical experience through applied projects. It offers networking opportunities with sector leaders and a pathway to impactful roles, with over 90% of graduates landing jobs or internships, often as grant writers or nonprofit executives.

Online Graduate Certificate in STEM Education

UTEP's online Graduate Certificate in STEM Education prepares students with innovative teaching methods for STEM subjects in multicultural settings. This 15-credit program, suitable for a wide range of learners from working professionals to career changers, focuses on modern educational approaches rather than basic STEM knowledge. It prepares graduates for various educational roles and offers credit toward further graduate studies at UTEP. The curriculum, adhering to recognized educational standards, includes courses in mathematics, science, educational technology, and a capstone project, designed to meet the growing demand for qualified STEM educators.

Online Graduate Certificate in K-12 Bilingual Education

This 12-credit fully online program is designed for working teachers and education professionals. It can be completed in just two semesters, and it prepares certified teachers seeking state Bilingual Education supplemental certification. The coursework focuses on the practical application of bilingual education theories, including language acquisition, translanguaging, biliteracy, and culturally sustaining curriculum development. This program allows credits to be fully applied toward an M.Ed. in Bilingual Education at UTEP.

Online Graduate Certificate in K-12 English Language Learning

The Online Graduate Certificate in K-12 English Language Learning (ESL) from UTEP's College of Education is tailored for working educators. Designed to be completed in just two semesters, it equips certified teachers with the skills and knowledge for state ESL supplemental certification. The program applies current theories, research, and pedagogy in ESL instruction, highlighting aspects like second language acquisition, linguistic diversity, and translanguaging pedagogy.



Get to Know Our Programs

Master's Degree Programs



College of Liberal Arts

Online Master of Defense and Strategic Studies

National defense is a matter of extreme importance. It requires a diversity of viewpoints from knowledgeable professionals with differing skill sets and expertise – that's where The University of Texas at El Paso's (UTEP) online Master of Defense and Strategic Studies (MDSS) degree comes in handy. As a part of our Intelligence and National Security Studies Program, it's an ideal choice for military or civilian personnel currently working in (or planning to work in) national security and defense.

Online Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing

UTEP's Online MFA in Creative Writing is a distinctive, entirely online program tailored for aspiring fiction and poetry writers. Offering intensive writing workshops, literature classes, and a thesis culminating in a publishable manuscript, this 48-credit hour program is guided by world-renowned faculty. Designed for those pursuing careers in writing or academia, it stands out for its global community engagement and commitment to literary excellence.

Online Master of Music with a Concentration in Conducting

UTEP's Online Master of Music in Conducting is designed for music educators and professionals looking to specialize in wind, choral, or orchestral conducting while continuing their full-time jobs. Taught by renowned faculty, the program enhances conducting skills and pedagogical knowledge. This program is ideal for advancing careers or preparing for university-level teaching. It also balances core conducting techniques with specialized electives based on the student's focus area.

Online Master of Public Administration with a Concentration in Public Policy and Management

UTEP's Online MPA in Public Policy and Management emphasizes leadership in the public and nonprofit sectors. It's supported by a NASPAA-accredited curriculum that includes core public administration courses and diverse electives. Designed to address current sector challenges, the program offers practical experience through unique internship opportunities, preparing graduates for a wide array of careers in governmental and nonprofit organizations.

Online Master of Multidisciplinary Studies

The Online Master of Multidisciplinary Studies (MMDS) is a flexible and customizable degree program designed to tackle the diverse needs of students by allowing them to tailor their education through a combination of stackable certificates and complementary coursework. The program is ideal for those seeking specific skill sets and is suitable for career paths in systems engineering, construction management, urban planning, or business administration.



Get to Know Our Programs

Master's Degree Programs



College of Business

Online Master of Business Administration

This AACSB-accredited program focuses on essential business skills, ethical leadership, and strategic thinking, covering all the major business areas with the bonus of Coursera modules for extra learning. The program also offers international collaboration and networking opportunities within a diverse business community. Upon completion, graduates are well-prepared for diverse managerial and analytical positions across various sectors and qualified with the expertise and professional connections essential for career progression.

College of Education

Online Master of Arts in Education with a Concentration in Diversity, Equity and Social Justice in Education

The Online M.A. in Education with a Concentration in Diversity, Equity, and Social Justice in Education at UTEP is tailored for professionals committed to promoting educational equity. It can be completed in as few as 16 months without requiring GRE scores. The curriculum, emphasizing anti-oppressive education, prepares students for roles as educational change agents, community leaders, or doctoral studies.

Online Master of Arts in Education with a Concentration in Linguistic Diversity and Educational Equity

The Online M.A. in Education with a Concentration in Linguistic Diversity and Educational Equity equips educators with skills to promote equity in linguistically and culturally diverse settings. The program fosters agents of change in educational policy and practice, preparing graduates for leadership roles across educational and community organizations or further academic pursuits. Covering bilingualism, anti-oppressive education, and dual-language instruction, it positions graduates for impactful roles such as ESL Curriculum Specialist and Educational Diversity Coordinator.

