Education

The Department of Education offers full-time programs for liberal arts graduates who desire elementary teacher certification, Master of Arts in Education (MAEd); secondary teacher certification, Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT); or a PhD in Education.

In addition, through University College, the department offers part-time students the opportunity to earn teacher certification (elementary and secondary) through a non-degree post-AB program, and those currently working in a classroom the opportunity to earn an MAEd through evening classes. For more information on part-time programs, visit the University College - Education page of this Bulletin.

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Degree Requirements

Master of Arts in Education and Master of Arts in Teaching

The MAEd and MAT programs require a minimum of 30 units of study, though additional course work is generally required to qualify for the Missouri teaching certificate. Those students seeking elementary teacher certification generally have to complete 48 credit hours in Professional Education course work. Students seeking secondary teacher certification usually complete 30 credit hours in Professional Education course work plus 12 graduate hours in their teaching subject area.

PhD in Education

The PhD in Education is aimed at strengthening and deepening the student's analytic understanding of education in both research and teaching. Our doctoral program focuses on three major strands of study: the social contexts of educational research, science and mathematics education, and applied linguistics. Students are afforded an opportunity to build unique programs of study by combining concentrations from: urban education and American culture studies, mathematics and science education, policy studies, second language acquisition, or English language learners. These concentrations are supplemented by core studies in history and methodology and by a seminar shared by all doctoral students. Many courses have fieldwork and research components, opportunities to attend and present at local and national conferences, and seminars. Required and elective courses provide the student with a broad understanding of scholarship and research in education and prepare the student for meeting the qualifying examination requirements and for dissertation research and writing.

Students working toward a PhD in Education are expected to acquire an understanding of education as a complex social, cultural, and moral/political activity and as a field of study with rich literature bases and strong ties to disciplinary knowledge, classroom practice, and a variety of technologies. Our faculty bring special interests and expertise to the examination of educational interactions in such sites as schools, families, and other cultural institutions. Students are expected to acquire theoretical and empirical expertise in an area of concentration even as they demonstrate their broader understanding of educational processes and problems. Finally, students are expected to acquire methodological competence in empirical inquiry and to pursue questions that are of interest and import for the student individually as well as a larger educational community. Graduates of the PhD program should be prepared to join the community of professional educators who contribute to our understanding of the complexity of education and to continue
inquiring into educational processes and problems wherever they choose to work.

Integrating teaching and research with scholarly training involves the doctoral candidate in the central responsibilities of the professional educator. An advantage of a small department within the College of Arts & Sciences is that students have multiple opportunities to work closely with many of the faculty in the department. In addition, the university offers a climate supporting interdisciplinary conversations across schools, departments, and programs. As Education faculty, we encourage students to pursue learning experiences and contacts with faculty in other programs. Students encounter a diversity of disciplinary perspectives within and outside of the Department of Education in order to provide a broad understanding of the field.