

Our program is one of the few in New England that provides dual certification in elementary (grades 1 – 6) and special (grades 1 – 6) education. All classes address the content knowledge, pedagogy, and professional practice standards for general and special educators. We value diversity — dis/ability, gender, learning style, religion, language, race, class/socio-economic — and work together with our candidates to implement inclusive practices. All of our teacher education programs have been approved by the Rhode Island Department of Education, a member of the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification, so our students are eligible for licensure upon successful completion of the program and graduation.

B.A. Elementary/Special Education

Our program trains students to approach the field of elementary-level education with an appreciation of individual differences and an understanding of ways to meet those differences. Our central focus is to prepare — in an inclusive and diverse setting — future teachers to educate all children. The elementary/special education major is a merged program that emphasizes preparation in both areas.

Throughout this program, elementary/special education majors develop an understanding of effective elementary curriculum and pedagogy, as well as knowledge of individual differences and strategies to differentiate instruction, implement specialized supports to meet students' academic and behavioral needs, and affirm students' backgrounds. Upon completion of the program, elementary/special education majors are eligible for certification in both elementary education and special education in Rhode Island and a number of other states.



Explore Courses of Study
and More





PEOPLE AND PLACES

Beginning in the first year, students complete more than 750 hours of teaching in a variety of placements in greater Providence R.I., and Southeastern Massachusetts. This provides an opportunity to develop professional practices in diverse settings with students who come from a variety of backgrounds, speak multiple languages, and approach school with many unique gifts.

Students in the program also have the opportunity to see the world as they put what they have learned into practice. The department offers two semester-long study abroad programs in Florence, Italy, or Belfast, Northern Ireland.

Our faculty work with teachers and principals to improve education in the classrooms for all children, conduct research in the field to inform and improve teaching methods and environments for students of all abilities and offer personalized advising and counseling regarding teaching requirements.

Selected Places of Employment

Apple
Teach for America
Bright Horizons Family Solutions
UP Education Network
Elementary schools throughout the U.S.

Selected Graduate Schools

Boston College • Lesley University • St. Joseph's University
Boston University • Manhattanville College
University of Connecticut • Columbia University
Mercy College • University of Dayton • Endicott College
Merrimack College • University of Massachusetts Boston
Fordham University • Michigan State University
University of Pennsylvania • George Washington University
Northeastern University • Johns Hopkins University
Vanderbilt University's Peabody College

88%

of education graduates are employed or attending graduate school

(Providence College classes of 2018 – 2022)