Online Master of Arts in Education with a Concentration in STEM Education

The Online M.A. in Education with a Concentration in STEM Education at UTEP is tailored for professional educators looking to become STEM leaders within their schools or districts. It underscores innovative teaching methods and research-based strategies to improve STEM learning across diverse student populations. Upon completion, educators are prepared for roles in schools, community organizations, research, and more, with the option to pursue advanced studies.

Online Master's in Special Education with a Concentration in Bilingual Special Education

The Online Master's in Special Education with a Concentration in Bilingual Special Education at UTEP prepares educators to advocate for and enhance the education of bilingual students, including those with disabilities. Focused on evidence-based practices and leadership, it integrates applied linguistics, special education, and bilingual education to promote a culturally responsive approach. Graduates gain skills for roles in special and general education, administration, and community leadership.



Get to Know Our Programs

Master's Degree Programs



College of Education

Online Master of Education in Early Childhood Education

The Online Master of Education in Early Childhood Education at UTEP is designed for professionals aspiring to become culturally responsive and innovative educators, ready to support the development and growth of young children in diverse educational contexts. It focuses on justice-oriented, asset-based teaching and learning, critical examination of instructional techniques, and designing curricula that meet the diverse needs of young learners.

Online Master of Education in Literacy Education

The Online Master of Education in Literacy Education at UTEP is designed for educators, instructional coaches, and professionals dedicated to enhancing literacy within K-12 settings. This program provides a comprehensive understanding of literacy education, with a special focus on supporting linguistically diverse learners. Through field-based practicums, action research projects, and the use of cutting-edge digital tools, students are well-prepared for roles such as reading specialists, literacy coaches, and curriculum developers, among others.

Online Master of Education in Bilingual Education

This online program is specifically designed for busy educators and professionals seeking to advance their expertise in bilingual education. It focuses on preparing graduates to address the needs of English Learners/Emergent Bilinguals in today's linguistically and culturally diverse classrooms. Graduates are prepared for roles such as bilingual education curriculum specialists, public/private school teachers, community college instructors, and corporate trainers.

Master of Education in Educational Administration with a Concentration in Higher Education Leadership

If you're aiming to take on leadership roles in Hispanic-Serving Institutions, this program is tailor-made for you. With a curriculum deeply focused on diversity, equity, and social justice, and taught by experienced Hispanic faculty in higher education, this program prepares you for key roles in higher education administration, student affairs, and program planning. It offers hands-on experience through an internship and aligns with professional standards from ACPA, CAS, and NASPA.



Get to Know Our Programs

Master's Degree Programs



College of Engineering

Online Master of Science in Construction Management

As the global construction industry expands, more and more companies are looking for experienced leaders to oversee their projects. Students seeking to obtain a higher level of construction knowledge can learn how to lead teams, manage complex projects and thrive in a global marketplace. Busy professionals who may already be working in engineering, architecture, management or related fields will appreciate the convenience and flexibility of this 100% online program.

Online Master of Science in Systems Engineering

The online Master of Science in Systems Engineering (MSSE) is an ideal choice for aspiring engineers and current engineering professionals who want to perfect their engineering skills while learning how to manage large projects. The program curriculum will also give engineers an advantage in earning their Associate/Certified Systems Engineering Professional (ASEP/CSEP) certification and prepares graduates to work in companies that utilize quality models such as the Capability Maturity Model Integration (CMMI).

College of Nursing

Online Master of Science in Nursing

Nursing Education

Behind every nursing student are the educators that fed their passion. This program offers students the opportunity to become teachers for the next generation of nurses. Students learn to teach in both academic and clinical settings, gain best practices in curriculum design and development, and master teaching methods, educational needs assessment, and more.

Nurse Practitioner

The UTEP School of Nursing prepares advanced practice registered nurses to become nurse practitioners for primary or secondary (acute) care. Applicants may choose a concentration as a Family Nurse Practitioner with a primary care focus (FNP), Pediatric Nurse practitioner with a primary care focus (PNP-PC), or an adult/gerontologic Nurse Practitioner with an acute care focus (AGACNP).

Nursing Administration and Management

The Nursing Administration and Management program at UTEP is designed to equip professional nurses with the essential administrative skills needed for leadership positions in diverse healthcare environments. Following The Essentials: Core Competencies for Professional Nursing Education (AACN, 2021), the curriculum weaves together foundational master's essentials, advanced graduate-level practice courses, and targeted administration specialties. The program dives deep into key areas such as human resources, financial management, and quality assurance, all leading up to a capstone project-based residency. Here, students get to apply what they've learned by developing and implementing evidence-based solutions to real-world management challenges.



MAKING THE RIGHT DECISION **FOR YOU**

Now that you've read up on all the ways that a graduate certificate program or a master's degree can help get you on the path to the career you want, you're more equipped to make the decision that will let you advance toward your goals. Just keep in mind: It's less about which of these is the right decision and more about which is the right decision for you, your career, and your future.

Have questions or ready to take the next step?



Call 844-877-0379 to speak to an enrollment counselor.



Begin your application. Go to the [Graduate School Website](#) to get started.



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