Level II.

Level I and Level II. Admission to Level I does not guarantee admission to Level II. There are two phases of the admission process to the Five Year Program: Admission to the undergraduate phase of the Five-Year Program (Level I), and to the graduate phase of the Five-Year Program (Level II).

Undergraduates wanting to declare a minor in Educational Studies or Special Education should meet with the Program Director as early in their studies as possible. Anyone interested in applying to the Five-Year Program must first declare the minor. Decisions for formal admission to the Five-Year Integrated Bachelor and Master of Arts teacher education program are made by March 15 and October 15 for Level I and on February 1 for Level II. Information sessions for the minor in Educational Studies and Special Education and the Five-Year teacher education program are offered each semester, and the faculty of the Educational Studies and Teacher Preparation Department are available for individual advising by appointment throughout the year.

Teacher Education

Candidates interested in pursuing certification to teach Elementary Education (Grades 1-6), Secondary Education (Grades 7-12) or Special Education (Grades K-12) can do so through one of three 5-year Bachelor and Master of Arts Programs in Teacher Education. The Teacher Education Programs prepare 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 K-12 students to become engaged, productive citizens in their communities. Across all programs, our foci for inquiry and action include the socio-cultural and political contexts of education and schooling, the complexities of teaching and learning, teacher work and professional cultures, culturally relevant understandings of human growth and development, and socially responsible uses of technology in schooling and society.

Descriptions of all the required education undergraduate and graduate courses are found in the School of Education and Human Development section of this catalog. Descriptions of undergraduate courses are found under appropriate departmental course listings.

Admission

Elementary and Secondary Education

To be admitted to the Five-Year Integrated Bachelors-Master’s degree teacher education programs, students must first declare the minor in Educational Studies; successfully earn 45 credits; maintain a minimum GPA of 3.00 in their certification major and 2.67 cumulative GPA.

There are two phases of the admission process to the Five Year Program: Level I and Level II. Admission to Level I does not guarantee admission to Level II.

Application to Level I

To be admitted to the undergraduate phase of the teacher education program (Level I), students must:

1. Declare a minor in Educational Studies.
2. Major in an approved discipline within the College of Arts and Sciences.
3. Successfully earn 45 credits.
4. Possess and maintain a minimum of 2.67 overall GPA.
5. Maintain a 3.00 GPA in their certification area major.
6. Complete Level I Application to the undergraduate phase of the Five-Year Program (contact the program director).
7. Meet with the Director of the Five-Year Program and appropriate Educational Studies & Teacher Preparation Program faculty to discuss major and minor requirements.
8. Submit an application as early as spring of sophomore year and no later than spring of junior year.

Application to Level II

To be admitted to the graduate phase of the Five-Year Program (Level II), students must complete and submit the following online by February 1 of their senior year (the application fee is waived for current students):

A complete application (apply online) which includes:

1. A professional resume
2. A personal statement describing intent for studying in the program
3. Official transcript (minimum GPA of 2.67 and 3.0 in major)
4. Two recommendations
5. 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 School of Education and Human Development 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 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.
6. An admission interview with program faculty
7. Record of immunizations
8. Description of any remediation activities
9. Record of undergraduate and graduate coursework

Students seeking certification must maintain at least a B (3.00) average in their major or the relevant content area courses in order to pursue the 5th year. In view of the teacher’s role in the school and community, candidates whose relevant academic productivity is marginal or inadequate, who do not embody a socially responsible professional disposition, or who demonstrate unsuitable personal qualities, will not be recommended for continuation in the teacher preparation program, student teaching placement, or state certification. In addition, all prospective and admitted candidates to an undergraduate teacher education program are expected to demonstrate the personal and professional dispositions that are embodied in the Mission Statement of the School of Education and Human Development and outlined in the ethical codes of their chosen profession.
Special Education

To be admitted to the Special Education Five-Year Integrated Bachelors-Master's degree teacher education programs, students must first declare the minor in Educational Studies; successfully earn 45 credits; maintain a minimum GPA of 3.00 in their certification major and 2.67 cumulative.

To be admitted to the undergraduate phase of the special education teacher education program, students must:

Application to Level I
1. Contact program director
2. Declare a minor in Educational Studies: Special Education
3. Major in any discipline and maintain a 3.0 GPA
4. Possess and maintain a minimum of 2.67 overall GPA.
5. Maintain a minimum of 3.00 GPA in the minor
6. Successfully earn 45 credits.
7. Earn a minimum grade of B in EDUC 2201 Explorations in Education and EDUC 3350 Special Learners in the Mainstream.
8. Meet with the director of the Special Education Program to discuss major and minor requirements and complete the Level I application for the undergraduate phase of the Special Education Fifth Year Program. Applications can be completed as early as spring of a student's sophomore year and no later than spring of their junior year. Level I applications are accepted on a rolling basis.

