

# GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION AND ALLIED PROFESSIONS

## A Message from the Dean

Welcome to the Graduate School of Education and Allied Professions (GSEAP) at Fairfield University. For over 50 years, Fairfield has offered high-quality graduate programs in education and human services. Whether your goal is advancement in your current field, a change in career, professional certification, or an advanced degree, we are well positioned to help you meet your goals. Our graduates make significant contributions in fields serving children, youth, adults, families, communities and organizations.

In keeping with the Jesuit tradition, our programs are committed to serving the community while challenging you intellectually. Our caring and committed faculty offer a rigorous course of study, with a broad range of courses that integrate critical reflection, extensive field experience, and the most current research in the field. Our programs are fully accredited and are tailored for working professionals. Classes are scheduled in the evening for fall and spring semesters and in a variety of accelerated formats during the summer.

This catalog has been designed to serve as a reference guide to academic programs, requirements, and resources. It describes the programs that lead to a master of arts degree and a sixth year certificate of advanced study and requirements for a variety of professional credentials. Please see the GSEAP website for course schedules.

The faculty and staff of the Graduate School of Education and Allied Professions join me in wishing you every success as you pursue your academic and professional goals at Fairfield University.

**Bob Hannafin, Ph.D.**  
*Dean*

## Overview

The Graduate School of Education and Allied Professions (GSEAP) prepares students for professional roles in public and private schools, allied health and human service agencies, and for profit and non-profit corporations. Currently, the School enrolls two-thirds of all graduate students at Fairfield University. Consistent with Fairfield's Jesuit traditions and mission, GSEAP reaches out to the community - engaging faculty and students in public service and providing career development programs to professionals in the state and region.

## Unit Mission and Conceptual Framework

The Graduate School of Education and Allied Professions advances the mission of Fairfield University by providing advanced education and by preparing professionals to teach, counsel, evaluate, and serve the wider community in ways that reflect Jesuit values. The departments within the School share a commitment to prepare graduates who believe in the inherent worth and dignity of all people; promote the well-being of individuals, couples, families, communities, and organizations; commit to serving a diverse society; possess strong content, pedagogical, and clinical knowledge relevant to their field; understand the impact of informational technologies on the individual, family, and community; and uphold the highest standards of professional conduct. The School

promotes and supports the development of intellectual rigor, personal integrity, collaboration, informed decision-making, self-reflection, and social responsibility.

The knowledge base that informs the Unit's approach to professional education, and that is central to its conceptual framework, is rooted in four key tenets of the Jesuit tradition that are found in the Mission of the University. They are:

- Freedom: Belief in the inherent worth and dignity of each person.
- Scholarship: Intellectual curiosity, rigor, critical thinking, and moral analysis.
- Justice: Commitment to greater good through service and advocacy as change agents and/or leaders within the chosen profession.
- Truth: Commitment to research and ethical decision-making.

These four tenets support the fundamental intellectual/ethical commitments that define our various courses of study: The Scholar/Practitioner Component; the Developmental Human Growth and Learning Component; the Reflective Practitioner Component; and the Advocacy for All Children and Families Component. Given the breadth of programs and faculty that comprise the Unit, this knowledge base is diverse, drawing on various theoretical and philosophical perspectives. However, when we look across the programs, we find that our common philosophy and principles stem from core theories, research, and practical wisdom about how people develop, learn, teach, counsel, and serve others.

## Disposition Statement

Education, psychology, and mental health professionals are vested by the public with a trust and responsibility requiring the highest ideals of professional service. Central to the mission of the Graduate School of Education and Allied Professions (GSEAP) are the personal and professional qualities and characteristics of students who aspire to work in these fields. Therefore, candidates of the Graduate School of Education and Allied Professions are required to adhere to the highest standards of ethical and professional conduct.

All prospective and admitted candidates of the Graduate School of Education and Allied Professions shall demonstrate personal and professional dispositions that are:

- embodied in the mission statement of the Graduate School of Education and Allied Professions and articulated in the school's expected student learning outcomes;
- outlined in the ethical codes, rules, policies and procedures, administrative regulations, and laws applicable to their chosen profession; and
- mandated by their particular graduate programs and departments as stated in the program handbooks.

If the program faculty and the Dean of the Graduate School of Education and Allied Professions determines that a candidate or admitted student does not meet these personal and professional dispositional requirements, the candidate or student may be denied admission, dismissed from the program following admission, required to withdraw from courses, complete academic remediation and/or undergo appropriate counseling or other intervention as a condition of continued placement in the program.

Students who believe they are aggrieved by any such determination may appeal the decision by following the academic grievance procedures.

