

FONTBONNE UNIVERSITY
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Teacher Certification at Fontbonne University

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(Applicable to all departments offering teacher certification)

The following provides an overview of programs leading to teacher certification at Fontbonne University. All certification programs are accredited by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE). It should be noted that all certificates to teach are issued by DESE, not Fontbonne University. The university makes recommendations to DESE upon a candidate's completion of all requirements.

**TEACHER CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS:
UNDERGRADUATE**

The following table lists the areas of certification that typically accompany the departmental major at the undergraduate level. With the assistance of an academic advisor, a student may choose to pursue additional certification from those listed. Choosing multiple areas of certification could result in the lengthening of a student's program.

UNDERGRADUATE			
MAJOR	DEPARTMENT	CERTIFICATION	ADD-ON CERTIFICATION
Art	Fine Arts	Art (K-12)	
Biology	Biological and Physical Sciences	Biology (9-12)	
Deaf Education	Communication Disorders and Deaf Education	Deaf Education (Birth-12)	
Early Childhood	Human Environmental Sciences	Early Childhood (Birth-3)	Early Childhood Special Education (Birth-3)
Elementary	Education/Special Education	Elementary (1-6) (Also included within the Special Education major)	Early Childhood (Birth-3) Early Childhood Special Education (Birth-3)
English	English	English (9-12)	Middle School (5-9)
Family and Consumer Sciences	Human Environmental Sciences	Family and Consumer Sciences (Birth-12)	
Fine Arts	Fine Arts	Art (K-12)	
History	History, Philosophy, and Religion	Social Studies (9-12)	Middle School (5-9)
Mathematics	Mathematics and Computer Sciences	Mathematics (9-12)	Middle School (5-9)
Middle School	Education/Special Education	Language Arts (5-9) Mathematics (5-9) Science (5-9) Social Studies (5-9)	
Performing Arts	Fine Arts	Speech/Theatre (9-12)	Middle School (5-9)
Special Education	Education/Special Education	Special Education (K-12) (Dual Certification/ Elementary)	

POST-BACCALAUREATE		
CERTIFICATION	ASSOCIATED GRADUATE DEGREE	DEPARTMENT
Art (K-12)	Master of Arts in Teaching Degree	Education/Special Education
Biology (9-12)	Master of Arts in Teaching Degree	Education/Special Education
Deaf Education (B-12)	Master of Arts in Teaching Degree Early Intervention in Deaf Education	Communication Disorders and Deaf Education
Elementary (1-6)	Master of Arts in Teaching Degree	Education/Special Education
English (9-12)	Master of Arts in Teaching Degree	Education/Special Education
Family and Consumer Sciences (birth-12)	Master of Arts in Teaching Degree	Human Environmental Sciences
Social Science (9-12)	Master of Arts in Teaching Degree	Education/Special Education
Mathematics (9-12)	Master of Arts in Teaching Degree	Education/Special Education
Middle School Language Arts (5-9) Mathematics (5-9) Science (5-9) Social Studies (5-9)	Master of Arts in Teaching Degree	Education/Special Education
Speech/Theatre (9-12)	Master of Arts in Teaching Degree	Fine Arts
Special Education (K-12)	Master of Arts in Teaching Degree	Education/Special Education

TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAMS: POST-BACCALAUREATE

The table above provides an overview of programs leading to teacher certification at Fontbonne University at the post-baccalaureate level. Candidates may enroll for the purpose of seeking a second undergraduate degree (*see the appropriate department in the undergraduate section of this catalog*); a master's degree; or they may enroll for the purpose of certification only.

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

Fontbonne University faculty members believe that teachers should be reflective practitioners/decision makers. This conceptual framework is knowledge-based, clearly articulated, shared throughout campus, and is consistent with the institutional mission and the Missouri standards for preparation of teachers as well as the standards of the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education. The conceptual framework and programs are evaluated through student outcomes, course evaluations, field experiences, graduate surveys, and employer feedback. Students are expected to adhere to the "Commitments of the Responsible Educator" which are reflective of the conceptual framework.

As indicated in the Conceptual Framework, Fontbonne University is in touch with the social, political, and economic realities which place demands on education. The university therefore offers teacher certification programs that prepare

individuals who will be able to teach students with a variety of learning styles from diverse backgrounds and prepare students for the future by encouraging an attitude of openness and critical evaluation regarding change. Probing current research findings heightens awareness of future perspectives, raises questions, encourages identification of appropriate teaching techniques, and enables students to identify implications for the future and begin to assume responsibility for creating their future.

