

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Graduate Education Programs

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The School of Education offers graduate education in Teacher Certification and Educational Leadership. Teacher Certification Candidates can earn a post baccalaureate certification, a Master in Education (M.Ed) or both. Candidates in Educational Leadership earn a M.Ed.

Program Mission and Philosophy

In keeping with the mission and philosophy of the University, the Graduate Education programs in the School of Education adheres to the notion of graduating “leaders of conscience” who display skills in critical thinking, professional behavior, and community involvement. Graduates will be prepared to assume roles of leadership and responsibility within organizational and community teams. Commitment to a theory to practice model in assessment, curriculum, teaching and learning, and technology lends itself to scholarship, collaboration, reflective practice, decision-making, and eventually the discovery of new knowledge to effect positive change.

Through a professional education sequence that emphasizes instructional strategies, including technology, that are effective and relevant to teaching and learning in today’s schools and other settings, Franklin Pierce seeks to prepare educators who:

- Work collaboratively within professional communities to build inclusive learning environments where all learners thrive;
- Continually deepen their own understanding of specific disciplines and high impact pedagogical practices, including the integration of technology, to support learners’ understanding of central concepts and engage learners in inquiry on authentic issues;
- Support student learning by using multiple methods of assessment to guide instruction and facilitate meaningful learning based on a continual cycle of evidence-based assessment; and
- Demonstrate ethical responsibility to children, parents, local, national, and global communities in their professional lives as leaders of conscience.

Teacher Certification Programs of Study

Students may apply to the M.Ed. program, Teacher Certification, or both in any of the following areas. Total number of credits required for “Certification only” may vary, depending upon whether student is seeking first or second certification.

Elementary* (K-6 or K-8)

Degree and Certification 42 credits

M.Ed. only 36 credits

Certification only 39 credits

*All students must meet the Bachelor’s/undergraduate content area requirements for K-6. Students must also demonstrate a 15 credit content concentration in English, Mathematics, Science or Social Studies for the K-8 certification.

Social Studies* (5-8 or 5-12) and Life Sciences* (7-12)

M.Ed. Degree and Certification 42 credits

M.Ed. only 36 credits

Certification only 39 credits

*All students must meet the Bachelor’s/undergraduate content area requirements for social studies or life sciences.

English Language Arts* (5-8 or 5-12)

M.Ed. Degree and Certification 42 credits

M.Ed. only 36 credits

Certification only 39 credits

*All students must meet the Bachelor’s/ undergraduate content area requirements for English Language Arts.

General Special Education* (K-12)

M.Ed. and Certification 48 credits

M.Ed. only 42 credits

Certification only 45 credits

* All students must meet the Bachelor’s/ undergraduate content area requirements for K-6.

Educational Leadership

M.Ed. Only 36 credits

Admissions and Acceptance

Criteria for initial application can be found in the Admissions section of the Catalog. Students applying to the School of Education Teacher Certification M.Ed. and Bachelor's Conversation programs should provide transcripts to demonstrate a CGPA of 2.8 or higher. Applicants who provide transcripts to demonstrating a CGPA of 2.79 or lower may work through the School of Education to explore potential solutions and/or alternative pathways to acceptance. The undergraduate transcripts of teacher certification applicants will be reviewed to ensure content requirements are complete. Any applicant with a deficiency of content required at the Bachelor's level will be required to develop a plan to complete required content. Evidence of the required content must be completed prior to student teaching.

Requirements for Teacher Certification Programs

All licensure programs are approved by the New Hampshire State Department of Education and must fulfill the requirements described in N.H. Ed Administrative Rules 500 and 600 series. Students must meet the following gates to progress through the teacher preparation program. Students seeking certification in states other than NH are advised to consult that state for their respective certification requirements.

Teacher Licensure Gates

Gate 1

- Gain Admission into Franklin Pierce University
- Sign the Academic Admissions worksheet
- Pass a New Hampshire background check and a background check from every state you have lived in for the past 5 years.

*Gate 1 is a requirement for any courses that require field experience.

Gate 2

- Fulfilling the Basic Assessment of Academic Skills requirement
- Pass courses ED501 and ED505 or ED506 with a B- grade or higher
- Maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.0
- Submit a Teacher Licensure Program Application.

