

## **The College of Saint Elizabeth Report Narrative**

### **Program Overview and Mission**

The College of Saint Elizabeth has been recognized as a leader in teacher education since its founding over 100 years ago. In more recent years, the College has expanded its offerings to include graduate-level teacher certification, and M.A. degree in Education, an M.A. degree in Educational Leadership, and an Ed.D. in Educational leadership. Those who have earned their certifications and degrees at CSE continue to compete favorably for teaching and school leader positions.

CSE faculty recognize that programs in teacher education and educational leadership constantly must evolve to meet the demands of professional standards, state and national requirements for certification, expectations of regional and national accrediting bodies, and the changing criteria for highly-qualified teachers and school leaders. To ensure the excellence of all CSE certifications and degrees in Education, the Undergraduate and Graduate Teacher Education Programs and the M.A. in Educational Leadership are approved by the New Jersey Department of Education and the Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC).

Flowing from the institutional mission of the College of Saint Elizabeth, the specific mission of all Undergraduate and Graduate Programs in Teacher Education and Educational Leadership is to prepare competent, caring, responsible, professionally active educators who emerge as empowered leaders in their profession.

### **College of Saint Elizabeth Programs Summary**

Students who earn College of Saint Elizabeth degrees and certifications in Education and Educational Leadership will:

- Demonstrate knowledge of the subjects they are expected to teach.
- Demonstrate competence in planning, teaching, and assessment through appropriate pedagogical strategies designed to address the diverse needs of learners and to promote literacy, critical thinking, and problem solving.
- Increase their capacity to create for students inclusive, supportive, safe and respectful classroom environments that sustain intellectual, social, emotional, and physical development.
- Promote the dignity of each individual, respecting the dimensions of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, age, physical abilities, religious beliefs, political perspectives, and other ideologies.
- Recognize the purpose of information and its application in the development of knowledge and enhance their skills in locating, evaluating, and effectively using information in decision making.
- Develop skills in technology to support 21<sup>st</sup> century teaching and learning.

Students completing the College of Saint Elizabeth Undergraduate and Graduate Teacher Education Programs can earn a New Jersey Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing in the following areas: K-6, Teacher of Students with Disabilities, and K-12 Subject Area in Art, Biology, Chemistry, English, French (graduate level only), Mathematics, Social Studies, and Spanish. The New Jersey State Department of Education awards permanent certification to all provisional teachers who successfully complete the state-required induction year in school districts.

Upon successful completion of the M.A. in Educational Leadership program and obtaining a passing score on the SLLA Praxis, candidates will be eligible for a standard certificate as a supervisor and a certificate of eligibility as an assistant principal, director, and principal. Candidates for the principal's certification also must document at least three years of certificated teaching experience, as well as provide evidence that a fourth and fifth year will be completed during the course of studies.

The College of Saint Elizabeth Alumni teach and lead in schools throughout New Jersey and the nation.

## **Requirements**

### *B.A. in Teacher Education*

The Undergraduate Teacher Education major provides students with two State of New Jersey teacher certifications and the possibility of a third certification for Teacher of Students with Disabilities, which is optional.

The Undergraduate Education minor provides students with one certification for Secondary Education and the possibility of a second certification of Teacher of Students with Disabilities, which is optional.

All students have the option to test into additional teaching certifications.

## **Areas of Emphasis**

- Inclusive Elementary/Early Childhood Education (Teacher of Students with Disabilities Certification Optional)
- Inclusive Elementary, Middle School Math or Science Education (Teacher of Students with Disabilities Certification Optional)
- Inclusive Secondary Education (Teacher of Students with Disabilities Certification Optional)

## **Requirements for Admission to the Major/Minor**

- Students who major in teacher education leading to certification must also have a second major in a liberal arts discipline at the College of Saint Elizabeth that is recognized as acceptable by the NJ Department of Education. Students who minor in Secondary Education must have a major in a discipline at the College of Saint Elizabeth that is a content area eligible for a NJ Secondary Education teaching certification.
- An overall GPA of 2.75/3.0 or above.

- Passing score on the appropriate Praxis licensure test recognized by the New Jersey Department of Education ([www.ets.org](http://www.ets.org))

### **Special Education (Teacher of Students with Disabilities) Certification**

The New Jersey Department of Education and the College highly recommend that all education students, majors and minors, add this endorsement for dual certifications.