All Fontbonne teacher certification programs prepare students for the challenge of teaching and enable students to give meaningful service to children and adults. Teacher certification at Fontbonne University provides:

- Opportunities for innovation and creativity;
- Opportunities for reflective decision making;
- Faculty who are well-educated, creative teachers, professionally involved, and have outstanding supervisory skills;
- A foundation of sound theoretical knowledge for each area of certification;
- A thorough foundation in both typical and exceptional development of children;
- An introductory course which provides an overview of educational theory and practice, along with the development of skills in observation and analysis of classroom interactions; and
- Faculty members who strive for effective student-teacher relationships.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR STUDENTS IN TEACHER CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS

Students are responsible for obtaining a copy of the manual, *Policies and Procedures for Students in Teacher Certification Programs*, upon beginning their program at Fontbonne. The manual is available as a CD from the certification coordinator in the East building, room 235. Students are responsible for carrying out all current policies, procedures, and requirements for graduation and for teacher certification.

Each student must maintain a minimum cumulative blended grade point average of 2.75 on a 4.0 scale for coursework designated as “professional,” and an overall cumulative blended grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale. These standards take into consideration all coursework taken at all colleges and universities, both undergraduate and graduate. Students earning certification in middle school and secondary programs must achieve a GPA of 2.5 in the relevant content areas. (See appropriate departmental sections in this catalog.)

Students who have “conditions” placed upon them by the teacher education unit will not be approved for teacher certification. Conditions may be defined as deficiencies related to the potential success of the candidate to be an effective teacher, especially as set forth by the Commitments of the Responsible Educator. Students should refer to the *Procedures Manual* for specific guidelines in this area.

Candidates for teacher certification must fulfill all Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education requirements, to include appropriate grade point average, approved culminating project and passing scores on the appropriate specialty/subject area PRAXIS II examination. These requirements are subject to change. The most current requirements must be met.

BACKGROUND CHECKS

As part of an ongoing effort to ensure the safety and welfare of students and staff, school districts require that any individual who teaches, supervises, or has access to students in schools undergo an FBI background check, a criminal record check, child abuse/neglect screening, TB tests and/or other screenings. Candidates should also realize that the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education may deny teaching certificates to those who have a record of criminal activity. Therefore, the Fontbonne University teacher education unit requires every student enrolling in teacher education courses beyond the 100 level to complete a full sequence of background checks, to include both the FBI fingerprint check and the Family Care Safety Registry.

As students are placed in field experiences, schools and/or school districts will be informed that these reports have been received and, if necessary, information will be forwarded to appropriate authorities. Confidentiality will be maintained at all times.

Background checks need to be updated periodically. It is the

responsibility of each student to maintain up-to-date background checks for the purpose of observations, practicums, and student teaching. Please check with your advisor or Fontbonne’s certification officer (East 235) should you have questions regarding background checks and the courses for which they are necessary. Courses needing background checks are also noted in this catalog.

APPROVAL FOR THE TEACHER CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

Qualified students must apply for acceptance to the teacher certification program. Said application should be made at least one semester prior to the planned semester for student teaching/field experience. Acceptance into the teacher certification program is based upon final validation of professional (2.75) and cumulative (2.5) GPAs; final validation of a 2.5 GPA in relevant content areas for middle/secondary candidates; and approval by the teacher education unit. Without approval by the teacher education unit, students cannot enroll for student teaching/field experience.

STUDENT TEACHING/FIELD EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS

Student teacher/field experience candidates must demonstrate competence in all areas of professional preparation identified by the Missouri Department of Education for the certification area. Prior to student teaching, students are required to have completed, or be in the process of completing, all required coursework; to be in compliance with GPA requirements for certification; to be in compliance with all screening requirements dictated by school districts, and to have received written approval by the University teacher education unit. While some coursework for teacher certification may be taken elsewhere, Student Teaching/Field Experience must be completed through Fontbonne University. Student teacher applications may be obtained from the director of student teaching, and are due January 30 for the following fall semester and May 1 for the following spring semester.

CULMINATING PROJECT REQUIREMENT

The culminating project requirement of Fontbonne University’s teacher education unit is a performance assessment through which the pre-service teacher provides evidence of his/her ability to facilitate learning. This project assesses the pre-service teacher’s ability to design and teach an effective unit of instruction, to assess student performance, and to reflect on the experience. The artifacts collected for this project will provide evidence of the candidate’s competency in the 11 quality indicators of the Missouri Standards for Teacher Education. An approved culminating project is required prior to the University recommending the candidate for certification to the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

COMPLETION OF THE TEACHER CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

Completion of the teacher certification program is contingent upon the following:

- Completion of all certification requirements to include student teaching/field experience.
- Submission of an acceptable culminating project.
- Submission of a qualifying PRAXIS score.

The University will not submit a recommendation for certification to the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for official teacher certification until all criteria have been met.

RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT FOR CERTIFICATION

The student must complete a minimal residency requirement of 24 credit hours plus the required student teaching or field experience required by the department in which the student's program is held. Within these minimum credit hours, a candidate must complete at least six credit hours of discipline-specific coursework (*excluding methods courses*) appropriate to the area of certification sought.

WEB-BASED DOCUMENTS

A full set of policies and procedures related to teacher certification at Fontbonne University may be found at the following URL: <http://www.fontbonne.edu/academics/academicresources/teachercertification/downloads/>.