*Gate 2 is a requirement for official acceptance into a Teacher Licensure Program.

Gate 3

- Open an on-line account with the New Hampshire Department of Education
- Be in good academic standing
- Maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.0
- Complete all required courses in Education with a B- grade or higher
- Complete all field placement requirements and receive positive results on evaluations
- Complete all content area requirements
- Submit an application for student teaching.

*Gate 3 is a requirement for student teaching

Gate 4

- Complete all subject area testing
- Complete student teaching seminar and the New Hampshire TCAP assessment
- Successfully complete your graduate degree requirements
- Successfully complete the student teaching experience
- Apply for recommendation to the state of New Hampshire (optional)

*Gate 4 is a requirement for graduation and recommendation for licensure.

M.Ed. Only

Students accepted into M.Ed. Only will not need to take the Student Teaching and Seminar. However, they must take ED585 Student Research Capstone and pass background check for New Hampshire and any state they have lived in in the past 5 years.

Certification Only

Students pursuing Teacher Certification without a degree will need to meet all requirements for enrollment in the teaching certification program. Total number of credits for "Certification Only" may vary. Students pursuing only certification may submit their bachelor's degree transcript for consideration of transfer credits.

Double Certification

Students interested in combining elementary, middle or secondary certification with General Special Education may do so by indicating that in the application process. Students must also specify whether the M.Ed. degree will be in the area of Elementary, Middle, Secondary, or Special Education. Once accepted, students will need to take all applicable coursework in each area, complete a full student teaching clinical (16 weeks) in the first certification area and 8-weeks in each additional certification area. The N.H. TCAP must also be completed for recommendation.

Use of Undergraduate Credits

Undergraduate credits may be approved by the School of Education Director as credits only when a candidate is enrolled for the sole purpose of certification. Undergraduate credits will not count towards the Master's Degrees. Candidates may transfer in graduate credits with the Director's approval.

Preclinical/Field Placement and Clinical Student Teaching Experiences

All certification programs are approved by the New Hampshire State Department of Education and must fulfill the requirements described in N.H. Ed Administrative Rules 500 and 600 series. All students taking courses in the teacher certification program are required to meet all enrollment criteria and to take part in field placement hours. Those students seeking certification also participate in student teaching.

Pre-clinical/Field Experiences

Many courses in the School of Education require field-based assignments to ensure that the teacher certification majors are experience authentic teaching situations. We work with community partners to ensure that there is a mutually beneficial experience for the students in the local school districts and for our teacher certification students. Teacher certification majors must successful complete all required field experience hours to pass the associated course. If a student has to retake a course with field placement hours, the student must also redo the full set of field hours and all relevant field assignments assigned through the course. Professional attire and travel to local schools are required for this course. Any student participating in a field experience must pass a New Hampshire background check and a background check from every state you have lived in for the past 5 years, before a placement will be made.

Clinical/Student Teaching

A student teaching clinical experience is the final summative experience for all Teacher Certification majors. All certification programs are approved by the New Hampshire State Department of Education and must fulfill the requirements described in N.H. Ed Administrative Rules 500 and 600 series. Students must complete Teacher Licensure Gates 1-3 before they are placed in a student teaching experience.

M.Ed./Teacher Certification in Elementary Education (K-6 or K-8)

Students lacking an appropriate major or general education requirements will be required to complete content area deficiencies in addition to the program education courses. Courses are listed in the order they should be taken.

ED501 Graduate Teacher Education Program Orientation 2 Credits
 ED506 Educational Psychology 3 Credits
 ED505 Teaching and Learning in a Democratic Society 3 Credits
 ED510 Design and Management of the Learning Environment 30 Hours 3 Credits
 ED515 Primary Literacy 15 Hours 3 Credits
 ED518 Methods in Teaching Mathematics 15 Hours 3 Credits
 ED508 Introduction to Assessment 3 Credits
 ED519 Scientific Inquiry and Teaching Methods 15 Hours 3 Credits
 ED517 Methods in Teaching Social Studies 15 Hours 3 Credits
 ED509 Understanding and Teaching Exceptional Learners 15 Hours 3 Credits
 ED516 Teaching Literacy across the Curriculum 15 Hours 3 Credits
 ED578 Action Research in the Classroom 3 Credits