This Certification program prepares students to teach in self-contained special education classes, resource centers, and/or inclusion settings in public and non-public schools, as well as special education institutions and facilities. This Certification allows students to be highly qualified for teaching in specific levels of education. Certification is permanent upon completion of program requirements.

Students majoring in Teacher Education and who wish to obtain this Certification:

- Must complete either the Elementary/Early Childhood Education major, Inclusive Track in Elementary, Middle School Math or Science Education or the Secondary Education minor.
- Must pass PRAXIS Exam(s) prior to senior year and before Student Teaching.
- Must be majoring in Teacher Education. This is not a stand-alone certification.
- Must complete the coherent sequence of courses for a total of 21 credits.

### **Accelerated Certification for Teaching – A.C.T. 1, A.C.T. 2**

The College of Saint Elizabeth believes in a strong liberal arts background for teachers, and in a developmental approach to teacher preparation. Accordingly, the College offers an accelerated program of teacher preparation, A.C.T. 1, leading to certification as K-12 Secondary Teacher and K-5 Elementary Teacher for individuals who hold a baccalaureate degree, but who have not yet pursued a program in teacher education.

Upon completion of A.C.T. 1, students may elect to continue with studies in Special Education or Early Childhood to obtain an M.A. in Education from the College. The College offers a second program, A.C.T. 2, for certified teachers who wish to earn additional endorsement as Teacher of Students with Disabilities.

### **Admission Criteria for A.C.T. 1**

An individual who is seeking K-12 certification must have earned a bachelor's degree in the major area for which they are applying: e.g. teacher of English must have a B.A. in English; teacher of Biology must have a B.S. or B.A. in Biology. In addition, a passing score on the Praxis II Subject Assessment Tests and a minimum grade point average of 2.75 are required before admission. An individual who is seeking elementary teacher K-5 certification must have earned a bachelor's degree in liberal arts or pure sciences, or have successfully completed at least 60 liberal arts credits. In addition, the individual must have a minimum grade point average of 2.75 and have passed the Praxis Test in Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects before admission.

## **Admission Criteria for A.C.T. 2**

Individuals seeking admission to A.C.T. 2 must be teachers who are currently certified or have completed A.C.T.1 to be eligible to enroll in A.C.T. 2 for an additional certificate, Teacher of Students with Disabilities. Certified teachers applying for additional endorsement in Teacher of Students with Disabilities must submit a copy of their initial certification.

## **M.A. in Educational Leadership**

The M.A. in Educational Leadership program is a 39-credit, cohort-based program that is completed over two years. The program provides students with the knowledge, skills and experience necessary for successful employment in school leadership positions. Students completing the program will be prepared to provide leadership in the spirit of service to others, demonstrate ethical values, and offer dedicated service to all students and teachers in their care.

Upon successful completion of the program and a passing score on the SLLA Praxis, students will be eligible for a standard certificate as a supervisor and a certificate of eligibility as an assistant principal, director, and principal. Candidates for the principal's certification also must document at least three years of certificated teaching experience, as well as provide evidence that a fourth and fifth year will be completed during the course of studies.

## **Combined Baccalaureate to Master's Degree**

The Combined Baccalaureate to Master's Degree Program enables highly motivated undergraduate students to transition into the 30 credit M.A. in Counseling Psychology program while still completing the College's baccalaureate program.

Students may apply to enter this program at the end of their junior year. Juniors who apply must have a minimum 3.4 undergraduate GPA for admission. Students must submit one letter of recommendation from a faculty member and one from their internship (PSY495) or volunteer work demonstrating experience in the field. In addition to their application and letters, students should submit a personal statement clearly articulating their career goals and how the 30 credit M.A. program will help them meet these goals. Successful applicants will be interviewed by two faculty members and an admission decision will be made. Graduate courses begin in the fall semester of the senior year and 12 credits will double count toward the Bachelor's and Master's degree requirements. Students must have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 when they receive the Bachelor's degree in order to continue in graduate courses and complete the Master's degree. Combined degree students are expected to continue in the master's program without interruption until completion or risk being dismissed. Combined degree students who need to interrupt their studies must apply and be granted a leave of absence in order to interrupt their studies.

## ***Ed.D. in Educational Leadership***

The doctoral program in Educational Leadership at the College of Saint Elizabeth is designed to prepare globally conscious and morally purposeful servant leaders for district leadership roles in Pre-K to 12th grade

settings. The Ed.D. in Educational Leadership combines theoretical knowledge and practical application in authentic school settings using the student's professional experience in school leadership. It is a sequenced, 52-credit program to be completed in three years.