## The School

Since its first graduation in 1951, the Graduate School of Education and Allied Professions has awarded 9,924 master's degrees and 2,529 certificates of advanced study (as of May 2017). The current structure of the School consists of four departments that house 19 distinct programs of study. Ten of those programs are accredited by the Connecticut State Department of Education for the issuance of certificates to practice those professions. In addition to the accreditation of state certification programs, the departments of Marriage and Family Therapy and Counselor Education are nationally accredited by their professional organizations. The School has earned the reputation of being a model of excellence and innovation within its various professional communities. By engaging in continual internal program assessment, the School is able to create and maintain curricular offerings and clinical field experiences that keep the GSEAP on the leading edge of all of our disciplines.

## Accreditation

The Graduate School of Education and Allied Professions is Approved by the Connecticut State Department of Education, the Connecticut State Office of Higher Education, and fully accredited by

- Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE)
- Council for the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP)
- National Association of School Psychologists (NASP)
- National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education/Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (NCATE/CAEP)

## Degrees

The Graduate School of Allied Professions offers degrees in the following areas:

- Counselor Education (<https://catalog.fairfield.edu/graduate/education-allied-professions/programs/counselor-education>)
- Educational Studies and Teacher Preparation (<https://catalog.fairfield.edu/graduate/education-allied-professions/programs/educational-studies-teacher-preparation>)
- Educational Technology (<https://catalog.fairfield.edu/graduate/education-allied-professions/programs/educational-technology>)
- Marriage and Family Therapy (<https://catalog.fairfield.edu/graduate/education-allied-professions/programs/marriage-family-therapy>)
- Psychological and Educational Consultation (<https://catalog.fairfield.edu/graduate/education-allied-professions/programs/psychological-educational-consultation>)
- Reading and Language Development (<https://catalog.fairfield.edu/graduate/education-allied-professions/programs/reading-language-development>)
- Special Education (<https://catalog.fairfield.edu/graduate/education-allied-professions/programs/special-education>)
- TESOL and Bilingual Education (<https://catalog.fairfield.edu/graduate/education-allied-professions/programs/tesol-bilingual-education>)

GSEAP offers two levels of professional graduate degree programs: the Master of Arts and the Sixth Year Certificate.

Courses of study leading to a Master of Arts degree include the following:

- Bilingual Education (elementary and secondary)
- Clinical Mental Health Counseling
- Educational Technology
- Elementary Education
- Family Studies
- Foundations of Advanced Psychology (Applied Psychology)
- Industrial/Organizational Psychology
- Marriage & Family Therapy
- School Counseling
- School Psychology
- Secondary Education: Biology, Chemistry, General Science, Physics, English, French, German, Latin, Spanish, Mathematics, Social Studies/History (7-12)
- Special Education
- Teaching and Foundations (TEFO)
- Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL)

Courses of study leading to a Sixth Year Certificate (SYC) include the following:

- Bilingual Education
- Clinical Mental Health Counseling
- Foundations in Education
- Reading and Language Development
- School Counseling
- School Psychology
- Special Education
- Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL)

Approved Connecticut State Department of Education certification programs at the graduate level include:

- Elementary Education (1-6)
- School Counseling
- School Psychology
- Secondary Education in English, Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, General Science, French, German, Latin, Spanish, and Social Studies/History (7-12)
- Special Education (K-12)
- TESOL (PK-12)

Approved Connecticut Department of Higher Education Advanced Training Certificates at the graduate level include:

- Applied Behavior Analysis
- Integration of Spirituality & Religion into Counseling
- School-Based Marriage & Family Therapy
- Substance Abuse Counseling

## Degree Requirements Overview

### Master of Arts

1. Candidates must complete the number of credits specified by the program.
2. Candidates must complete the number of credits in their major field and approved electives as specified by the program.

3. Candidates are required to pass a written comprehensive examination or complete other program-specific culminating requirements in the work offered for the degree. To be eligible to register for comprehensive examinations, candidates must complete the minimum number of semester hours of coursework determined by their program. We recommend that candidates take the comprehensive examination at least one semester prior to their anticipated semester of graduation. Candidates who fail the comprehensive examinations twice may be dismissed from their program.
4. Candidates must have a minimum grade point average of 3.00 to be eligible to graduate.
5. Candidates must submit an online Application for Degree by the scheduled deadline.

All candidates must register for the comprehensive examination course relevant to their program of study at the beginning of the semester during which they plan to take the examination. Refer to the graduate school calendar for the registration deadline.

### **Sixth Year Certificate**

1. Candidates enrolled in a Sixth Year Certificate (SYC) program must complete a minimum of 30 credits in an approved program. Those whose previous program of study was in a field other than that selected for the sixth year of study will be required to complete certain introductory graduate courses before being accepted for advanced study.
2. Candidates must have a minimum overall grade point average of 3.00. Any grade below a B- will not be credited toward a SYC.
3. Candidates must submit an online Application for Degree by the scheduled deadline.