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. Christine Siegel), with a copy to their advisor, along with a completed copy of State Department of Education form ED 126.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:
Office of Graduate and Continuing Admission
Marianne Gumpper, director
mgumpper@fairfield.edu
(203) 254-4000, ext. 2908

ACADEMIC QUESTIONS:
Faith-Anne Dohm, Ph.D.
Professor & Associate Dean
Graduate School of Education & Allied Professions
fdohm@fairfield.edu
(203) 254-4000, ext. 4250

1. Inform the Diocese deputy superintendent of your interest in the partnership:
Sr. Mary Grace Walsh, A.S.C. J.
Deputy Superintendent of Schools
The Catholic Center
238 Jewett Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06606-2802
Tel: (203) 416-1397
E-mail: mgwalsh@diobpt.org
Or you may complete and submit the attached Interest Form.

2. Upon approval by the DOB, go to Fairfield University’s website at www.fairfield.edu/grad and click on “Apply Now.” Complete the application, making sure to answer “yes” to the question “Are you a DOB teacher applying under the Partnership for Teacher Certification?”

3. The application for admission is to be completed online. Supporting documents, including official transcript(s) of all undergraduate and graduate coursework, proof of passing or waiving the Praxis I, two recommendations, resume, and personal statement, should be mailed directly to:
Fairfield University
Office of Graduate Admission
1073 North Benson Road
Fairfield, CT 06824

4. Submit the complete application by the relevant program deadline. See www.fairfield.edu/gseapdeadlines.
Fairfield University and the Diocese of Bridgeport (DOB) have entered into a partnership agreement to support DOB classroom teachers in earning Connecticut state educator certification. This effort will ensure the excellence of lay teachers in the K-12 classrooms of the Diocese and is consistent with the University’s mission and its commitment to social justice and meeting the educational needs of the surrounding urban communities.

Through this partnership, the Graduate School of Education and Allied Professions (GSEAP) at Fairfield University provides graduate level study in its state-accredited elementary and secondary teacher certification programs to participating Diocesan classroom teachers with the University and the Diocese covering most of the cost. Currently employed full-time elementary and secondary teachers in DOB schools have the opportunity to earn Connecticut state educator certification as well as credits toward the master of arts degree. Study in the elementary education program leads to state teacher certification in grades K through 6 while the secondary program leads to subject specialization in grades 7 through 12 in the following endorsement areas: English, Mathematics, History/Social Studies, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Integrated Science, Spanish, Latin, French, and German. At this time, the project does not support additional certifications for those who already hold Connecticut state certification.

TIMES HAVE CHANGED, but the excellence of Catholic education has not.

Most Reverend William E. Lori, S.T.D.
Bishop of Bridgeport

The Fairfield University-Diocese of Bridgeport Teacher Certification Partnership

Tuition Remission Agreement

The partnership establishes a generous tuition remission, enabling participating Diocesan teachers to receive the following tuition support for up to two courses per term while they complete their certification coursework:

- Fairfield University pays 50 percent of the tuition.
- Bridgeport Diocesan Schools pay 25 percent of the tuition.
- The participating teacher pays 25 percent of the tuition, the course registration fee, and any lab fee, if applicable.

Academic and Certification Advisement

Careful academic advisement, a unique feature of the program, is provided before, during, and after formal admission. Since DOB teachers possess varied academic and experiential backgrounds, those interested in participating in the partnership can attend pre-admission informational sessions, in which GSEAP education faculty provide specifics about state certification regulations, including prerequisites, subject area coursework, and testing. Information about GSEAP certification program curricula will be discussed and individual transcripts can be reviewed in order to advise on the extent of coursework needed for formal admission and for certification. Some teachers may have already completed the coursework necessary to apply for certification, while others may only need a few courses to fulfill certification regulations or may need to complete all of the required coursework as a partnership candidate.

To be considered for this partnership program, teachers must hold a bachelor’s degree, be a current full-time teacher with experience in the area of the intended certification, and have the approval of the Diocese’s superintendent of schools. Teachers must also be formally admitted to the Graduate School of Education and Allied Professions before participating under the partnership agreement.

Course of Study

GSEAP graduate programs in teacher education focus on designing and planning curriculum, understanding the teaching and learning process, choosing appropriate methods of instruction, meeting the needs of all learners, developing teacher professionalism, addressing multicultural issues in education, and incorporating technology into the curriculum.

At Fairfield University, the Curriculum and Instruction Department faculty will advise DOB participants on a case-by-case basis to determine the coursework needed to fulfill certification regulations. Requirements will vary according to academic background and experience. A candidate’s individualized program might include as few as six graduate credits or as many as 18 credits in the case of secondary educators or 39 credits for elementary educators. Student teaching will be waived based on teaching experience. Additional undergraduate courses in the teaching subject area or general education coursework may be required of some candidates. Graduate coursework taken in pursuing certification may also be used to fulfill the master of arts degree requirements.

It is expected that teachers applying for this program have a full-time position at a diocesan elementary or secondary school and continue their employment throughout the time they are enrolled. Additionally, in return for the discounted tuition rates, there is a requirement to continue to serve in a diocesan school for three years upon completion of the program.

Fairfield University - Office for Education

Elementary and Secondary Teacher Certification Program

Fairfield University

In order to apply for this program, please complete the information below, have it signed by your principal and return it to:

Sr. Mary Grace Walsh, ASCJ
Deputy Superintendent of Schools
Office for Education
238 Jewett Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06606-2892

NAME OF APPLICANT

HOME ADDRESS

PHONE NUMBER

E-MAIL

CURRENT SCHOOL

YEARS TEACHING IN THE DIOCESE OF BRIDGEPORT (INCLUDING THIS YEAR)

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT

SIGNATURE OF CURRENT PRINCIPAL

SIGNATURE OF SUPERINTENDENT (or designee)

The Office for Education of the Diocese of Bridgeport will notify you once you have been approved for this special program.