
Profile of the School of Education

The School of Education is dedicated to preparing compassionate, moral educators exceptionally skilled to teach in culturally diverse schools. The School of Education promotes excellence and accountability in teaching and learning within a framework of democracy and social justice. Faculty in the School of Education strive to model lifelong learning and the courage to take risks, fostering critical and creative thinking in professional interactions with each other, students and the larger educational community.

The School of Education's five-year plan includes strategies to increase the number of students seeking teacher preparation, particularly students who reflect the changing demographics of Texas schools. Enrollment has almost doubled since Fall 2000 and now stands at 364 students; more than one-third are Hispanic. At the undergraduate level, the School of Education offers elementary, middle school, secondary and all-level teacher certification with specializations in art, bilingual generalist, chemistry, English language arts and reading, generalist, history, life science, mathematics, physical education, religious education, social studies, Spanish and theater arts with supplemental certifications in bilingual education and English as a second language. Non-certification majors in athletic training, kinesiology and pre-physical therapy are also offered. In 2001, the State Board for Educator Certification issued St. Edward's two commendations for its teacher education program, one for Growth in Candidate Diversity and one for Certification of Teachers in High Need Areas.

At the secondary level, the School of Education has recently created a field-based teacher preparation program in partnership with local partner schools at both the 4-8 and 8-12 levels. Using a model based on Professional Development Schools, pre-service teachers in the program complete upper division coursework at the partner school sites, meeting weekly for university instruction and early field experiences that are embedded in the context of the schools. Administrators and faculty from partner schools co-teach university courses with university faculty to effectively prepare the teachers.

In Fall 2006, the School of Education added a new Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT), an innovative, rigorous program designed to prepare educators to respond to the challenges in today's schools and lead transformative social change in the 21st century. The MAT program currently has 40 enrolled students, 22.5 percent of whom are ethnic minorities, 17.5 percent are Hispanic, 67.5 percent are white, and 7.5 percent are of unknown or undeclared ethnicity. Education concentrations are offered in teacher certification, teacher leadership and sports management with interdisciplinary concentrations in administration, conflict resolution and liberal arts. The MAT degree prepares educators to provide instructional leadership as campus/district-based instructional specialists, serve as mentors in the induction and retention of teachers, utilize assessment for making data-informed decisions about curriculum and instructional design and involve parents in school initiatives related to instructional reform and student achievement.

The School of Education is committed to working collaboratively with surrounding school districts and institutions of higher education on projects related to P-16 success and the recruitment, preparation and induction of future teachers. Current collaborative programs include *Jumpstart*, a 2+2+2 model for teacher recruitment that targets minority high school students; the *Teacher Pipeline*, a teacher preparation program for paraprofessionals currently employed by Austin ISD; the *Teaching Scholars Partnership*, a middle and high school mentoring program that utilizes university mathematics and science majors; and the *Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program*, a federally funded National Science Foundation grant targeted at math and science teacher preparation. In addition, professional development opportunities for in-service teachers in the areas of assessment of teaching and learning, mentoring and technology integration are offered.