



FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY GRADUATE PROGRAMS



ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Educational Studies and Teacher Preparation Department of the Graduate School of Education and Allied Professions (GSEAP) offers graduate programs for new and experienced teachers in elementary education that are organized around reflective inquiry and socially responsible professional practice. Guided by the GSEAP conceptual framework, we are committed to educating scholar-practitioners who have the knowledge, skills, and dispositions to: enact meaningful connections between theory and practice; promote a developmental model of human growth and learning; exercise ethical professional judgment and leadership; and advocate for quality education for all learners. As members of an inclusive community of learners, we (University faculty, experienced and aspiring classroom teachers, and community members and leaders) work together to create and sustain exemplary learning environments that empower PK-12 students to become engaged, productive citizens in their communities.

GSEAP offers the opportunity to gain Connecticut certification to teach at the elementary level (grades 1-6), either initial certification or cross-endorsement and, to earn a master of arts degree in Elementary Education.

COURSE OF STUDY

The master of arts degree in Elementary Education leading to initial elementary certification in grades 1-6 requires 51 credits of coursework, which include the following:

COMPLETE A MINIMUM OF 51 CREDITS*

COMPLETE CORE COURSES (18 CREDITS):

- ED 429 Philosophical Foundations of Education
- ED 512 Contemporary Schooling in Society
- ED 522 Learning and the Child's Experience OR ED 442 Educational Psychology
- MD 400 Introduction to Educational Technology
- SE 403 Foundations in Research and Evaluation of Psychoeducational Issues in Special Education
- SE 565 Evidence-Based Strategies in the Inclusive Classroom

COMPLETE ELEMENTARY EDUCATION COURSEWORK (27 CREDITS)

- ED 405 Contexts of Education in the Primary Grades
- ED 431 Extending Literacy in the Elementary School: Grades 3-6
- ED 437 Developing Literacy in the Elementary School: Primary Grades
- ED 447 Learning Mathematics in the Elementary Classroom
- ED 497 Teaching Science in the Elementary Classroom
- ED 545 Developing Integrated Curriculum for Elementary Students: Inquiry & Action

- ED 583 Student Teaching: Immersion in a Community of Practice
- ED 584 Reflective Practice Seminar: Elementary Education

COMPLETE INTEGRATED INQUIRY/ADVOCACY SEQUENCE (6 CREDITS)

- ED 499 Introduction to Educational Research
- ED 511 Educating for Social Responsibility and Civic Engagement: A Capstone Seminar

*Based on elementary faculty evaluations, teacher candidates may also be required to take ED 441 Teaching and Learning within Multicultural Contexts of Education and/or ED 442 Educational Psychology.

A Passing Grade of B (3.0) or better in student teaching.

FIELDWORK AND PRACTICUM

The Graduate School puts special emphasis on the links between theory and practice and looks to fieldwork to provide insights into how theory can best be applied. Student teaching experiences and fieldwork in methods courses take place primarily in the Bridgeport, Stamford, Stratford, and Norwalk school systems.

TEACHER INTERNSHIP PROGRAMS (PAID INTERNSHIPS)

The internship for certified and non-certified teachers provides an opportunity for novice teachers and those considering re-entry into the profession to have a year's experience in a public school setting while pursuing either a master's degree or a sixth year certificate. During the internship year, interns assume a variety of responsibilities that vary according to their placement. Each semester, interns attend a weekly seminar that focuses on issues pertinent to their internship experiences. In return for the intern's service, the school district deposits up to \$15,000 with Fairfield University. The amount is banked for interns to draw upon for courses taken at Fairfield University toward their degree. The intern gains valuable hands-on experience while helping to defray a major portion of his or her tuition costs for the degree being pursued.

For more information about applying for an internship please contact internship@fairfield.edu.



Fairfield University

Graduate School of Education
and Allied Professions

WAIVER OF STUDENT TEACHING

Candidates who have completed 10 school months of successful teaching within 10 years prior to entry into an approved program (at the grade level, subject or field appropriate to the endorsement area, excluding substitute teaching) may apply to the State of Connecticut for a waiver of the student teaching requirements. The waiver must be recommended by the candidate's department. Candidates who qualify should request a waiver immediately upon admission to the program. They should submit their requests in writing to the certification officer in the dean's office (Dr. Anne Campbell), with a copy to their advisor, along with a completed copy of State Department of Education form ED 126.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Fairfield graduates are well received throughout the state and the region as teachers who have a thorough and balanced training. As they seek appointment to a school system in Connecticut, the reputation of the Graduate School of Education and Allied Professions and the recommendations of their teachers weigh heavily in their favor.

