The Educational Studies and Teacher Preparation Department, located in the Graduate School of Education and Allied Professions (GSEAP), in close collaboration with the College of Arts and Sciences, offers:

• An 18-credit minor in Special Education open to all interested undergraduate students

• A Fifth Year Integrated Bachelor of Arts/Master of Arts Degree Teacher Certification Program in Special Education

Our programs are organized around reflective inquiry and socially responsible professional practice. 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.

Faculty of the Educational Studies and Teacher Preparation Department are available for individual advising by appointment throughout the year.

THE MINOR IN SPECIAL EDUCATION

The minor in special education is designed to meet the needs of all interested students who wish to deepen their understanding of education, teaching, and learning in preparation for a variety of careers, including, but not limited to, careers as special education teachers, in grades K-12, and for students with varying disabilities in a range of settings and classroom models. The minor in special education is open to all undergraduates at Fairfield University. Applications to the minor in special education are reviewed on a rolling basis for currently enrolled Fairfield University students. There is no need to enroll in the teacher education program to declare this minor.

• Prerequisite to declare minor:
  1) 15 credits
  2) Permission from the GSEAP undergraduate special education advisor

  • Six courses totaling 18 credit hours* as follows:
    1) ED 200 Explorations in Education: Teaching, Learning, and Schooling
    2) SE 350 Special Learners in the Mainstream Classroom
    3) SE 310 Autism Spectrum Disorders: Theories and Interventions
    4) SE 311 Introduction to Individuals With Intellectual Disabilities
    5) SE 313 Theories of and Introduction to Learning Disabilities
    6) SE 317 Introduction to Children and Youth With Emotional Disturbances

• Certain courses taken to fulfill the minor in special education may be used to fulfill requirements for the undergraduate core and US diversity requirements.

TEACHER EDUCATION

Our teacher preparation programs are accredited by the State of Connecticut and nationally recognized by the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation and the Council for Exceptional Children. Students who successfully complete the Fifth Year Special Education Program at Fairfield qualify for an initial teaching certificate as special educators (K-12).

This certificate is recognized by 38 other states and the District of Columbia, all of which participate in the NASDTEC Interstate Contract.

Fifth Year Integrated Bachelor’s/Master’s Degree Special Education Teacher Certification Program Highlights:

• Students earn a BA or BS in their major
• Students earn a minor in special education (18 credits) and take two additional teacher preparation courses as undergraduate students in addition to a comprehensive exam
• Students continue special education teacher preparation as graduate students, completing a 30 credit MA special education program (about 14 months, which includes student teaching)
• Students earn an MA in special education and are eligible for CT teaching certification (K-12)
• Paid teaching internships may be available during the graduate year (up to $15,000 tuition remission)

ADMISSION PROCESS

To be admitted to the Fifth Year Integrated Bachelor’s/ Master’s Degree Teacher Education Program in special education, students must first: declare the minor in special education; successfully earn 45 credits; maintain a minimum GPA of 2.67, and 3.0 GPA in their certification major.
There are two phases of the admission process for the Fifth Year Program: Level I and Level II. Admission to Level I does not guarantee admission to Level II.

Level I
To be admitted to the undergraduate phase of the special education program (Level I), students must:
1. Declare a minor in special education
2. Major in any discipline
3. Successfully earn 45 credits
4. Possess and maintain an overall minimum GPA of 2.67
5. Maintain a 3.0 GPA in their major
6. Maintain satisfactory progress in the minor in special education and/or additional special education courses, indicated by a minimum GPA of 3.0 in ED/SE courses
7. Meet with the director of the Special Education Program to discuss major and minor requirements and complete the Level I checklist for the undergraduate phase of the Special Education Fifth Year Program
   - Checklists can be completed as early as spring of a student's sophomore year and no later than spring of their junior year.
   - Level I checklists must be completed by October 15 in the fall semester or by March 1 in spring semester

Level II
To be admitted to the graduate phase of the Fifth Year Program (Level II) students must complete and submit the following, online, by February 1 of their senior year. The $60 application fee is waived for current students:
1. A complete application (apply online at www.fairfield.edu/applynow)
2. A professional resume
3. A personal statement describing intent for studying in the program
4. Official transcript (minimum GPA of 2.67 and 3.0 in major)
5. Two recommendations
6. 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 higher and provide an official transcript to the GSEAP Dean’s Office prior to starting student teaching or internships. Students should contact their advisor for additional details and recommendations. If students provide their social security number to ETS at www.ets.org/praxis when registering for the Praxis Core exam, the reported score will automatically be uploaded to their Fairfield application file. Fairfield University’s code is 3390.
7. An admission interview with program faculty
8. Record of immunizations

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 apply. 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. 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.

FACULTY CONTACT
The program director for the Fifth Year Bachelor’s/ Master’s Special Education Teacher Certification Program can provide further information about the minor in special education and about the Fifth Year program in Special Education at Fairfield. Admission information sessions for all programs are offered each semester, and the faculty of the Educational Studies and Teacher Preparation Department will be available for personal conferences throughout the year.
For more information, please contact:
Dr. Alyson Martin
Canisius Hall, room 219
Phone: 203-254-4000, ext. 3024
E-mail: amartin8@fairfield.edu
Dr. Emily Shamash
Canisius Hall, room 220
Phone: 203-254-4000, ext. 3236
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MINORITY TEACHER INCENTIVE GRANTS
The Minority Teacher Incentive Grant Program provides up to $5,000 a year for two years of full-time study in a teacher preparation program. As an added bonus, you may receive up to $2,500 a year, for up to four years, to help pay off college loans if you teach in a Connecticut public elementary or secondary school. To qualify, you must be a full time college junior or senior of AfricanAmerican, Hispanic/Latino, Asian-American, or Native American heritage, and be nominated by the teacher education faculty. To apply, obtain a nomination form from www.ctohe.org/sfa/pdfs/MTIPForm.pdf.

TEACHER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM
The Graduate School of Education and Allied Professions offers teaching internships for both certified and noncertified teachers studying for a master’s degree or sixth year certificate at Fairfield. The internship gives you a year of full-time, hands-on experience in a public school setting and up to $15,000 towards your studies, while offering local schools additional competent staff members and potential future employees. For more information or an application, contact internship@fairfield.edu. You must be formally admitted to a master’s degree program to be eligible.