SAINT JOSEPH’S UNIVERSITY
College of Professional and Liberal Studies

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR EDUCATION MAJORS

Program Admission

- Applicants who meet the Saint Joseph’s University College of Professional and Liberal Studies qualifications for full admissions acceptance will be placed into their desired Education degree program.
- Applicants who meet the qualifications for full admissions acceptance but who have a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of less than 3.0 and applicants who receive conditional admittance will not be accepted into an Education degree program. These students will select and be placed in an alternative degree program that closely aligns with their educational goals. When a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better has been earned, students may submit a Change of Major request for an Education degree program.
- While the student is in a non-Education program, he/she is restricted from taking upper-division Education courses.

Curriculum

The Saint Joseph’s University College of Professional and Liberal Studies offers two degree programs for Education:
- Early Childhood/Elementary Education (PreK-4)
- Early Childhood/Elementary Education (PreK-4)/Special Education (K-8)

Students may pursue a bachelor’s degree in other Education majors offered through the traditional undergraduate day curriculum and include a minor in secondary education in order to earn secondary education certifications for grades 7-12. Such majors include English, foreign languages, history (social studies and citizenship), mathematics, art, and sciences (biology or chemistry).

Field Experiences

Field experiences are defined as a range of formal, required school and community activities with participation by students who are enrolled in teacher preparation programs. Effective field experiences provide candidates with increasing exposure to schools, under the guidance of program faculty and trained teacher mentors, throughout the preparation program.

Most Education (EDU) and Special Education (SPE) courses include a field experience where students are placed in schools. Students working full-time may need to take personal or vacation days to complete these field experiences during regular school hours. There are no exceptions. Field experiences carry no credit but are considered course co-requisites.

Here’s the link to more in-depth information about field experiences:
http://www.sju.edu/int/academics/cas/teachered/fieldexperiences.html
Background Clearances

http://www.sju.edu/int/academics/cas/teachered/background.html

In order to visit schools as part of program and course requirements, each semester students will need to have up-to-date Background Clearances from the State of Pennsylvania and the Federal Government, which certifies that you have no criminal record. There is a link on the Field Experiences web page with links to all of the clearances.

You will also need to show you have no evidence of Tuberculosis.

Here is a list of clearances that you will need:

1. Pennsylvania State Criminal History Record ($10)
2. Pennsylvania Child Abuse History Clearance ($10)
3. Federal FBI Criminal History Report ($28.75)
4. Proof of Negative Tuberculin Test ($5 at Student Health Services)

You must have all four clearances submitted to the Office of Teaching and Field Experiences, before you can go to the schools for your field experiences. These clearances must be valid for the entire semester of your placement.

Contact: Renee Langmuir, Assistant Director, Student Teaching and Field Experiences
610.660.3438 (office)
610.660.2950 (fax)
rlangmuir@sju.edu

Preparations for Teacher Certification

Student teaching is defined as a set of organized and carefully planned classroom teaching experiences required of all student teachers in a preparation program. Student teachers are assigned to one or more classrooms, closely supervised and mentored by a certified teacher, the cooperating teacher, who provides regular feedback to the student on his or her classroom teaching performance. General supervision of student teachers is provided by a university professional educator. You must reserve 14 weeks for this full-time unpaid internship.

You are responsible for applying in a timely manner and meeting program requirements and deadlines for teacher certification.

- You must complete 3 documents upon entrance to the Teacher Certification Program. These documents are available from the Teacher Education Department (Merion Hall 230).
  1. Application for Acceptance
  2. Student Data Form
  3. Record of Understanding

- PAPA Examinations – All education majors and minors must take and pass the PAPA reading, writing, and mathematics sections prior to admission into the SJU Teacher Certification Program. Students should be alert to the required exams for their selected certification area(s). See http://wwwpa.nesinc.com and http://www.ets.org/praxis for information on the Praxis testing requirements.

- Student Teaching and Teacher Certification

  STEP 1: All education majors and minors must apply to the SJU Teacher Certification Program.

  To be accepted at this time, students must have an overall GPA of 3.0 or above. Students who do not have this GPA at the time of application may continue in the program with the expectation that they will achieve the required 3.0 GPA prior to student teaching.
By the time of the application, students must also have completed six credits in English and six credits in mathematics. In addition, they must have taken and successfully passed the first set of teacher exams, the PAPA tests, in reading, writing, and mathematics.

STEP 2: In order to student teach, students must apply to the Office of Student Teaching (Merion Hall 230) during the year preceding student teaching placement according to the established deadlines. (See http://www.sju.edu/int/academics/cas/teachered/studentteachapp.html for application and guidelines.) Students are encouraged to complete the remaining Praxis tests required for their area of certification prior to student teaching.

Students must complete the program with the same 3.0 GPA that is required for admission into the program (see above). A grade of C or higher in all Education courses is also required; students must retake any Education course for which they earn a grade lower than a C-. While courses in which a student earns a D or D+ will count toward graduation requirements, these courses will not be accepted as part of the teacher certification program.

STEP 3: Apply to the Pennsylvania Department of Education. Consult the Office of Certification, Accreditation and Partnerships (OCAP) home page for the latest information regarding state certification applications. OCAP will also assist students who desire to apply for teacher certification outside of Pennsylvania. You may also contact the Certification Director, Dr. Joseph Cifelli at 610-660-3482 or jcifelli@sju.edu for assistance.

Link to Information about Student Teaching:
http://www.sju.edu/int/academics/cas/teachered/studentteach.html

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