

# COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES

## College of Education and Human Services

<http://www.rider.edu/cehs> (<http://www.rider.edu/cehs/>)

Since 1913, the College of Education and Human Services at Rider University has made a difference, responding with scholarship and imagination to the education profession by preparing graduates for the opportunities and challenges of the teaching profession.

Committed to excellence, the College of Education and Human Services keeps all of its programs relevant to the changing needs of students, the professional communities it serves, and society, by anticipating those needs and taking measures to meet them. This commitment to excellence is based on the belief that today's teacher must be able to demonstrate sensitivity to students, familiarity with curriculum, and a thorough knowledge of subject matter and the learning process.

Rider University's teacher preparation programs are grounded in current research on learning, curriculum, teaching, and exemplary practice of reflective teachers.

Rider University prepares teachers who understand:

- that learning involves the active construction of knowledge through posing questions, exploring materials, and testing ideas;
- that this learning may take place in cooperative learning groups as well as individual learning activities;
- that teaching is not just the performance of various learned strategies and methods but a reflective process of observation, deliberation and assessment throughout one's career;
- that all curriculum content is interrelated and often is learned best in integrated or thematic units of study;
- that assessment and teaching are dynamic processes that go hand in hand;
- and that curriculum and teaching must be responsive to the culture, class, gender, strengths, needs, past experiences, and interests of individual students.

When students enroll in the College of Education and Human Services they have the opportunity to work with a professor who will personally advise and assist them in developing their specific programs. In their classes they work directly with members of the faculty who have been successful practitioners in their respective fields. Students enrolled in Rider's teacher preparation programs receive structured experiences working with children, teachers, school administrators, and community agencies.

Many of the teacher education courses are taught in conjunction with a semester-long field experience in a public, nonpublic, or charter school in which students work with an experienced classroom teacher and a Rider professor. Over the course of their professional preparation, students are placed in a variety of grade levels in both urban and suburban schools.

In the sophomore year, students work as teacher assistants. They observe and help conduct learning activities that the teacher has planned. In the junior year, students continue to observe and assist but also plan for and teach individuals, small groups, and full classes. In the senior year, students will be student teaching full-time.

The future offers unique challenges and opportunities for all education students. The College of Education and Human Services welcomes those students who want to make a difference in their own lives and the lives of others. The program prepares students to learn how to affect change in an ever-changing world.

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## Mission and Vision Statement

### Mission

The College of Education and Human Services empowers individuals and communities through excellence in education, mental health, and wellness. We prepare practitioners and leaders who are committed to collaboration, engagement, and advocacy, equipping them to drive meaningful change and address the most pressing challenges in their fields.

### Vision

The College of Education and Human Services envisions a future where our graduates lead with purpose, fostering transformative change in education, mental health, and wellness. Through collaboration and a commitment to advocacy, we strive to cultivate equitable and thriving communities, shaping leaders who address the evolving needs of society with integrity and innovation.

This mission statement is based on the Conceptual Framework of the College of Education and Human Services (<https://www.rider.edu/academics/colleges-schools/college-education-human-services/office-dean/accreditation-information/conceptual-framework-quality-assurance-system/>).

## Accreditation

Rider is regionally accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. All teacher preparation programs offered by the College of Education and Human Services are approved by the New Jersey State Department of Education using the New Jersey Professional Standards for Teachers and School Leaders. In addition, the College of Education and Human Services is accredited by the Council for the Accreditation of Education Preparation (CAEP (<http://caepnet.org/>)), the highest accreditation possible in teacher education. This helps our graduates as they seek employment nationwide.

## Engaged Learning Graduation Requirement

In addition to completing the college's General Education Requirements, all Rider University students are required to complete an Engaged

Learning Graduation requirement. (<http://catalog.rider.edu/policies/undergraduate/engaged-learning-policy/>)

## Undergraduate Degrees

At the undergraduate level, the College of Education and Human Services offers three degree programs.

1. **Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education**, with a major in elementary education and a second major in a liberal arts or science or a major in elementary education: multidisciplinary studies or in elementary education: STEM studies.
2. **Bachelor of Arts in Secondary Education**, with majors/options in English, mathematics, science (biochemistry, biology, chemistry, earth sciences, environmental sciences), history, and world language.

