

Comparative Analysis of Online Master's Programs in Texas, Oklahoma, and Louisiana

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Introduction

Online education has grown significantly in recent years, offering professionals and students increased flexibility to pursue advanced degrees without disrupting their personal or professional lives. This report examines the online Master of Business Administration (MBA) and Master of Education (M.Ed.) programs at public universities in Texas, Oklahoma, and Louisiana. The goal is to provide prospective students with a clear understanding of the programs’ structures, costs, and unique features to aid in making informed decisions.

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Analysis Framework

The evaluation was based on the following key criteria:

Credit Requirements: The number of credit hours needed to complete the degree, which impacts both time commitment and cost.

Total Program Costs: Includes tuition and any associated fees, reflecting the overall financial investment required for the program.

Program Distinctiveness: Unique features such as specialization options, online flexibility, or a focus on skill development that set each program apart.

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Research Method

Data for this analysis was collected directly from the official websites of twelve universities across Texas, Oklahoma, and Louisiana. The accuracy of program details, including tuition, credit hours, and unique features, was cross-referenced with program brochures or university fact sheets wherever available. This approach ensures that the information presented is current and reflective of what prospective students can expect.

***Table 1: Overview of MBA Programs by State, Costs, and Features***

		Master of Business Administration		
		Credits	Tuition and	Unique Courses or Program

		Required	Fees	Features
Texas	University of Texas at Austin	48	\$58,277	Focus on global business strategies and leadership
	Texas A&M University	36	\$42,000	Emphasis on data analytics and teamwork
	Texas Tech University	42	\$23,040	Online flexibility; specialization options like Health Org
	University of Houston	36	\$40,000	Focus on real-world business projects and networking
Oklahoma	University of Oklahoma	36	\$985/credit hour	Evening synchronous classes for working professionals
	Oklahoma State University	36	\$15,300	Affordable with options for certifications like energy
	University of Central Oklahoma	33	\$16,500	Focus on practical leadership skills in real-world contexts
	Northeastern State University	36	\$15,450	Includes global business study opportunities
Louisiana	Louisiana State University	30	\$39,000	Ranked for affordability; practical capstone project
	University of Louisiana at Lafayette	33	\$12,800	Offers 100% online format with affordable tuition
	Louisiana Tech University	30	\$9,603 ann	Marketing management and strategic decision-making
	Southern University	33	\$18,000	Focus on public and private sector leadership

**Table 2: Overview of M.Ed. Programs by State, Costs, and Features**

		Master of Education		
		Credits Required	Tuition and Fees	Unique Courses or Program Features
Texas	University of Texas at Austin	36	\$10,500/year	Emphasis on teacher leadership and curriculum design
	Texas A&M University	36	\$12,000	Curriculum development and instructional strategies
	Texas Tech University	36	\$15,500	Focuses on digital learning and teacher certification paths
	University of Houston	30	\$11,100	Specialization options in urban education and technology
Oklahoma	University of Oklahoma	36	\$700/credit hour	Emphasis on instructional leadership and data-driven decision-making
	Oklahoma State University	36	\$17,280	Affordable program with a focus on rural school leadership
	University of Central Oklahoma	33	\$15,300	Includes practicum opportunities in local schools
	Northeastern State University	32	\$14,000	Offers alternative certification and flexible online options
Louisiana	Louisiana State University	36	\$20,000	Focuses on education policy and administration
	University of Louisiana at	30	\$12,800	100% online program with affordable tuition

	Lafayette			
	Louisiana Tech University	33	\$14,000	Combines education technology and leadership
	Southern University	36	\$18,000	Emphasis on community and cultural education leadership

## Discussion

Based on the collected data, the following programs are highlighted as the top three for each degree type.

### Top 3 Master of Business Administration (MBA) Programs:

1. **Louisiana Tech University:**
  - **Credits Required:** 30
  - **Tuition and Fees:** \$9,603 annually
  - **Unique Features:** Emphasis on marketing management and strategic decision-making, affordable tuition.
2. **University of Louisiana at Lafayette:**
  - **Credits Required:** 33
  - **Tuition and Fees:** \$12,800
  - **Unique Features:** 100% online format with affordable tuition, highly flexible for working students.
3. **Texas Tech University:**
  - **Credits Required:** 42
  - **Tuition and Fees:** \$23,040
  - **Unique Features:** Specialization options including Health Organization Management, online flexibility.

### Top 3 Master of Education (M.Ed.) Programs:

1. **University of Houston:**
  - **Credits Required:** 30
  - **Tuition and Fees:** \$11,100
  - **Unique Features:** Specialization in urban education and technology, tailored for educators in urban settings.
2. **Texas A&M University:**
  - **Credits Required:** 36

- **Tuition and Fees:** \$12,000
- **Unique Features:** Strong focus on curriculum development and instructional strategies, preparing students for advanced educational roles.

**3. University of Louisiana at Lafayette:**

- **Credits Required:** 30
- **Tuition and Fees:** \$12,800
- **Unique Features:** Affordable and fully online program, ideal for working professionals looking for flexibility.

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## Recommendations

### For MBA candidates:

Louisiana Tech University: Ideal for cost-conscious students who value a strong curriculum in marketing and decision-making.

University of Louisiana at Lafayette: Perfect for working professionals seeking an affordable and fully online degree.

Texas Tech University: Best for those interested in health organization management or other specializations in a flexible format."

### For M.Ed. candidates:

University of Houston: Recommended for educators passionate about urban education and integrating technology into teaching practices.

Texas A&M University: Suited for aspiring curriculum developers and instructional leaders.

University of Louisiana at Lafayette: Ideal for professionals who need a fully online, cost-effective program.

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## Conclusion

This analysis reveals a rich variety of online MBA and M.Ed. programs in Texas, Oklahoma, and Louisiana. Each state offers standout options tailored to different priorities, such as affordability, flexibility, or unique specializations. By carefully considering factors like tuition costs, program

features, and delivery formats, prospective students can find programs that align with their personal and professional aspirations.