Total field hours prior to student teaching 120

ED531A Student Teaching for Elementary Certification 3 Credits
 ED531B Student Teaching for Elementary Certification 3 Credits
 ED574 Student Teaching Seminar 1 Credit
 ED585 Student Research Capstone (required for M.Ed. Only) 1 Credit

Specific Testing for Certification

For K-6: Basic Academic Skills Assessment (BASA) and Subject Area Testing, Foundation of Reading

For K-8: Basic Academic Skills Assessment (BASA) and Subject Area Testing, Foundations of reading, MS Content area testing in concentration area.

M.Ed./Teacher Certification in Social Studies Education (Grades 5-8 or 5-12)

Students applying to this program should have a Social Studies or History major or degree. Social Studies Certification encompasses the disciplines of history, civics, geography and economics. Students lacking an appropriate major or general education requirements will be required to complete content area deficiencies in addition to the program education courses. Courses are listed in the order they should be taken.

ED501 Graduate Teacher Education Program Orientation 2 Credits
ED506 Educational Psychology 3 Credits
ED505 Teaching and Learning in a Democratic Society 3 Credits
ED510 Design and Management of the Learning Environment 30 Hours 3 Credits
ED508 Introduction to Assessment 3 Credits
ED517 Methods in Teaching Social Studies 15 Hours 3 Credits
ED509 Understanding and Teaching Exceptional Learners 15 Hours 3 Credits
ED516 Teaching Literacy across the Curriculum 15 Hours 3 Credits
ED526 Best Practices in Secondary Contexts 30 Hours 3 Credits
ED578 Action Research in the Classroom (required for Certification) 3 Credits
Elective 1- ED/SOE elective* 3 Credits
Elective 2- ED/SOE elective* 3 Credits

Total field hours prior to student teaching 105

ED532A Student Teaching for Middle/Secondary Certification 3 Credits
ED532B Student Teaching for Middle/Secondary Certification 3 Credits
ED574 Student Teaching Seminar 1 Credit
ED585 Student Research Capstone (required for M.Ed. Only) 1 Credit

*Confer with your advisor and select 2 courses not already required.

Specific Testing for Certification

- Basic Academic Skills Assessment (BASA) and Subject Area Testing in Social Studies

M.Ed./Teacher Certification in Life Sciences Education (Grades 7-12)

Students applying to this program should have a major or degree in Life Sciences. Students lacking an appropriate major or general education requirements will be required to complete content area deficiencies in addition to the program education courses. Courses are listed in the order they should be taken.

ED501 Graduate Teacher Education Program Orientation 2 Credits
ED506 Educational Psychology 3 Credits
ED505 Teaching and Learning in a Democratic Society 3 Credits
ED510 Design and Management of the Learning Environment 30 Hours 3 Credits
ED508 Introduction to Assessment 3 Credits
ED519 Scientific Inquiry and Teaching Methods 15 Hours 3 Credits
ED509 Understanding and Teaching Exceptional Learners 15 Hours 3 Credits
ED516 Teaching Literacy across the Curriculum 15 Hours 3 Credits
ED526 Best Practices in Secondary Contexts 30 Hours 3 Credits
ED578 Action Research in the Classroom (required for Certification) 3 Credits
Elective 1- ED/SOE elective* 3 Credits
Elective 2- ED/SOE elective* 3 Credits

Total field hours prior to student teaching 105

ED532A Student Teaching/Seminar for Middle/Secondary Certification 3 Credits
ED532B Student Teaching/Seminar for Middle/Secondary Certification 3 Credits
ED574 Student Teaching Seminar 1 Credit
ED585 Student Research Capstone (required for M.Ed. Only) 1 Credits

*Confer with your advisor and select 2 courses not already required

Specific Testing for Certification

- Basic Academic Skills Assessment (BASA) and Subject Area Testing in Life Sciences

M.Ed./Teacher Certification in English Language Arts (Grades 5-8 or 5-12)

Students applying to this program should have a major or degree in English. Students lacking an appropriate major or general education requirements will be required to complete content area deficiencies in addition to the program education courses. Courses are listed in the order they should be taken.

