

Western Education

BACHELOR OF EDUCATION -- SPECIALTY OPTIONS

ADVANCED STUDIES IN THE PSYCHOLOGY OF ACHIEVEMENT, INCLUSION, & MENTAL HEALTH

Focus: Today's classrooms include students with a variety of strengths, challenges, and exceptionalities. While all teachers must be prepared to teach for success in inclusive classrooms, the ADVANCED STUDIES IN PSYCHOLOGY program builds specialized knowledge about evidence-based practices that significantly increase students' academic achievement, social development, and mental health. For PJ, JI, and IS Teacher Candidates. ***Preference is given to candidates who have a strong psychology background in their undergraduate course work.***

Is this specialty for me? If you are particularly interested in teaching students with exceptionalities, many of whom also face social or economic disadvantage, or both, this specialty area is for you.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION *(for P/J candidates only)*

Focus: While becoming qualified to teach all the PJ grades, JK-6, Teacher Candidates in this specialty area develop particular expertise in the education of the youngest learners in schools—those in Junior Kindergarten through Grade 3, aged 4 to 8 years.

Is this specialty for me? If you are interested in early years and primary education, have a background in and passion for working with and learning from young children, and are committed to exciting and innovative curriculum and pedagogical practices for this age group, this specialty area is for you.

New! ECE Certification Program: In partnership with Capilano University, the Faculty of Education is pleased to offer B.Ed. candidates in the ECE specialty area the opportunity to add a set of courses and a practicum placement which will fulfill the license obligations stipulated by the Ontario College of Early Childhood Educators (CECE). (Note: Students requesting these additional courses must meet Capilano University admission requirements and will be subject to additional course fees.)

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

Focus: While becoming qualified to teach in Ontario schools, PJ, JI, and IS Teacher Candidates in this specialty area prepare to teach in international and culturally-diverse school settings.

Is this specialty for me? If you are interested in teaching or leading in international educational contexts at home or abroad (in, for example, international schools), are committed to fostering *international mindedness* through international experience and curricula, *and* are ready to experience and participate in new cultural contexts beyond what you already know, this specialty area is for you.

FRENCH (ELEMENTARY) (for P/J French and J/I French candidates only)

Focus: Within the PJ French and JI French programs, Teacher Candidates in this specialty area prepare to teach in French Immersion and Core French programs in Ontario schools. By developing a critical understanding of and sensitivity to linguistic variation, Teacher Candidates prepare to teach students of diverse linguistic and social backgrounds.

Is this Specialty for me? If you are interested in teaching French to children of diverse backgrounds and varied levels of proficiency, in working in a private French language school, or in teaching French as a second, additional, or international language to students abroad, *and* if you are interested in expanding your understanding of French language education and cultures in Canada, this specialty area is for you.

FRENCH (SECONDARY) (for I/S French candidates only)

Focus: Using contemporary conceptualizations of language teaching and learning as well as a variety of approaches to language learning, this program prepares French language teachers for secondary school classrooms. Teacher Candidates gain a critical understanding of and sensitivity to linguistic variation, and are prepared to teach students of diverse linguistic and social backgrounds in Canada.

Is this Specialty for me? If you are interested in teaching French to students of diverse backgrounds and varied levels of proficiency, in working in a private French language school, or in teaching French as a second, additional, or international language to students abroad, *and* if you are interested in expanding your understanding of French language education and cultures in Canada, this specialty area is for you.

MATHEMATICS THROUGH THE ARTS (for P/J and J/I candidates only)

Focus: *Mathematics Through the Arts* will help you see that everyone can enjoy Math, that artistic ideas such as beauty, surprise, and delight can inform Math teaching, and that Math ideas can be shared with family and friends just as a good story is shared. The *Mathematics Through the Arts* specialty will also help you develop leadership skills for engaging parents and other teachers in support of math education for PJ students.

Is this specialty for me? If you have a Math phobia, or if the thought of teaching math makes you nervous, this specialty is for you. And if you love Math or were a Math major, this specialty is also for you. Literacy and numeracy are high priority subjects in Ontario elementary schools. The province is promoting Math teaching and would like to see a teacher in every school who can lead the Math program in that school. Principals and school districts are looking for PJ teachers with Math expertise. The *Mathematics Through the Arts* specialty could help you be that teacher. **No particular background in either Mathematics or the Arts is required for you to be successful in this specialty.**

STEM EDUCATION (for I/S candidates only)

Focus: STEM programs bring together the disciplines of Science and Mathematics, and the fields of Technology and Engineering, to promote a multidisciplinary approach to solving real-world problems. Students in STEM programs deepen their understanding of concepts within each of the core disciplines

and fields while engaging in activities that stimulate creative and critical thinking, collaborative and self-directed learning, and scientific, environmental, and technological literacy.

Is this specialty for me? If you are an IS Teacher Candidate with a passion for the STEM areas, want to engage students in project-based, hands-on learning and problem-solving, and appreciate holistic, integrative, cross-disciplinary, and creative thinking, this specialty area is for you.

URBAN EDUCATION

Focus: Urban schools often serve students of cultural, racial, and linguistic diversity, many of whom live in poverty. Such schools may face issues of drug and alcohol abuse, violence, and crime in surrounding communities, issues which also sometimes challenge suburban and rural schools but which are compounded in urban contexts by specific circumstances. Urban planning, development, and zoning policies, and the gentrification of neighbourhoods, for example, affect social housing conditions and access to resources for poor communities. Those policies can further disenfranchise young people in those communities in terms of their achievement and participation in schooling. While all teachers must be cognizant of equity and social justice issues, and be prepared to teach students of diverse backgrounds, the Urban Education specialty area helps to build specialized knowledge and understanding about schools particularly characterized by poverty and high rates of mobility, and which serve large numbers of ethnic, racial minority, immigrant, sexual minority, and gender-diverse students. For PJ, JI, and IS Teacher Candidates.

Is this Specialty for me? Urban Education prepares teachers for schools serving students from particularly diverse and complex communities. If you want to make a commitment to improving life chances for children and youth who come from disadvantaged positions in life, this specialty area is for you.