

MASTER OF DISTANCE EDUCATION

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Distance education has become an important vehicle for providing education and training opportunities. However, few of its practitioners have studied distance education as a discipline. The Master of Distance Education course is intended to give learners the requisite theoretical and practical knowledge and skills in distance education. The course is complemented by selected case studies, which have been developed from a wide variety of distance education settings in different parts of the world. Practical work is also built into the course in order to give the students the necessary experience in developing and producing distance education programmes for specific purposes.

The objectives of the course are to:

- Provide advanced training and opportunities in distance education.
- Expose learners to theories and concepts for planning, developing and producing effective distance education materials.
- Develop critical appraisal of distance education methods as applied in solving particular educational problems.
- Provide learners with skills and knowledge necessary to critically evaluate the effectiveness of different media used in open and distance education.

2.0 ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- 2.1 The common regulations for the Master's degree in the University of Nairobi shall apply.
- 2.2.0 The following shall be eligible for admission:
 - 2.2.1 Holders of a Bachelor's degree of at least lower second class honours of the University of Nairobi, or equivalent qualifications from other institutions recognized by the Senate
 - 2.2.2 Holders of a Bachelor's pass degree with a post graduate diploma or equivalent qualifications from other institutions recognized by the Senate
 - 2.2.3 Holders of a Bachelor's pass degree and three years experience in distance education institutions

3.0 EXEMPTION OF COURSE UNITS

A candidate may be exempted from some course units from institutions recognised by the Senate, subject to the following conditions:

- 3.1 Must have passed in similar course units at master's level.
- 3.2 Request for exemption should be made in writing, on admission, addressed to the Director of Board of Postgraduate Studies, through Dean, Faculty of External Studies and should be accompanied by officially endorsed supporting documents for the relevant course.
- 3.3 Payment of the prescribed exemption fees.
- 3.4 No candidate shall be exempted for more than one third of the total number of units required in the course.

4.0 COURSE STRUCTURE AND DURATION

- 4.1 The course shall run over a minimum period of four (4) semesters and a maximum of ten (10) semesters of fifteen (15) weeks each.

- 4.2 The course shall be by course work, examination, assessment of distance education systems, and research project. The project shall be undertaken after completion of coursework.
- 4.3 The coursework shall be offered by either distance mode, e-learning and face to face.
- 4.4 The course mark shall consist of eleven (11) core course units, and one (1) elective. and research project report.
- 4.5 The minimum number of courses taken in a semester shall be three (3) and the maximum eight (8).
- 4.6 The project shall involve individual research in specified areas of open and distance education.
- 4.7 The Faculty reserves the right to decide the elective to offer in any academic year.

5.0 COURSE OUTLINE

5.1 CORE COURSES

CODE:	TITLE	HOURS
LDS 651	<i>Policies and Practices of Distance Education</i>	45
LDS 652	<i>Planning and Administration of Distance Education Systems and Programmes</i>	45
LDS 653	<i>Learning Processes and Instruction</i>	45
LDS 654	<i>Instructional Message Design</i>	45
LDS 655	<i>Learner Support Services</i>	45
LDS 656	<i>Research Methods</i>	45
LDS 657	<i>Measurement and Evaluation</i>	45
LDS 658	<i>Curriculum Design and Course Development</i>	45
LDS 659	<i>Economics of Distance Education</i>	45
LDS 660	<i>Information and Communications Technology for Distance Education</i>	45
LDS 661	<i>Assessment of Distance Education Systems</i>	45
LDS 665	<i>Research Project</i>	180

5.2 ELECTIVES

LDS 662	Planning and Designing Print Materials for Open and Distance Education	45
LDS 663	Planning and Designing Multi-media Materials for Distance Education	45
LDS 664	Planning and Designing Counselling Systems for Distance Education Students	45

6.0 EXAMINATION REGULATIONS

6.1.1 Written Examinations

The common regulations governing examinations for the Master's Degree in the University of Nairobi shall apply

6.1.2 All course units taken in a given semester shall be examined at the end of that semester.

6.1.3 A candidate for the Master of Distance Education shall be required to complete all course work and assignments.

6.1.4 Each taught course unit shall be examined by a three-hour written examination.

6.1.5 Each course unit and evaluation report shall be graded independently out of 100%.

6.1.6 The complete assessment of a taught course unit shall consist of continuous assessment

tests, coursework or practical assignments and a written examination. The contribution towards the unit aggregate score shall be 30% for course work and 70% for written examination.

6.1.7 The pass mark shall be 50%.

6.1.8 A candidate who fails to obtain a pass mark in any course unit may, on the recommendation of the Faculty Board of Examiners and approval by Senate, shall be allowed to re-sit or re-take the failed units by the next examination session, a maximum of two times.

6.1.9 A pass obtained by retake of a course unit shall be recorded as 50%.

6.1.10 A candidate who fails a course unit in the second re-sit or re-take or fails to complete the course in the prescribed time shall on the recommendation of the Board of Examiners and approval by Senate be discontinued.

6.2.0 RESEARCH PROJECT REPORT

- Candidates shall be required to submit a research project report to the Department for examination at least two weeks before the end of the second semester.
- The project shall be graded out of 100 marks
- The pass mark shall be 50%.
- A candidate who fails to obtain the pass mark in the research project report may on the recommendation of the Faculty Board of Examiners be allowed to re-submit the project report twice.
- A pass obtained by re-submissions of the project report will be recorded as 50%.
- A candidate who fails to obtain the pass mark in the project report at the second re-submission or fails to complete the course within the prescribed period shall on the recommendation of the Board of Examiners and approval by Senate be discontinued.

7.0 DEGREE AWARD

- 7.1 A candidate who successfully completes part I and II of the course shall be awarded the degree of Master of Distance Education