

## **Postgraduate programs (Master's Programs and Professional Degree Program)**

### **Graduate School of Education (Professional Master's Program)**

#### **Mission Statement**

The Graduate School of Education professional degree program aims to equip students with a high level of knowledge and specialization and leadership skills for the future of school education. Students are expected to demonstrate practical skills and leadership to address challenges at local schools.

#### **Diploma Policy**

A master's degree in education (professional degree) is granted to those who are deemed to have achieved the following goals based on the objectives and mission of Wakayama University and the objectives of the Graduate School of Education.

Students are expected to develop:

1. A high level of expertise and research skills
  - The advanced specialized knowledge and practical skills required for conducting educational activities in school education.
  - The capability to address school-based challenges to contribute to school improvement.
  - The ability to think flexibly and conduct research to identify and solve problems independently.
  - The capability to view and improve education activities from a short-term and long-term perspective based on observations as a reflective practitioner.
2. Cooperation and ethics
  - The foundation for conducting high-level educational activities via interactions with others while protecting basic human rights.
  - The foundation for conducting high-level, ethical research activities to contribute to the development of education.
3. Regional interest and global perspective
  - The advanced specialized knowledge and skills for building harmonious relationships with the local community and for understanding the region from a global perspective.

#### **Curriculum Policy**

The curriculum is designed and implemented based on the following policy.

## Perspective and Content of Curriculum

1. To provide a systematic and consistent curriculum that enables students to acquire the advanced specialized knowledge and skills required of a "teacher that continues to learn. The curriculum is comprised of special study subjects (basic common subjects and specialised common subjects), specialized subjects, practical subjects, and final research.
2. The following shall be taken into consideration when developing the curriculum
  - Providing a bridge between the latest specialized theory and technologies and practice
  - Providing the theory and techniques for practical implementation according to actual conditions and needs of local schools and children
  - Providing theory and practice to develop the education demanded by the times and specific communities

## Teaching Mode and Methodologies

1. Learning goals shall be defined for each course subject
2. Classes include lectures, exercises, experiments, training, practice, or a combination of these to enable students to accomplish the learning goals
3. Each subject shall assign learning tasks such as preparation, review, and exercises to be completed outside class hours
4. The methodologies shall include the following:
  - Team teaching by researchers and practitioners or other teams
  - Problem-solving workshops, proposal-based presentations, role-playing, and discussion of practical case studies
  - Proposals for lesson plans and their implementation
  - Practical experiences at local schools
  - Opportunities to exchange opinions ideas and interact with relevant institutions

## Assessment Methods

1. Academic achievements are assessed according to the goals indicated in the syllabus via written and oral examinations, reports, and research presentations.
2. The following shall be taken into consideration when developing the assessment methods
  - Assessment of problem-solving workshops, proposal-based presentations, role-playing, case studies, teaching plans, and teaching practice
  - Achievement of tasks and goals set by the students themselves
  - Reports related to schools, the local communities, and relevant institutions

## Admissions Policy

The Graduate School of Education seeks students who have acquired the following knowledge and abilities:

1. The willingness to contribute to society in the field of school education by proactively trying new experiences. The eagerness to continue learning as a reflective practitioner via teaching experiences
2. Clear objectives and the willingness to cooperate with others to address and solve problems in the field of school education. An eagerness to contribute to school education and educational practice through teaching experiences.
3. A sincere attitude toward learning and research
4. Awareness of basic human rights and the ability to effectively communicate with others

### Expectations after Admissions

Based on the resources and abilities required at the time of admissions, students are expected to acquire the advanced specialized knowledge, practical skills, and capabilities required of a "teacher that continues to learn. "

### Basic Policy for Admissions

1. General admissions
  - Fundamental academic and research ability, skills, and research ability and skills to develop a high level of specialised knowledge in education are assessed via research plans, essays, and written examinations
  - Willingness of the contribution to society in education and communication skills are assessed via oral examinations.
  - Positive attitude to solve problems in the field of school education learning and research is assessed via the research plans.
  - Essays and oral examinations are conducted by courses according to the respective categories.
2. Special admissions for in-service teachers
  - Fundamental academic and research ability, skills, and research ability and skills to develop a high level of specialised knowledge in education are assessed via research plans and essays.
  - Willingness of the contribution to society in education and communication skills are assessed via oral examinations.
  - Positive attitude to solve problems in the field of school education learning and research is assessed via the research plans.
3. Special admissions for undergraduate students at Wakayama University
  - Applicants need to be recommended by the dean of their enrolled faculty

- The fundamental academic and research ability, skills, and research ability and skills to develop a high level of specialised knowledge in education are assessed via research plans and essays.
- The willingness to contribute to society in education and communication skills are assessed via oral examinations.
- The positive attitude to solve problems in the field of school education learning and research is assessed via the research plans.