CREATIVE STUDIES (M.S.)

Master of Science Program
Program Code: MS-SP
Major Code: CRS
HEGIS 4903

Creative Studies Department
Gerard J. Puccio, Chair
Chase Hall 248, (716) 878-6223
creativity.buffalostate.edu/

The Creative Studies Department and its International Center for Studies in Creativity credential creativity through a diverse menu of programs that cultivate skills in creative thinking, innovative leadership practices, and problem-solving techniques. The department, through the process of creative thought, enhances an individual’s ability to imagine new ideas by learning how to envision that which cannot be immediately seen. This internationally recognized academic department offers a series of courses that lead to a master of science degree in creative studies or a graduate certificate in creativity and change leadership (see next program). These unique graduate programs attract students from business, education, and many diverse fields. Short summer institutes in combination with distance courses make the graduate certificate and full master’s degree available to busy professionals both within and outside of Western New York. Students from across the U.S. and international students from such countries as South Africa, Brazil, Canada, Italy, England, Pakistan, and Singapore have participated in these programs.

The combination of required and elective courses makes this graduate program ideal for educators who seek permanent and professional licensure through a degree that offers a unique and valuable set of knowledge and skills (consult with Buffalo State’s Teacher Certification Office for specific issues regarding licensure in New York State). Teachers who hold Master’s degrees in Creative Studies work in school districts throughout Western New York.

The required courses give all students an opportunity to develop practical leadership, facilitation, training/teaching, and problem-solving skills, while the selection of electives allows students to concentrate on acquiring knowledge and skills in another area of specialization (e.g., education, business, organizations, communications). The creative studies program challenges students to develop their creative talents and to become leaders of change in their professional lives.

Introductory-level graduate courses may be taken by students from other departments at Buffalo State to enrich their majors. Students from business, education, and a variety of other disciplines find this coursework useful. Multidisciplinary degree students integrate creativity courses to fulfill part of their requirements for a master’s degree.

The master’s degree program consists of three major strands of coursework. The Foundations of Creativity strand surveys various approaches to assessing and defining creativity, as well as a variety of models and theories associated with understanding the nature of creative behavior. The introductory course to this strand is CRS 560. The Creative Problem Solving and Facilitation strand emphasizes ways to deliberately foster creative potential by helping the student to learn, apply, and teach specific creative problem-solving tools. The introductory course to this strand is CRS 559. The third strand, Research, Development and Dissemination, includes involvement with the department’s program of research, development, and dissemination. Students pursue a master’s project or thesis that makes a contribution to the emerging discipline of creativity studies. The introductory course in this strand is CRS 620. Students may opt to complete a comprehensive examination and portfolio review in place of the project or thesis.

The department hosts an annual conference called the Creativity Experts Exchange (http://www.cee-conference.com). Participation is open to all and provides an excellent venue to deepen knowledge in regard to emerging creativity topics and to meet the Creative Studies community. Visit the Creative Studies website (http://creativity.buffalostate.edu) for more information.

To explore some of the topics covered in the Creative Studies curriculum view the Creativity 101 video series (http://creativity.buffalostate.edu/videos) developed by the department.

Graduate Certificate Program and Distance Graduate Program for Professionals
Those interested in pursuing any one of the program strands but not the full master’s degree may complete the State University of New York graduate certificate program in creativity and change leadership; see next program. Graduate certificates are awarded by the State University of New York upon completion of at least 18 credit hours (six courses).

Admission Requirements
1. A bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university with a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 (4.0 scale). Preference is shown to those with GPAs of 3.0 or higher.
2. A written statement of the applicant’s professional or educational goals and how a degree in creativity studies...
supports these goals. The recommended length for the letter of intent is two to three pages (use form provided by department).

3. Brief biographical sketch, one to two paragraphs, that provides a summary of the applicant’s accomplishments, areas of expertise, and experiences.

4. Two academic/professional letters of reference (pdf reference form available as download (http://graduateschool.buffalostate.edu/supplemental-application-materials); alternative formats available through department (http://creativity.buffalostate.edu/admissions))

5. Five years of professional experience (distance program applicants only; distance students must begin with the certificate program).

In addition, all applicants should review the Admission to a Graduate Program (http://ecatalog.buffalostate.edu/graduate/admission-graduate-program) section in this catalog.

Program Requirements

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CRS 559</td>
<td>PRINCIPLES IN CREATIVE PROBLEM SOLVING</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>CRS 560</td>
<td>FOUNDATIONS OF CREATIVE LEARNING</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>CRS 610</td>
<td>FACILITATION OF GROUP PROBLEM SOLVING</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>CRS 620</td>
<td>CREATIVITY ASSESSMENT: METHODS AND RESOURCES</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>CRS 625</td>
<td>CURRENT ISSUES IN CREATIVE STUDIES</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>CRS 635</td>
<td>CREATIVITY AND CHANGE LEADERSHIP</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRS 670</td>
<td>FOUNDATIONS IN TEACHING AND TRAINING CREATIVITY</td>
<td>3</td>
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Elective Courses (6-12 credit hours)

Select 6-12 credit hours

Master's Project, Master's Thesis, or Comprehensive Exam (0-6 credit hours)

Select one from the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CRS 690</td>
<td>MASTER'S PROJECT</td>
<td>0-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRS 795</td>
<td>MASTER'S THESIS</td>
<td>0-6</td>
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Total Credit Hours 33