Education

The Department of Education offers full-time programs for graduates who desire a Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT), a Master of Arts in Education (MAEd), or a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Education. In addition, the department offers a Graduate Certificate Program in Higher Education (GCPHE) for current Washington University doctoral students.

The teacher certification master's programs are ideal for recent graduates who have few if any formal courses in education. The Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) is for students seeking secondary teacher certification in a specific subject area; the Master of Arts in Education (MAEd) is for students seeking elementary teacher certification. Students interested in the elementary certification program may also consider the MAEd/MSW joint-degree program with the Brown School. The Teacher Education program principles include a commitment to an equitable and just education for all students; a knowledge of both the subject(s) to be taught and best practices in pedagogy; and the enactment of the role of teacher-as-inquirer.

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-baccalaureate program; it also offers those currently working in the classroom the opportunity to earn an MAEd through evening classes. For more information about part-time programs, visit the University College – Education page of this Bulletin.

The PhD in Education is aimed at strengthening and deepening the student's analytical understanding of education in both research and practice. Students working toward a PhD in Education are expected to acquire an understanding of education as a complex social, cultural, moral, and political activity undergirded by a commitment to advancing educational equity and countering the status quo. Students further engage with education as a field of study with rich literature bases and strong ties to disciplinary knowledge, classroom practice, and a variety of technologies. Through the PhD in Education, students work closely with our faculty who bring special interests and expertise to the examination of educational interactions in such contexts as schools, families, and other cultural institutions. Students are expected to acquire theoretical and empirical expertise in an area of concentration — Educational Policy Studies or Educational Psychology — even as they demonstrate their broader understanding of educational processes and problems. Moreover, students are expected to acquire methodological competence in empirical inquiry and to pursue research questions that are of interest and import for the student individually as well as for a larger educational community. Graduates of the PhD program will be prepared to join the community of professional scholars and educators who contribute to our understanding of the complexity of education.

The Graduate Certificate Program in Higher Education (GCPHE) is designed to provide an overview of historical and contemporary issues in higher education for doctoral students who wish to gain a greater understanding of higher education research, policy, assessment, and/or administrative practices. Current Washington University doctoral students who are interested in pursuing the Graduate Certificate in Higher Education may begin taking courses pursuant to the certificate upon entry into the university.

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