**Students may also elect to pursue minors, certificates and endorsements in:**

- early childhood education (<http://catalog.rider.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/education/majors-minors-certificates/elementary-education-ba/#minorrequirementstext>)
- middle school education (<http://catalog.rider.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/education/majors-minors-certificates/elementary-education-ba/#minorrequirementstext>)
- special education (<http://catalog.rider.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/education/majors-minors-certificates/elementary-education-ba/#minorrequirementstext>)
- bilingual education (<http://catalog.rider.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/education/majors-minors-certificates/elementary-education-ba/#minorrequirementstext>)
- English as a second language (ESL) (<http://catalog.rider.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/education/majors-minors-certificates/elementary-education-ba/#minorrequirementstext>)

In addition, an internal certificate in technology is also available.

## Admission

Admission to the College of Education and Human Services places great responsibility upon students. In enrolling, students enter into a relationship with instructors and fellow students in which there are shared responsibilities. Students are expected to display a commitment to study and to initiate intellectual pursuits. Further, students are expected to recognize that learning involves bringing interests, enthusiasm, curiosity, and reflection to their work. The experiences that unfold during class meetings should be considered opportunities for personal growth and learning. These opportunities are by no means limited to the classroom but include work in the field and on campus as well.

For more information about admissions please contact, Undergraduate Admissions (<http://www.rider.edu/ugradadmission/>).

## Teacher Education Program Design Self-Development

In the freshman year, emphasis is placed on developing those basic skills that enable a prospective teacher to become a scholar and to engage successfully in college-level studies.

## Studies Strengthening Teaching and Learning

Early experience through courses in the social sciences and behavioral studies, emphasizing psychology, provide an important scholarly foundation for educational practice. In addition, college-level study of subjects related to the student's teaching field is an important element in this phase of the teacher education program.

## Selective Retention in Teacher Education

Education students must demonstrate competence in their academic work to continue in the teacher preparation program. Competence is assessed in a variety of ways and at different levels. Education students must maintain a cumulative grade-point average of 2.75 in all courses taken at Rider. Students must also earn C+ or higher in any education course (a) that is specifically required for a major or minor in Education and (b) in which enrollment is limited to education majors. It is the individual student's responsibility to retake any education course in which a grade lower than C+ has been earned. Students will be permitted to undertake student teaching only if they have received C+ or higher in all education courses and have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00.

The undergraduate education department also reviews the professional development of all students to ensure that they meet departmental standards for professional conduct and that they show promise of success in teaching. This review is in addition to the grade requirements listed above. The Department of Teacher Education requires the following for formal entry into the teacher education program, which occurs in junior year. To register for any methods course, students must qualify in one of the following ways:

- (a) Earn a grade of B or higher in one Rider Composition course as well as earn a grade of B or higher in one Rider Math course.
- (b) Pass the Praxis Core subtest for the necessary content area (math and/or writing) based on the 2024 NJ state requirements for cut scores (or qualify for the SAT/ACT exemptions with scores above the 50th percentile).
- (c) Pass the Praxis II: Elementary Education Multiple Subjects Test for certification in Elementary Education OR Praxis II: Content Knowledge Praxis Test in the relevant Secondary Education area.
- (d) Earn a grade of B or higher in a math or composition course completed at another college before transferring to Rider. Such courses, if accepted by Rider's Registrar as 3-credit equivalents to Rider courses, will replace one or both required courses under option (1).

Students who have not met the requirement for formal entry by the time they achieve junior status will be referred to the Academic Standing Committee for dismissal from the Program. Transfer students with 60 or more credits will have one semester to meet the requirement. Students dismissed from the Program who later pass all sections of this test may apply for readmission.

All students must present evidence of a passing score on the Praxis Subject Assessments test in their specialization area six months prior to the beginning of the student teaching semester. This is the same Praxis Subject Assessments test score students will need for certification.

As appropriate, students who fail to meet the department's standards will be advised on ways to improve their performance, or be asked to leave the program.

## Dismissal from Field Experience Prior to Student Teaching

In the event that termination is requested by the school in which the student is completing his or her field experience or by the faculty member of the course of which the field experience is a part, the student will be removed from the assignment immediately.

Any student who is removed from a field experience shall have his or her case referred to a departmental committee on Professional Development in Teacher Education, which shall determine whether the termination was for good cause and, if so, whether the student shall be dismissed from the College of Education and Human Services. The committee may consist of the field course instructor(s), the department chair, the advisor, and other appropriate Rider personnel.

