

Educator Preparation, Innovation and Research

General Information

The Department of Educator Preparation, Innovation and Research offers coursework leading to bachelor's degrees, master's degrees, graduate certificates, and doctoral degrees. Students may also choose to pursue the Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degree in the College of Arts and Sciences and also complete the education courses that are required for teacher certification in high school English, mathematics, social studies, science, music or art.

Information for the bachelor's and master's degrees is found in this section of the Bulletin while specific information on the doctoral degrees is presented in this Bulletin in the general College of Education listing.

Through the integration of content in general, special, and second language learning, candidates gain knowledge and valued skills that make them highly qualified and marketable. Nationally-recognized research faculty teach undergraduate and graduate courses that prepare future educators in curriculum, instruction, assessment, and educational technology with a strong foundation in working with diverse, urban populations.

The following Department of Educator Preparation, Innovation and Research degrees have been accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE), now called the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP), and the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE):

Undergraduate degrees:

- Bachelor of Science in Education (B.S. Ed) in Early Childhood Education
- Bachelor of Science in Education (B.S. Ed) in Elementary Education
- Bachelor of Science in Education (B.S. Ed) in Physical Education
- Bachelor of Science in Education (B.S. Ed) in Secondary Education

Master's degrees:

- Master of Education (M.Ed.) in Elementary Education
- Master of Education (M.Ed.) in Secondary Education
- Master of Education (M.Ed.) in Special Education

Graduate Certificates:

- Applied Behavior Analysis
- Autism Studies
- Early Childhood Teaching
- Elementary School Teaching
- Elementary and Special Education Teaching
- Secondary School Teaching
- Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL)
- Teaching of Writing, Gateway Writing Project

Doctoral Degrees

- Teaching-Learning Processes

- Educational Leadership and Policy Studies

Mission

Our mission is to advance scholarship and promote teaching and learning as a lifelong process for all.

Goals

Through undergraduate and graduate programs and faculty engagement, the Department of Educator Preparation, Innovation and Research seeks to:

- Create new ideas about and knowledge of teaching and learning processes.
- Utilize general, content, and pedagogical knowledge to design curriculum and enact instruction.
- Reflect on and evaluate teaching practices and research to improve learning.
- Develop educators who model the dispositions necessary to teach all students in a diverse society.
- Integrate learning tools by adapting instruction to changing technologies.
- Apply current research on assessment in culturally responsive ways to document and facilitate learning.
- Engage with community members to promote justice and develop active democratic citizens in a global world.
- Foster learning communities through collaboration with partner families, peers, and communities.

Career Outlook

Undergraduate and graduate degrees in elementary secondary and special education are most directly applicable to teaching at the level appropriate to the program emphasis. Demand for career-ready educators who have significant clinical experience working with youngsters, and who demonstrate contemporary, best-practice knowledge, skills, and strategies continue to create school-based employment opportunities for UMSL graduates. As in the past, elementary education graduates are attractive candidates for employment in varied positions that require preparation and training in social and behavioral sciences. Positions that serve the general public, such as sales, service, public relations, and general business, are common examples. Future expansions of opportunities in schools are tied to population growth, increased specialization of services, and reduction in ratios between professional staff and children served.

The employment outlook for special education teachers continues to be favorable, as they are in great demand among certain regions of the country. In addition to inclusion classroom teaching, graduates are typically employed as resource-room or self-contained classroom teachers, clinical diagnostic personnel, itinerant teachers, educational resource teachers, curriculum and/or behavior specialists, consultants, educational therapists, job coaches, supported employment and sheltered workshop evaluators, and in various supervisory and administrative positions among agencies and schools. In combination with related areas of expertise in systems supports, assessment, and educational psychology, for example, many occupations incorporate the skills, interventions knowledge, insightfulness, and programmatic expertise learned in the UMSL Master's Degree of Special Education.

The employment outlook in the middle and high schools continues to be positive, especially in mathematics, sciences and modern languages. Recent placement years have yielded excellent employment

opportunities to UMSL graduates. In addition to middle school, and high school teaching, more limited opportunities exist in athletic training, dance, research, sports management, and exercise leadership fields serving persons of all age categories.