

Education

The School of Humanities

Chair

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Degrees Offered:

Secondary Teaching Certificate in conjunction with B.A. in major field, M.A.T.

Students in the teacher education program at Rice show a commitment to teaching, a strong record of scholarship in their subject areas, and promise as thoughtful, engaging teachers. The program emphasizes a sound liberal or general education; an extensive knowledge of the subject(s) or area(s) to be taught; professional knowledge, including the relevant historical, philosophical, social, and psychological bases of education; and skills in classroom teaching, which include working with both children and adults. Graduates emerge from the program fully prepared for the teaching profession, trained in a diversity of teaching styles and methods.

Rice offers three teacher education plans: (1) a secondary teaching certificate in combination with the undergraduate degree in the elected subject field(s), (2) a Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.), and (3) a postbaccalaureate plan for Class III students (page 79) that involves taking those courses and state examinations needed for certification but that does not confer a degree. All three plans include apprenticeship teaching in the Rice Summer School for Middle and High School Students. While maintaining its academic integrity, the Rice program complies with state of Texas certification requirements. Students seeking additional information about the teacher education program are encouraged to meet with education department faculty.

Texas Teaching Credential. Rice is approved by the state of Texas to offer teacher preparation programs in the following fields: art, biology, chemistry, computer science, earth science, economics, English, French, general science, geology/earth science, German, health sciences, history, Latin, life sciences, mathematics, physical education, physical science, physics, political science, psychology, Russian, social studies, sociology, and Spanish.

After satisfactory completion of the Rice program, which includes the state-mandated ExCET examinations, students are recommended for a Texas teaching credential. The Texas Education Agency then awards a Texas Provisional Teaching Certificate (Grades 6–12).

Student Teaching, Apprenticeship (Plan A) and Internship (Plan B) programs are available. Unpaid *apprenticeships* are for undergraduates who wish to complete the teacher education program in four years and two six-week summer sessions. Candidates enroll for the summer sessions following their junior and senior years. Apprentices create and teach courses under the supervision of experienced master teachers and university faculty in the Rice Summer School for Middle and High School Students.

Paid *internships* are undertaken by Master of Arts in Teaching candidates, by some Class III students, and by undergraduates who begin earning certification in their senior year. Under this plan, students serve one apprenticeship in the Rice Summer School and are then supervised through their first semester of a full-time, paid internship in a neighboring, cooperating school system. Permission for the internship is contingent upon completing a successful apprenticeship.

Requirements for Secondary Teaching Certificate

Admission. Students may apply to the Rice University Education Department for admission to the teacher education program if they show:

- Attainment of junior standing at Rice (bachelor's degree for M.A.T. candidates) by the semester of admission to the program
- Grades of C- or better in all semester hours attempted in their teaching field(s), with an overall grade point average of 2.5 or better
- Evidence of adequate physical vigor to perform as a teacher in a classroom
- Exemption or satisfactory scores on all required preprofessional skills tests
- A completed Plan of Study approved by department representatives and the major field adviser before registration for the junior year

Students should check with the education faculty for detailed program requirements and further options that will be available under the revised requirements. These are expected to go into effect for new majors during the 2001–2002 academic year.

Completion of Program. To complete the program, students must:

- Be exempted from or pass the state's Texas Academic Skills Program (TASP) exam prior to enrolling in any education courses
- Select one of the following plans and complete the required semester hours:
 - Plan I (one teaching field): at least 36 approved hours in subject field with at least 12 hours in a supporting field
 - Plan II (two fields for undergraduates or at least one field for M.A.T. or Class III students): at least 24 approved hours in *each* field, including at least 12 semester hours of upper-level work in *each* field
 - Plan IV (related fields): at least 48 approved hours in composite field (general science or social studies), including at least 18 hours of upper-level work
- Complete 18 hours in professional education courses as follows:
 - either: EDUC 301 or 501 *Historical and Philosophical Foundations of Education* or EDUC 330 or 530 *The American High School*
 - EDUC 305 or 505 *Psychology of Education*
 - EDUC 420 *Curriculum Development*
 - 3 hours in the appropriate seminars in teaching methods
 - 6 hours in student teaching (see following)

- Satisfy a state requirement for computer literacy
- Complete all university and program requirements specified for undergraduates, M.A.T. candidates, or nondegree (Class III) candidates
- Make grades of C- or better in all teaching field courses and education courses (B- or better for M.A.T. students)
- Pass appropriate ExCET exams

Apprenticeship Plan (Plan A)

(For students beginning certification in junior year and for some Class III students)

Junior Year

EDUC 301 *Historical and Philosophical Foundations of Education*

or EDUC 330 *The American High School*

EDUC 305 *Educational Psychology*

EDUC 410–416 *Relevant seminar(s) in teaching methods*

EDUC 420 *Curriculum Development*

EDUC 440 *Supervised Teaching: Summer School*

Senior Year

EDUC 420 *Curriculum Development*

After Graduation

EDUC 440 *Supervised Teaching: Summer School*

Internship Plan (Plan B)

(For students beginning certification in senior year, for some Class III students, and for M.A.T. students)

Before Graduation

EDUC 301/501 *Historical and Philosophical Foundations of Education*

or EDUC 330/530 *The American High School*

EDUC 305/505 *Educational Psychology*

EDUC 410–416 *Relevant seminar(s) in teaching methods*

EDUC 420 *Curriculum Development*

After Academic Year

EDUC 440 *Supervised Teaching: Summer School*

EDUC 540 *Internship* (paid internship in the fall in secondary school)

Requirements for M.A.T.

Admission. Applicants must have a bachelor's degree, scholarly ability, and an interest in teaching, and they must have taken the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) aptitude test. Department faculty review each application. A limited number of tuition waivers is available. See Admission to Graduate Study (pages 65–66). Admitted students must pass or be exempted from the state's Texas Academic Skills Program (TASP) exam *prior* to enrolling in any education courses.

Degree Requirements. For general university requirements, see Graduate Degrees (pages 60–65). The M.A.T. is a professional degree program for students who want to qualify for secondary school teaching following a liberal arts education. Most candidates entering the program have had no professional education courses. By completing the program, candidates fulfill all requirements for a Texas Provisional Teaching Certificate. To earn the professional M.A.T. degree, students must complete, with grades of B- or higher, at least 33 semester hours (the need to remove deficiencies may require additional courses for certification). Requirements are as follows:

- Courses in secondary school educational theory, teaching strategies, educational practice, and evaluation
- Graduate or upper-level courses in the relevant teaching field(s) taken at Rice
- Supervised full-time teaching for one summer in the Rice Summer School for middle and high school students, including design and implementation of courses, teaching, and evaluation
- Approval to begin an internship, based on a successful summer school teaching experience
- Supervised teaching internship for one semester in a cooperating secondary school, including the accompanying seminar

The cooperating school districts pay a regular salary for internship teaching, which covers the small cost of graduate tuition.

Requirements for Class III Certification

A nondegree (Class III) plan for teacher certification is available to those who hold a B.A. but do not choose to pursue a graduate degree. Interested students should direct their queries to the Office of Graduate Studies, which approves the applicant for admission to Rice. The Department of Education then reviews the application. Candidates must fulfill requirements for M.A.T.

See EDUC (pages 315–318) in the Courses of Instruction section.