CONNECTICUT WRITING PROJECT

The Connecticut Writing Project/Fairfield University, an affiliate of the National Writing Project, is located on campus and is dedicated to improving students' writing abilities by strengthening the teaching and learning of writing, providing professional development programs for classroom teachers, and expanding the professional roles of teachers. Invitational summer courses are conducted by CWP/Fairfield and, with approval, may be used to fulfill degree requirements. For information about the CWP, contact Dr. Bryan Crandall at bcrandall@fairfield.edu.

STUDENT PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION

Phi Delta Kappa

PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Dr. Ryan Colwell

Phone: 203-254-4000, ext. 2586

E-mail: rcolwell@fairfield.edu

Dr. Colwell is the faculty advisor for the Elementary Education program. He is available to answer any specific questions you have about our program, discuss/develop a program of study for you, or to schedule an advising appointment.

For a complete faculty listing, see www.fairfield.edu/gseapfaculty.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Applicants for a master's degree must hold a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university (or the international equivalent) and give promise of meeting the standards set by the school. Applicants for certification must have completed at least 39 general education credits, including at least one course in the each of the following areas:

- English
- Natural science
- Mathematics
- Social studies
- Foreign language
- Fine arts
- U.S. history survey course (covering at least 50 years)

No more than six (6) credits of prerequisite coursework may be missing to be eligible for formal admission; this coursework must be completed before student teaching begins. Applicants must have a minimum B (3.0) GPA in their major.

FORMAL ADMISSION PROCESS

Applications will be reviewed when they are fully complete. Submit the application and all supporting materials well in advance of the semester for which you are applying to allow time for application review and program availability.

Students seeking admission must complete and submit the following online:

1. A completed application.
(Apply online at www.fairfield.edu/geapp.)
2. A non-refundable \$60 application fee.
3. A professional résumé.
4. A personal statement. Students should describe why they want to undertake graduate studies in the program for which they are applying.
5. Official transcripts from all universities/colleges attended. We generally expect applicants to have a minimum undergraduate cumulative GPA of 3.0. Any applicant whose undergraduate GPA is lower than 2.67 must request and receive a GPA waiver from the department. Waivers are granted on a case by case basis and may require supplemental undergraduate coursework to increase the undergraduate GPA and/or earning a B or better in two or more approved graduate-level courses. All foreign transcripts must be evaluated by an approved evaluating service. A list of approved evaluators is available at www.fairfield.edu/eval. Students may be required to take one or more English writing courses if their writing skills do not meet graduate level standards. Upon the granting of a GPA waiver, an approval form signed by the Department and the Dean's office will be placed in the student's file. Candidates who are granted a GPA waiver and are admitted must maintain a minimum GPA of 3.0 to be permitted to continue in the program. Candidates applying for admission to a certification program should note that Connecticut State certification program standards for formal admission to an approved initial educator certification program require candidates to possess a minimum undergraduate cumulative grade point average of B- (2.67 on a 4.0 GPA scale), unless an approved GPA waiver form documents that a waiver was granted.

6. Applicants must have taken one of the following tests: the Praxis Core, SAT, ACT or GRE and provide official scores for their file. Applicants who do not have passing scores on one or more sections may be required to remediate any deficient area. Remediation may include re-taking and passing the sections that were not passed, taking additional coursework, or other remediation activities. If additional courses are required, the candidate must complete the coursework at a grade of B (3.0) or above and provide an official transcript to the Dean's office prior to student teaching or internship. Please see advisor for additional details and recommendations. If students provide their social security number to Educational Testing Services (ETS) www.ets.org/praxis when registering for the Praxis Core exam, the reported score will automatically be uploaded to their Fairfield application file. Our code is 3390.
7. Participate in an admissions interview (applicants are notified regarding an interview after a paper review of their credentials.)
8. All international students whose native language is not English must demonstrate proficiency in the English language by taking either TOEFL or IELTS exams. For admission to the graduate school, a TOEFL composite score of 550 for the paper test, 213 for the computer-based test, 80 on the internet-based test or an IELTS score of 6.5 is strongly recommended. Scores must be sent directly from the Educational Testing Service (TOEFL) or www.IELTS.org. Fairfield's ETS code is 3390.

