

*Narrative provided by Provider*

Rider University offers undergraduate programs in more than 60 fields and graduate programs in 18 specialties. The first private university in New Jersey to be accredited by NCATE, the School of Education has maintained its accreditation since 1974. In fall 2012, our Unit received full re-accreditation and each of our 18 programs received national recognition. Our other accreditations include CACREP, NASM and NASP.

Periodic review and ongoing program evaluation assure that our practice is current and our standards are high. Program refinement occurs through self-study, strategic planning, and cooperative work with our various constituencies, which include pre-K-12 professionals, faculty in liberal arts and sciences, and colleagues working in corporations and government. Our continuous improvement effort enables our teacher, leader and other school personnel candidates to successfully engage students and clients in the field.

We use various sources of data to assess our education programs. Embedded in each course are one or more key assessments, which provide evidence of student performance. Our student teacher evaluation instrument, based on the Danielson Framework, provides important data. The results of our completer survey show that the majority of our recent graduates feel they were well prepared for their work in schools. Surveys of recent alumni and employers provide evidence of high levels of satisfaction.

Six months after graduation, more than 75% of 2014 graduates were working in schools, clinical settings, earning advanced degrees, and contributing to organizations, locally, regionally, nationally and internationally. Our accomplished faculty, strong Rider alumni network, and multiple field placements provide personalized mentoring and important contacts that lead to employment opportunities for graduates. Our education career counselor works closely with graduates in the job search process.

We offer a four-year undergraduate program, as well as post-baccalaureate preparation. We are currently revising our Master of Arts in Teaching and plan to have it ready for enrollment in 2015. Our teacher candidates work in diverse classrooms with students with special needs and English Language Learners. The hallmark of our program is more than 150 hours of mediated early clinical experience and 600 hours of full time student teaching. Using practice borrowed from medical schools, between four and six teacher candidates work together in small professional learning communities. They participate in instructional rounds, visit model classrooms, reflect on P-12 student learning, and hone their practice. There are on-site seminars and university-based professional development opportunities offered throughout the experience.

Funded by the Carnegie Corporation, our innovative Teach First Class post-baccalaureate program is a 9-month residential experience. Consisting of two sequential semesters, it takes place fully on-site at an urban rim elementary school and has a special focus on recruiting high quality STEM teachers. It, too, uses the medical model with instructional rounds and full-time student teaching plus on-site seminar.

Six of our recent graduates have been named NJ Distinguished Student Teacher of the Year and many of our alumni have been recognized for their achievements. It is our goal to continue to produce outstanding graduates for schools and agencies.