



Education

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Introduction

Education at the University of Richmond includes two areas of focus. The primary focus, teacher education, is designed for students who wish to become teachers. This area consists of a major in elementary education and minors in elementary, secondary, and comprehensive education. A second focus, the education and society minor, examines the institution of education and its role in society. It is designed for students concerned with the interpretation, evaluation, and reform of the American system of public education.

Elementary Education Major

The elementary education major prepares students to become reflective educators who make significant impacts on learning in preK-6 classrooms. While largely grounded in practice, education courses are strongly embedded in the liberal arts tradition and embody a life-long learning focus where students question, learn, react, apply, and problem-solve in order to contribute to the meaningful education of all citizens. Through rigorous interdisciplinary coursework, field experiences, and a semester-long teaching internship, the major develops educational leaders who will act to improve our world by addressing problems of inequity and by enhancing intellectual curiosity and inquiry.

Teacher Education Minors

There are three teacher education minors: elementary education (preK-6), secondary education (6-12), and comprehensive education (preK-12). While these minors are focused on professional studies, students completing a teacher education minor are not automatically eligible for a teaching license. All students who wish to be licensed must apply and be formally admitted to the Teacher Preparation Program and successfully complete the teaching internship and capstone seminar.

Teacher Preparation Program

The university's Teacher Preparation Program is nationally accredited by the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) and is fully approved by the state. Successful completion of the program leads to a collegiate professional license in the Commonwealth of Virginia. This license is valid for ten years and renewable with additional professional development experiences.

Coursework in the program usually begins in the sophomore year and culminates with the teaching internship and capstone seminar during the fall or spring semester of the senior year.

Endorsement Areas

Elementary Education (preK-6): Students seeking an elementary endorsement may major or minor in elementary education. Students who minor in elementary education must complete a major offered in the School of Arts and Sciences.

Secondary Education (6-12): Students seeking a secondary endorsement must major in one of the following areas: biology, chemistry, English, history, mathematics, mathematical economics, or physics.

Comprehensive Education (preK-12): Students seeking a comprehensive endorsement must major in one of the following areas: dance, French, German, Latin, Latin American, Latino, and Iberian Studies (Spanish), theatre, or visual and media arts practice.

Add-on Endorsements: Students who complete the approved program and qualify for a teaching license may add additional endorsements through testing by meeting or surpassing the qualifying score set by the Board of Education for the Praxis Subject Assessment in the endorsement subject. This testing option does not apply to individuals who are seeking to add an elementary education preK-6 endorsement to a secondary or comprehensive license.

Program Overview

All students seeking to be licensed complete a series of professional courses and field experiences that serve as program foundations. These include:

- **Professional Courses:** Foundations of Education, Diverse Learners and Human Development, Classroom and Behavior Management, and the Pre-Internship Workshop Series
- **Field Experiences:** Integrated course-related practicum and observation experiences
- **Teaching Internship and Capstone Seminar:** Semester-long experience in local school divisions

Beyond these core requirements, students also complete additional courses focused on pedagogy that is specific to the level of endorsement they are seeking.

Community Partnerships

Richmond-area schools and school divisions, with their great diversity of students, provide rich opportunities for observation, practicum, and internship experiences. The University has long-standing relationships with these systems, and school personnel play essential roles in the Teacher Preparation Program.

Mobility of Educators

Certification requirements between states vary widely; however, Virginia is a party to the NASDTEC Interstate Agreement for teacher certification. Although there may be conditions applicable to individual jurisdictions (for example, additional tests or specific training like CPR), the Agreement makes it possible for students who complete our approved program and earn a collegiate professional license to earn a certificate or license in another state or jurisdiction. For more information, visit the Education Commission of the States web site for state-by-state reciprocity information: ecs.org/teacher-license-reciprocity-state-profiles/

Education and Society Minor

The minor consists of five courses that encourage students to reflect on questions of central importance in education, such as what is the purpose of education, how has the history of the U.S. public education system contributed to its present state, and does our current system of education provide equitable opportunities for all.

Many courses in the minor incorporate community-based learning, affording students opportunities to spend time in a range of educational settings in Greater Richmond. The capstone course is a seminar on local education issues where students conduct data analysis and research for community partners engaged in educational settings and activities.

Education Studio

The Education Studio supports students and faculty in the Teacher Preparation Program by providing an assortment of print, instructional, and technology resources for exploration, use, and evaluation. As an environment designed for individual and small group curriculum development, study, reading, and collaboration, the Studio plays an innovative and integral role in the educational process of pre-service educators.

Faculty

Faculty in the education department have a wide range of experiences in K-12 settings in both public and independent schools in Virginia and other states. They have expertise in the areas of special education, reading, the teaching of math, science, and social studies, children's and young adult literature, elementary education, clinical experience, curriculum resources, and other educational specialties. Faculty are engaged with local schools and professional organizations and keep abreast of current trends, practices, research, and contested issues in the field.