ED501 Graduate Teacher Education Program Orientation 2 Credits

ED506 Educational Psychology 3 Credits
 ED505 Teaching and Learning in a Democratic Society 3 Credits
 ED510 Design and Management of the Learning Environment 30 Hours 3 Credits
 ED508 Introduction to Assessment 3 Credits
 ED509 Understanding and Teaching Exceptional Learners 15 Hours 3 Credits
 ED516 Teaching Literacy across the Curriculum 15 Hours 3 Credits
 ED526 Best Practices in Secondary Contexts 30 Hours 3 Credits
 ED578 Action Research in the Classroom (required for certification) 3 Credits
 Elective 1- ED/SOE elective* 3 Credits
 Elective 2- ED/SOE elective* 3 Credits
 Elective 3- ED/SOE elective* 3 Credits

Total field hours prior to student teaching 90

ED532A Student Teaching/Seminar for Middle/Secondary Certification 3 Credits
 ED532B Student Teaching/Seminar for Middle/Secondary Certification 3 Credits
 ED574 Student Teaching Seminar 1 Credit
 ED585 Student Research Capstone (required for M.Ed. Only 1 Credits

*Confer with your advisor and select 3 courses not already required

Specific Testing for Certification

- Basic Academic Skills Assessment (BASA) and Subject Area Testing in English Language Arts

M.Ed./Teacher Certification in General Special Education

Students applying to this program should have earned a baccalaureate degree. The Elementary areas constitute appropriate background. Students lacking an appropriate major or general education requirements will be required to complete content area deficiencies in addition to the program education courses. Courses are listed in the order they should be taken.

ED501 Graduate Teacher Education Program Orientation 2 Credits
 ED506 Educational Psychology 3 Credits
 ED505 Teaching and Learning in a Democratic Society 3 Credits
 ED510 Design and Management of the Learning Environment 30 Hours 3 Credits
 ED515 Primary Literacy 15 Hours 3 Credits
 ED518 Methods in Teaching Mathematics 15 Hours 3 Credits
 ED508 Introduction to Assessment 3 Credits
 ED509 Understanding and Teaching Exceptional Learners 15 Hours 3 Credits
 ED512 Special Education Law 3 Credits
 ED540 Assessments/Identification of the Exceptional Learner 15 Hours 3 Credits
 ED541 IEPs and Instructional Considerations 15 Hours 3 Credits
 ED545 Effective Consultation and Communication 3 Credits
 ED516 Teaching Literacy across the Curriculum 15 Hours 3 Credits
 ED578 Action Research in the Classroom (required for Certification) 3 Credits

Total field hours prior to student teaching 120

ED562A Student Teaching for General Special Education 3 Credits
 ED562B Student Teaching for General Special Education 3 Credits
 ED574 Student Teaching Seminar 1 Credit
 ED585 Student Research Capstone (required for M.Ed. Only) 1 Credits

Specific Testing for Certification For Special Education

Basic Academic Skills Assessment (BASA)

M.Ed. in Educational Leadership

The Masters in Educational Leadership prepares educators with skills that provide the background to lead in a broad range of educational settings, looking forward to the needs of the future. Through a common core, elective courses and fully implemented action research projects, leaders can design an educational plan that meets individualized professional goals. After completing core courses, students will select from an array of electives to build expertise in a content area which supports the individualized action research project. Each Master's degree is comprised of 36 credits. The general M.Ed. in Educational Leadership has 6 required courses and 6 electives. Areas of specialization, such as Curriculum and Instruction may have more required courses.

Core required courses for the M.Ed. in Educational Leadership

SOE501 Foundations in Education 3 Credits
 SOE505 Learning and Educational Practice 3 Credits

SOE601 Authentic Leadership 3 Credits
SOE511 Action Research I 3 Credits

SOE512 Action Research II 3
SOE611 Action Research III 3

Elective courses for the M.Ed. in Educational Leadership

ED/SOE Electives at the 500 or above level or the following:

GM520 Legal and Ethical Issues in Organizations 3 Credits

GM540 Organizational Behavior 3 Credits

GM563 Human Resource Management 3 Credits