## Teacher Certification and Placement

Teacher candidates are recommended for certification only when they have:

- successfully completed all course requirements of the particular program in which they are formally enrolled; and
- successfully demonstrated continued competence, aptitude, motivation, and potential for outstanding success in teaching. Students must have attained at least a C+ in student teaching along with a cumulative GPA of 3.00.

It should be noted that for New Jersey certification it is necessary to pass a state-approved teaching performance assessment during the student teaching semester in addition to passing the appropriate Praxis Subject Assessment(s).

Graduates who have completed all the requirements of an approved program in which they are formally enrolled in teacher education are eligible to receive, upon passing a Praxis Subject Assessments of academic knowledge related to the field of certification, a New Jersey Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing.

The Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing is valid for the lifetime of its holder. It authorizes the holder to seek and accept offers of employment in New Jersey schools.

Students seeking out-of-state certification will find that completing a CAEP-approved program will enable them to become certified in many states. Since each state has its own requirements for teacher certification, it is recommended that students first contact the State Department of Education to learn the requirements of each specific state.

## Transfer Requests

Students transferring from other institutions are encouraged to become familiar with the education programs. Transcripts are reviewed in terms of Rider's program requirements, and this review is made available to prospective students.

Students enrolled in other colleges at Rider who wish to transfer into teacher education programs must have a 2.75 GPA and file a written request with the chair of the Department of Teacher Education.

## General Studies Electives

The minimum requirements of the major(s) may leave a student with additional credits that must be completed to satisfy the total number of credits required for graduation. Any course offered by another college within the University may be used as a General Studies Elective (GSE)

provided the prerequisites have been met. Courses required to fulfill a minor may be used as GSEs.

## Policy Regarding Undergraduate Students Enrolling in Graduate Education Courses

Students are eligible to take College of Education and Human Services graduate courses if the following conditions are met: 1) completion of 90 undergraduate credits, 2) a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0, and 3) permission of the Graduate Education, Leadership, and Counseling department/graduate program director and the undergraduate department chair. These credits may be applied towards the undergraduate degree requirements if permitted by the undergraduate degree program, including in the calculation of undergraduate GPA.

Should the student be accepted and matriculate into the College of Education and Human Services graduate program, these credits, but not the grades, would be subsequently transferred to the graduate transcript, provided the grade meets minimum requirements for Graduate Education, Leadership, and Counseling. Master of Arts programs in the College of Education and Human Services require 30 graduate credits taken after the completion of the undergraduate degree. For those Master of Arts programs that are more than 30 credits, graduate credits taken as an undergraduate may apply toward both the graduate and undergraduate degrees. Only graduate credits above the 30 credits may be applied to both degrees. Undergraduate to graduate accelerated programs may have different policies regarding undergraduate students taking graduate credits. For those policies, see the specific accelerated program.

## Degree Programs

Rider's education programs in teacher preparation combine classroom study with laboratory and field experiences to help students develop a high degree of professional expertise and become generally well educated.

All undergraduate baccalaureate degree programs require broad liberal studies and concentrated study in subjects related to the program specialization. Students can major in:

- elementary education (<http://catalog.rider.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/education/majors-minors-certificates/elementary-education-ba/>)
- secondary education (<http://catalog.rider.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/education/majors-minors-certificates/secondary-education-ba/>)

**Elementary education majors can pursue minors, certificates and endorsements in:**

- early childhood education (<http://catalog.rider.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/education/majors-minors-certificates/elementary-education-ba/#minorrequirementstext>)
- middle school education (<http://catalog.rider.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/education/majors-minors-certificates/elementary-education-ba/#minorrequirementstext>)
- special education (<http://catalog.rider.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/education/majors-minors-certificates/elementary-education-ba/#minorrequirementstext>)
- bilingual education (<http://catalog.rider.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/education/majors-minors-certificates/elementary-education-ba/#minorrequirementstext>)

- English as a second language (ESL) (<http://catalog.rider.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/education/majors-minors-certificates/elementary-education-ba/#minorrequirementstext>).

**Secondary education students can pursue minors, certificates and endorsements in:**

- bilingual education (<http://catalog.rider.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/education/majors-minors-certificates/secondary-education-ba/#minorrequirementstext>)
- English as a second language (ESL) (<http://catalog.rider.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/education/majors-minors-certificates/secondary-education-ba/#minorrequirementstext>)
- special education (<http://catalog.rider.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/education/majors-minors-certificates/secondary-education-ba/#minorrequirementstext>)

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