Application to Level II
To be admitted to the graduate phase of the Special Education Five-Year Program students must do the following by February 1 of their senior year (the application fee is waived for current students):

A complete application (apply online at fairfield.edu/applynow), which includes:

1. A professional resume
2. A personal statement describing intent for studying in the program
3. Official transcript (minimum GPA of 2.67 and 3.0 in major)
4. Two recommendations
5. 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 official transcripts to the School of Education and Human Development 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 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.
6. An admission interview with program faculty
7. Record of immunizations

Students seeking certification must maintain at least a B (3.00) average in their major or the relevant content area courses in order to pursue the 5th year. In view of the teacher’s role in the school and community, candidates whose relevant academic productivity is marginal or inadequate, who do not embody a socially responsible professional disposition, or who demonstrate unsuitable personal qualities, will not be recommended for continuation in the teacher preparation program, student teaching placement, or state certification. In addition, all prospective and admitted candidates to an undergraduate teacher education program are expected to demonstrate the personal and professional dispositions that are embodied in the Mission Statement of the School of Education and Human Development and outlined in the ethical codes of their chosen profession.

Academic Advisement Notice
Teacher education candidates should seek academic advisement from their advisor in their major and an educator advisor to ensure that planned program requirements are fulfilled for their major and core requirements, educational studies minor, and their teacher education program.

Background Check and Fingerprinting
All students in school-based certification programs and registered in courses with fieldwork components may be required to be fingerprinted and have a background check conducted in the districts(s) where they are placed. Multiple fingerprinting and background checks may be required if placed in different districts. Please contact the course instructor or program director for information.

Teacher Internship Program
The School of Education and Human Development offers teaching internships for both certified and non-certified teachers studying for a Master’s Degree or Sixth Year Certificate at Fairfield.

The internship gives you a 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, students should email (internship@fairfield.edu) the internship coordinator, specifying whether they are interested in the internship for certified or non-certified teachers.

All applications for the internship program are reviewed on a rolling basis. You must be formally admitted to the Master's Degree Program to be eligible.

Minority Teacher Incentive Grants
The Minority Teacher Incentive Grant Program provides up to $5000 a year for two years of full time study in a teacher preparation program, usually junior or senior year, as long as the student is an admitted education minor and completes all the requirements.

As an added bonus, students may receive up to $2500 a year, for up to four years, to help pay off college loans if they teach in a Connecticut public elementary or secondary school.

To qualify, students must be a full-time college junior or senior of African-American, Hispanic/Latino, Asian-American, or Native American heritage, and be nominated by the chair of the Educational Studies and Teacher Preparation Department. To apply, obtain a nomination form from the Connecticut Office of Higher Education’s website.
In this course, students will gain a deeper understanding of the knowledge, skills, and dispositions necessary to teach students from varied racial, cultural, and ethnic backgrounds. Students will examine their own assumptions about social identity and its influence on the teaching and learning process. Additionally, they will apply culturally responsive and sustaining strategies that promote high standards and inclusive learning environments.
EDTC 4312 Expanding Education through Informal Learning Environments 3 Credits
This course will examine the ways in which Informal Learning Environments (ILEs) are embedded in a wide range of the 21st century's social and entertainment activities - and how these experiences of these types can be leveraged to move learning outside of its traditionally conceived homes in schools and libraries. Among the ILEs discussed will be zoos and aquariums, museums, mobile games, streaming content, escape rooms, and more. The course will culminate with each student producing an example Informal Learning Environment module using the technologies of their own choice.

EDTC 4313 Online Training for Lifelong Learning 3 Credits
This course will focus on ways in which teachers, trainers, and technology support professionals can use a variety of online tools to engage learners of all ages and types. Students will explore ways to effectively employ podcasts, screen captures, videos, and authoring software to create and support online learning, as well as how to consider relevant technological issues such as file types, bandwidth, policies, and mobile device access.

EDTC 4314 Literacies Across History and Cultures 3 Credits
This course will explore how humans have communicated their ideas across space and time - in essence, what does it mean to be what we now call “literate,” why did literacy arise, and what purposes does it serve? Students will endeavor to define different modes of communication (or literacies) in an age of globalization and of digital information, and look at these “literacies” through various historical, social, and cultural perspectives.

