PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Fairfield University has one of the oldest bilingual teacher education programs in Connecticut. Bilingual education courses have been offered since 1974 and bilingual certification programs since 1981. The elementary and secondary Bilingual Education programs are continuously updated to meet the changing demographics of today’s English language learners. The programs are designed for certified teachers and pre-service candidates who have fulfilled the Connecticut requirements for initial teaching certification. The bilingual programs prepare educators to teach the k-12 grade-level academic curriculum in a language other than English to students who are learning English as a second or additional language. The Graduate School of Education and Allied Professions offers an MA degree and Sixth Year Certificate of Advanced Study (SYC) with cross-endorsements in elementary or secondary bilingual education. Cross-endorsement only programs without the MA or SYC are also available. The Fairfield bilingual education programs benefit from the University’s proximity to schools with long-established ESL, bilingual, and World Language programs, as well as from extensive collaboration with communities and local schools.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS FOR THE BILINGUAL MA DEGREE, SIXTH YEAR CERTIFICATE, AND CROSS-ENDORSEMENTS

Applicants interested in a bilingual education program must demonstrate proficiency in English and at least one other language in accordance with the current Connecticut State Department of Education regulations. Proficiency is measured by a minimum score of “Advanced Low” on the American Council of Foreign Language Teachers (ACTFL) Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) and Written Proficiency Test in a world language and the OPI in English.

Required courses are outlined below. Some courses may be substituted at the discretion of the program coordinator in consultation with the candidate.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MA IN ELEMENTARY BILINGUAL EDUCATION WITH A CONCENTRATION IN LEADERSHIP IN ENGLISH ACQUISITION PEDAGOGY (LEAP) (33 CREDITS)

This degree option is designed for certified k-6 elementary teachers currently teaching in Connecticut k-12 schools.

1. Complete the following required bilingual courses (33 credits)
   - SL 419 Special Learners in the Bilingual/ESL Classroom
   - SL 420 Linguistic Foundations of English Acquisition
   - SL 421 Linguistics and Language Assessment
   - SL 423 Foundations of Bilingualism and Bilingual Education Acquisition OR SL 467 Language Acquisition
   - SL 436 TESOL Methods and Materials Development
   - SL 441 Teaching and Learning in Multicultural Contexts of Education
   - SL 530 Content Language and Reading Acquisition for English Language Learners and Learners with Special Needs

2. Complete 2 electives chosen with advisor (6 credits)

3. Complete one practicum course.
   - SL 433 TESOL/Bilingual Advanced Practicum Elementary

4. One capstone course
   - SL 540 Capstone Seminar in English Acquisition Pedagogy

(continued on next page)
STATE CERTIFICATION IN BILINGUAL EDUCATION (CROSS-ENDORSEMENT ONLY)

The elementary and secondary Bilingual Cross-Endorsements are for certified teachers with k-6 elementary or 7-12 secondary academic subject certification. Fairfield University 5th year candidates who are completing their initial certification requirements may also be considered for admission to the cross-endorsement programs. The cross-endorsements require 18 hours of Bilingual Education coursework, which must be completed at one university. The programs are tailored to meet the specific needs of the context in which the candidate is employed. Coursework includes study in each of the following areas: first and second language acquisition, including language and literacy development; linguistic and academic assessment; cross-cultural sensitivity and communication; strategies for modifying English content area instruction; methods of teaching English as a second language; and methods of teaching bilingual education.

BILINGUAL DURATIONAL SHORTAGE AREA PERMIT (DSAP)

Certified teachers seeking a DSAP position in bilingual education who have completed the ACTFL OPI and WPT requirements and are fully enrolled in an elementary or secondary cross-endorsement, MA or SYC program may be eligible to apply for a DSAP while completing the cross-endorsement requirements.

GRADUATE PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Dr. Anne Campbell
Phone: 203-254-4000 ext. 2873
E-mail: acampbell@fairfield.edu

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

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Applicants for a master’s degree or the cross-endorsement programs 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.

Candidates seeking cross-endorsement in Bilingual Education must verify fluency in English and in the second language of instruction by passing the ACTFL OPI exam in English and the OPI and WPT in the second language at the Advanced Low level. They must hold current Connecticut State certification in either Elementary Education or Secondary Education.

FORMAL ADMISSION PROCESS

Applications will be reviewed when they are fully complete. Submit 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. Applicants are required to submit a current résumé that includes employment and educational history.
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](http://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 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](http://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. Candidates seeking cross-endorsement in Bilingual Education must verify fluency in English and in the second language of instruction by passing the ACTFL OPI exam in English and the OPI and WPT in the second language at the Advanced Low level. They must hold current Connecticut State certification in either Elementary Education or Secondary Education.

8. Two recommendations, one of which must be from a current employer or supervisor.

9. Participate in an admissions interview.

10. 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, 84 on the internet-based test with a minimum score of 21 in reading and 23 in writing is required. An IELTS score of 7.5 is required. Scores must be sent directly from the Educational Testing Service (TOEFL) or [www.IELTS.org](http://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](http://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.) Application Instructions for non-matriculated admission:

- Apply online - Graduate Admission Application: [www.fairfield.edu/applynow](http://www.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 2018-19

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.

For gainful employment disclosures, see www.fairfield.edu/gainfulemploy.

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Phone: 203-254-4184
Fax: 203-254-4073
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