Submit transcripts and any other documents that cannot be uploaded to:

Fairfield University
Office of Graduate Admission
Kelley Center
1073 North Benson Road
Fairfield, CT 06824

BACKGROUND CHECK AND FINGERPRINTING

Fingerprinting and background checks are required for certification programs. Please contact the Dean's office at 203-254-4250 for updated information.

MANDATORY IMMUNIZATIONS

Connecticut State law requires each full-time or matriculated student to provide proof of immunity or screening against measles, mumps, rubella, varicella (chicken pox), meningitis and tuberculosis. Certain exemptions based on age and housing status apply. Matriculating students are defined as those enrolled in a degree seeking program. More detailed information and the required downloadable forms are available online at www.fairfield.edu/immunization. Completed forms should be submitted directly to the Student Health Center. Although this is not required to complete an application, you must provide proof of immunity/screening prior to course registration. Please consult your private health care provider to obtain the necessary immunizations. Questions may be directed to the Student Health Center: 203-254-4000 ext. 2241 or e-mail health@fairfield.edu.

NON-MATRICULATED STUDENT STATUS

Under our Non-Matriculated Status option, qualified students may take two or three courses (depending on the program of study) before gaining admission to a degree or certification program. This option provides a wonderful opportunity for qualified students to explore degree options and to confirm personal goals and readiness for graduate study. Qualifications to be considered include a bachelor's degree (required) and other qualifications related to your preparedness for graduate-level studies in the field of interest to you. Successful completion of coursework does not guarantee formal admission.

Individuals enrolled as non-matriculated students are not eligible for any tuition and/or financial support.

NON-MATRICULATED ADMISSION

Qualified applicants who have not completed the formal admission process may apply for permission to enroll as a non-matriculated student and earn up to 6 credits in a certification program and up to 9 credits in a non-certification program.

(The number of non-matriculated credits are limited if the student has transfer credits to be considered.)

- Apply online - Graduate Admission Application fairfield.edu/applynow
- Submit \$60 application fee
- Answer "Yes" to the Non-Matriculated student question
- Choose Term to begin course work
- Upload unofficial undergraduate transcript with degree posted to application file *
- Contact the GSEAP Dean's office at (203) 254-4250 to be directed to the appropriate advisor for an interview.

*In order to become a fully matriculated student see Formal Admission Process..

MAXIMUM CREDITS ALLOWED BEFORE FORMAL ADMISSION

The total number of credits earned before formal admission to a program (i.e., the total number of transfer credits plus any credits earned as a non-matriculated student) may not exceed 6 (six) credits for applicants to certification programs or 9 (nine) credits for applicants to non-certification programs.

TUITION/FINANCIAL AID

Academic Year 2018-2019
Tuition: \$775 per credit hour

A graduate education can provide countless professional and personal rewards in the future. However, the costs associated with earning a master's degree may be challenging. Many students need to look beyond their own financial resources or the resources of their employer for assistance. There are many ways to finance a graduate education, including graduate assistantships, federal direct loan programs and our Veterans Pride Program, which are all discussed at www.fairfield.edu/gradfa.

OFFICE OF FINANCIAL AID

Advisors from the Office of Financial Aid are committed to helping students find the options that best suit each of their needs. We encourage all Fairfield University graduate students to contact the Financial Aid office with any questions or to make an appointment to speak with a counselor.

FINANCIAL AID CONTACT INFORMATION

Phone: 203-254-4125
Fax: 203-254-4008
E-mail: finaid@fairfield.edu

FINANCIAL AID OFFICE OPERATIONS

Days: Monday-Friday
Hours: 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Location: Aloysius P. Kelley, S.J. Center

MORE INFORMATION

ADMISSION QUESTIONS

Questions about the application process should be directed to the **Office of Graduate Admission**.

Phone: 203-254-4184
Fax: 203-254-4073
E-mail: gradadmis@fairfield.edu

OFFICE OPERATIONS

Days: Monday-Friday
Hours: 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Location: Aloysius P. Kelley, S.J. Center

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION AND ALLIED PROFESSIONS WEBSITE

www.fairfield.edu/gseap

ONLINE CATALOG

For detailed course descriptions and other University information, please refer to our online catalog www.fairfield.edu/catalogs.