EDTC 4315 Technologies for Building Online Learning Engagement 3 Credits
This course will be offered as can be arranged by faculty with a local museum, library, non-profit, or other institution. Students will spend their semester do in-depth studies of the specific type of organization of focus, and will then collaborate in with staff at the organization to learn how the education takes place there and to complete a project that will be used as part of the entity's educational offerings.

EDTC 4316 Informal Learning Environments (ILE) Practicum 3 Credits
This course will be offered as can be arranged by faculty with a local museum, library, non-profit, or other institution. Students will spend their semester do in-depth studies of the specific type of organization of focus, and will then collaborate in with staff at the organization to learn how the education takes place there and to complete a project that will be used as part of the entity's educational offerings.

Special Education

SPED 1010 Fairfield/Westport Transition 0 Credits

SPED 4403 Foundations in Research and Evaluation of Psychoeducational Issues in Special Education 3 Credits
This course is designed to introduce candidates to a range of children and adolescents with exceptional learning needs (ELN), to the intent of special education law and the process of identification and evaluation of exceptional learners, and to the foundational research on the complex issues and problems that affect these students. Topics include methods of identifying and working effectively with children and youth with special learning needs in the regular classroom; the roles and responsibility of counselors, psychologists, educators and ancillary personnel as members of a multidisciplinary team in planning educational services for exceptional learners; laws that impact on assessment, placement, parent and student rights, and support services. In this course, candidates are introduced to a range of quantitative and qualitative research designs and the methodological tools to analyze data. Through discussion of issues, candidates consider how research can be a valuable tool that helps teachers systematically reflect on learning and evidence-based practices. Using current scholarly research articles, each candidate investigates, writes, and presents on a psychoeducational issue that impacts a specific category of exceptional learners. This course requires a fieldwork component as part of the evaluation process. Crosslisted with SPED 5403.

SPED 4410 Autism Spectrum Disorders: Theories and Interventions 3 Credits
Prerequisites: EDUC 2201, EDUC 3350.
This course highlights current research on theories and etiology of Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). Candidates examine characteristics and behaviors associated with ASD. Specific diagnostic assessment and screening tools are reviewed to examine how these tools are utilized to identify infants and children with ASD. The course also focuses on providing the candidates with understanding the role of families. The course helps create a framework for implementing effective pedagogical interventions, profiling the strengths and challenges of various interventions. Graduate equivalent: SPED 5410. Previously SE 0310.

SPED 4411 Introduction to Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities 3 Credits
Prerequisites: EDUC 2201, EDUC 3350.
This course is designed to advance candidates' understanding and knowledge of intellectual and developmental disabilities by critically examining theories and research regarding the psychological, sociological, and educational aspects of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Candidates are expected to display levels of competency and proficiency in all three areas. Graduate equivalent: SPED 5411. Previously SE 0311.

SPED 4413 Theories of and Introduction to Learning Disabilities 3 Credits
Prerequisites: EDUC 2201, EDUC 3350.
This course introduces students to the area of learning disabilities, exploring various theoretical constructs pertaining to numerous facets of the disorder (e.g., cognition, executive function, attention deficits, etc.), by tracing the history of its development and discussing current issues about the definition and the types of learning disabilities. Educational and social emotional sequelae and implications of processing impairments on learning are examined in the context of the assessment-teaching process (includes a 5-hour field-based project). Graduate equivalent: SPED 5413. Previously SE 0313.
SPED 4417 Introduction to Children and Youth with Emotional Disturbances 3 Credits

Prerequisites: EDUC 2201, EDUC 3350.
This core course introduces candidates to the area of emotional or behavioral disorders (EBD) by examining symptoms, etiology, diagnostic criteria, and assessment techniques of students K-12 who exhibit social, emotional, and behavioral deficits. Emphasis is placed on social and emotional development, the process of identifying students with EBD, analysis of behavior (ABA) and functional behavioral assessment (FBA), development of individual educational plans (IEPs) and instructional strategies designed to address the social and academic needs of students with EBD. This course includes a 2.5-hour field component. All students must have criminal clearance prior to registration. Graduate equivalent: SPED 5417. Previously SE 0317.

Faculty

Professors
Hannafin
Smith

Associate Professors
Campbell, Director, TESOL, World Languages, and Bilingual Education Programs
Colwell, Chair, Director, Elementary Education
Crandall, Director, Connecticut Writing Project
Martin, Co-Director, Special Education
Orelus, Director, Teaching and Foundations
Shamash, Co-Director, Special Education

Assistant Professors
Fletcher

Assistant Professors of the Practice
Elliott, Associate Dean and Director, Educational Technology

Instructors
Rozgonyi